

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Samuel Bryan W9366

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Indiana Marion County SS

On this Eighteenth day of August 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before John C. Hume the sole Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County aforesaid, now sitting, Samuel Bryan a resident of the said County of Marion, Indiana, aged seventy six 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated; he enlisted in Rowan County North Carolina, where he had been raised & then resided, about the last of July 1777. to serve for six months with the Virginia State troops under Capt. William Bayley Smith [William Bailey Smith] who was then on his way to Kentucky with about 40 men to be stationed as a guard at Boonsborough [sic: Boonesborough in present Clark County]. John Holder was the Lieutenant of the Company, but the names of the other officers are not now recollected. A few days after this applicant enlisted he was marched under the said Capt. Smith for Kentucky, crossing the Yadkin river at Scritchfields ford, and New river at Wallings[?] Bottom, whence they marched up Elk Creek [probably the one in present Grayson County VA] passing over the Iron Mountain [Iron Mountains] to the South Fork of the Holston, thence, down said river to a place called the Block house [at Bristol, later the site of Fort Shelby], from which passing through the Cumberland gap where they took Boon's [sic: Daniel Boone's] old trace which they pursued to Boonsborough, and they were stationed as a part of the guard for the Fort at that place, & remaining there until discharged which was about the last of Dec'r following the date of this applicant's enlistment, whence he returned home to Rowan Cty. N.C. having been in the service about five months to the best of his recollection. This applicant states that he was in no engagement during this term of service, nor was he in company with any regular soldiers — In the year 1778 there was a requisition by law for regular continental soldiers, for the raising of which the Militia were classed, this applicant being classed with five other men, bore his proportionable part in hiring a substitute to serve in the regular army for three years

In March 1779 the said Bryan states that he removed from North Carolina to Kentucky, where he arrived in April, and in July following enrolled himself under Cpt. John Holder his former Lieut. afterward Col. (who then commanded Boons Station [sic: Boone's Station near Boonesborough] and continued as a guard until July 1780, when, in the latter part of the month he volunteered under Capt. William Hogan to march on an expedition against the Shawnees Indians in a regiment of Virginia Militia commanded by Col. Benjamin Logan who marched his regiment from Boon Station to the mouth of Licking where he was joined by Genl. G. R. Clark who had ascended the Ohio river from Louisville with about 300 regular troops of the Virginia line and about 400 Va. Militia under the command of Col Linn. Genl. Clark crossed the Ohio river where Cincinnati now is & encamped at that place [1 Aug]. the next morning we marched for the Shawnees Towns, and on arriving at old Chilicothe [sic: Chillicothe] the place was found in flames, having been fired by the Indians on the approach of Genl Clark [see note below]. This applicant states that after having remained at the last mentioned place about one day and a half, and destroyed the corn of the Indians, they marched for the Piqua Town on Mad river [and other tributaries of Great Miami River in Ohio] where the Indians had collected and awaited the approach of the whites. at Piqua Genl. Clark had an engagement with the Indians which this applicant was in. the battle lasted for several hours, in which Gen Clark lost 16 men in killed, 12 wounded and 1 missing [see note below]. the Indians were defeated leaving the Town and fort in the possession the whites, where they continued for 2 days, and after burning the Town and Fort, and destroying the corn then growing, they returned to Kentucky, crossing the Ohio river where Covington [KY] is now situate. This applicant states that the loss on the part of the Indians was not exactly ascertained, but that there were 14 scalp taken. That this expedition

continued about 16 days, when he was dismissed from the service at Boonsborough. This applicant states that in September ensuing the last expedition against the Indians he removed with his family to North Carolina where he arrived in October, and in November following enlisted into the state minute service under Capt. Johnson, in Rowan County, for one year, and continued in said service during all of the year 1781, marching at different times, and at all times when commanded for the suppression of the Tories. during his minute service this applicant was marched to guard the boats at the Trading ford of the Yadkin in which Gen Green [Nathanael Greene] was about to cross the Yadkin [4 Feb 1781], on retreating from Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis]. that he was prevented from personally concluding this tour of duty in consequence of rheumatic paines, but he hired a substitute, and in this tour continued by himself and substitute about fifteen days. He was also marched under the command of Capt. James Stinson against a party of Tories which had been raised by one Col. Fannon [sic: David Fanning]. Capt Stinson's Company consisted of about 350 mounted riflemen. this company commanded by Capt Stinson marched from Salisbury, where they had been rendezvous'd, crossing the Yadkin river at the Trading ford, & thence marched by the way of Fayettevill [sic: Fayetteville] on to the waters of Deep river, where they rec'd intelligence of Fannon being in that part of the country with the Tories under his command, whom Capt. Stinson immediately pursued, having been joined by Capt Tunada[?] and some other forces, but Fannon having dispersed his men and made his escape this expedition ended having lasted for about one month and a half. This applicant states that he had been in the service of the United States about five months & a half previous to his minute service, and that that he was in active service about 3 or four months during the year of his minute service making in all at least 9 months active service. This applicant was in no engagement, nor in company with any regular soldiers during his last years service. That he has no documentary evidence except a certificate for a horse furnished, and a discharge by his Capt. Stinson which are herein annexed. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Samuel Bryan Sen'r

Boonsborough Kentuckey County [then in Virginia] July 6th 79
this is to Certify that Saml Bryan put one Bay Horse in to the cuntry sarvis prised to 150 pounds
Certify By me John Holder Capt

Camp at Tanleys[?] mill January 3rd day 1782
This is to Certify that Samuel Bryan junr has served a tower of Duty in the publick service as light horseman in my Company under Command of CooLo Isaacks [sic: Col. Elijah Isaacs] & is now Discharged by me James Stinson Capt

[Luke Bryan submitted the following with his mother's application for a pension, and he deposed that it was written by his father, Samuel Bryan.]

My great grandfather Bryan was a Dane born in Denmark & rais'd in that Kingdom where he married a wife & lived untill he had a sone born whome he called Morgan after which he remov'd to Ireland where he lived untill said Morgan came to manhood who left his father in Ireland & came to Pensylvania in Amerria where he Married a woman by the name of Martha Strode the daughter of a man by the name of Strode a Hollander who had moved to France where he resided with his wife untill he had three children, he & his wife being protestants, in time of a great persecution fled for their lives, bound for Pensylvania in Amerria but himself & wife sickened on the seas & died before they arrived to the end of their voige, the vesel landing in Pensylvania where the children were provided for by some of their ship mates & were bound out untill of lawfull age the names of those children were Jeremiah Samuel & Martha, who lived in Pensylvania untill of legal age. when the above named Morgan Bryan married said Martha Strode by whome he had seven sons & two daughters, namely Joseph Elinor Mary Samuel Morgan John William James & Thomas, he removed from Pensylvania to a creek called Opecon [sic: Opequon] near winchester in Virginia where he resided untill several of his children were grown

& married, after which time he remov'd to the Yