

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Zinn W6379<sup>1</sup>  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Nancy

fn39VA  
rev'd 7/13/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Grant County

On this 12th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Grant, now setting John Zinn, a resident of the County of Grant and State of Kentucky, aged about seventy-one years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that is to say, he arrived in the month of January 1780 at a Station called Riddle's Station [sic, Ruddle's Station] which is situated at or near the junction of Hinkston [sic, Hickson Creek] and Stoner [sic, Stone Creek] which forms what is called the south fork of Lickin River [sic, Licking River] the place of the station being now in the county of Bourbon and State of Kentucky but then in the district of Kentucky and State of Virginia and was immediately called as a minute man in the Militia of the State of Virginia under the command of Captain Isaac Riddle [sic, Isaac Ruddle whose name is sometimes also spelled Ruddell or Ruddel], Lieutenant Casper Casner and an Ensign whose name is not now distinctly recollected, but he thinks his name was David Patton. He does not know to what regiment he belonged or who was the field officer at the time since there was not any field officers at the said Station nor was there any other company there save the one to which he belonged but he had understood that Colonel Benjamin Logan was the Colonel of the regiment but he cannot say whether he ever understood so before his return from captivity.

Sometime in the latter part of the month of February 1780, in consequence of a suspicion of being attacked by the Indians, the aforesaid Captain Ruddle called on this declarant to enter upon military duty, and this declarant did immediately in a regular manner enter upon the same and served under the said Ruddle with the aforesaid Lieutenant and Ensign in the aforesaid Ruddle's Station, and continued to serve until, as well as this declarant now recollects, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780 or near that time his service consisted in guarding the station and hunting for the support of the station, say he guarded his turns and hunted his turns; there was however some times during the aforesaid period that the guarding was very slack rather a guarding in manner than a guarding in fact but this declarant considered himself as regularly in the service all of the aforesaid time and actually under the orders of his officers. On or about the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 1780, as well as this declarant can now recollect, the Indians attacked the said Station and continued to operate against the Station until late in the night and succeeded in wounding one man only named Andrew Beard. He was shot in the right side of the breast and the ball lodged inside the skin on the back and Captain Ruddle cut it out and he recovered.

The Indians, although they did not succeed in killing any person in the Station, did succeed in killing a number of cattle, sheep and a few dogs and carried off a number of horses.

On or about (as well as this declarant can now recollect) the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1780, Captain Bryd of the British Services accompanied by about 150 or 200 British regulars, also two pieces of cannon, and

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt34520-160-55

near about 500 Indians arrived and attacked the said Ruddle's Station. Beginning the attack about sun rise and ending about three o'clock when the forces in the Station surrendered. There was no one in the Station either killed or wounded before the surrender, but as this declarant was informed by others there was some 3 or 4 who was old and sick killed by the Indians afterward on the day after the surrender aforesaid. The British and a part of the Indians marched for Martin's Station which they succeeded in taking as this declarant afterward learned from persons who said they were taken at said Martin's Station, and also from British soldiers he learned the same fact. At the time that the British set out for Martin's Station, the prisoners taken at Ruddle's Station (say about fifty or sixty effective men bound to military duty and between one hundred and one hundred and fifty others consisting of old men, women and children) was apportioned out in small parties among the Indians who was to proceed in small parties to Detroit. This declarant and one other prisoner (soldier) was given in charge of three Indians who tied us and proceeded down the South Fork of the Licking River to the mouth of Raven Creek (by land), where we took bark canoes and descended the river at its mouth and crossed the Ohio River and landed about where Cincinnati, Ohio now stands, then we passed over by land to Detroit where we arrived near the first. Although we were tied when we first set out, we were tied only about five or six days, the balance of the time we were guarded without being tied. After this declarant had arrived at Detroit, the others which had been taken at Ruddle's Station continued to come in detached parties for several weeks (this declarant does not think that all ever arrived) when the British Captain (Byrd) and his company, together with some Indians arrived with the prisoners which they had taken at Martin's Station (say about or near the same number which had been taken at Ruddle's Station) when all was kept guarded in a ring of a Picketed fort for a considerable time (time not recollected) when something like half was sent off to the falls of Niagarer [sic, Niagara] and the balance was permitted to go to work for their support, but was watched in such a manner as totally to put it out of their power situated as we were to make our escape, and if there was any who would not work for their support it was understood that they would be still confined, but all who was left did work for their support so far as this declarant was informed. We were scattered about among the inhabitants just in proportion as they could make our labor profitable to themselves.

Thus those of us who was left remained until about May 1781 when there was a considerable number of those who were left last fall [were] taken on board of the shipping and was or was intended to be conveyed to Quebeck [sic, Quebec] the balance still remaining as before still working for their support at Detroit and neighborhood, but so arranged among the inhabitants as to make it impossible for them to leave and return home, so that this declarant and those who remained was kept as prisoners of war until the close of the Revolutionary War and until the news of peace reach Detroit, which this declarant now thinks was sometime in the year of 1785, the period of the year not now recollected, but when the news of peace did reach Detroit in an official manner, this declarant, as well as all of the other prisoners that remained, were informed that they were at liberty to return home or remain at their pleasure and many did return so soon as they could obtain the means, and some remained.

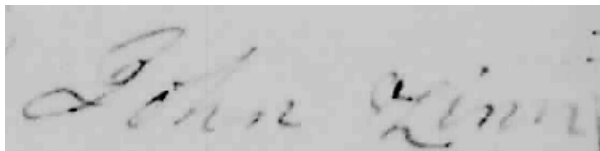
This declarant and seventeen others after having obtained the means and provided themselves in such a manner as they thought they could with safety encounter the wilderness, did on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 1784 set out for the United States (the names of all of the seventeen not now recollected) and traveled to the head waters of the Allegheny and then down that stream until it could be navigated with canoes, when we made bark canoes and then descended in the canoes to Pittsburgh where we separated and went in different directions. This declarant and four others descended the Ohio River to a place then called Lime Stone, now Maysville and then went by land to Lexington, State of Kentucky, where we arrived on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 1784 (the four who accompanied him was Richard Rue, Benj. Cottingkon, Ransom Tinsley and Thomas McGuire). This declarant may not be considered as having been in actual service all of the time which he remained in the Station from the time when he was first called on, say from latter part of the month of February 1780 until the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, same year, but he will say that he was regularly called and was actually in the service of the United States not less than

two months and was while so in service and acting against the enemies of the United States taken a prisoner of War and detained as such until the close of the war and until the independence of the United States was acknowledged by Great Britain. When the news was officially received by the constituted authorities at Detroit so this declarant will say that he served the United States as a private soldier in the year 1780, not less than two months and was taken a prisoner while fighting in the service of the United States and detained six months in the year 1780 and in the year 1781 twelve months and in the year 1782 twelve months, so that in all he was with said service two years and eight months, leaving out the year 1783. It will be perceived that this declarant cannot give all of the dates, but this cannot be expected as many years have lapsed. He has no record evidence of his services, having received no discharge from his officers, nor does he know of an person now living of who he can prove all or any of his services except Michael Leonard and Elizabeth Franks, neither of whom can I with any convenience have at count nor do I know whether (from their age and circumstances) they will be able to recollect the service circumstantially, but I will procure their deposition at a future day. He has no record of his age, nor has he any other data by which he can ascertain his age, except that his uncle, John Link, told him in February 1780 that he was over the age of 16, therefore he must have been born in the year 1763, but the time of the year was not ever known to this declarant, which is the reason that he says that he is about 71 years.

He was born in the County of Berks [sic, Bucks] in the State of Pennsylvania and was in the county and state when his uncle, John Links, took him to the County of Augusta State of Virginia and he has not seen his father since that time. He remained in Augusta, Virginia until about September 1779 when he moved with his said uncle to Ruddle's Station, then in the District of Kentucky, State of Virginia, now in Bourbon County, Ky., where he arrived in the month of January 1780, and where he entered the service and was taken prisoner as before stated. He arrived at Lexington, Ky. from his captivity as before stated on the 14th day of August 1784 where he remained until March 1785, when he removed to what is now Bourbon County, Kentucky, where he remained until the month of March or April 1789, when he removed to what was then Pendleton County, now Grant County, and State of Kentucky, where is has ever since resided and does now resided, say 45 years. His service was in the militia of Virginia. He never served with any other troops than the company to which he belonged, as he was taken prisoner and remained until the war was over. He never knew any of the regular officers or continental troops. For the reputation in his neighborhood of his having been a Revolutionary soldier he refers to the certificates which follows this declaration of James Howard, James Winnans of the County of Grant; their being in my neighborhood, no clergyman whose attendance he can procure. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is no on the pension role of the agency of any state or territory whatsoever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Zinn

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John Zinn".

[James Howe and James Winnans [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 38: affidavit dated the 27th, 1834, given by Michael Leonard and Elizabeth Franks in which they state they were acquainted with John Zinn when he was stationed at Riddles Station and have a distinct recollection that he was a soldier under arms and taken as a prisoner of war as he states in his declaration.]

[fn p. 5: On June 13, 1853 in Grant County Kentucky, Nancy Zinn, 67 filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Zinn, a pensioner for his service in the

revolution at the rate of \$80 per annum; that she married him January 16, 1844; that her husband died at his residence in green County Kentucky in April 1847.]

[fn p. 23: Bounty land application filed by the widow in which she states her husband died April 17, 1847.]

[fn p. 9: certification by the clerk of Grant County Kentucky that he married John Zinn to Nancy Mullikin on January 16, 1844.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private.]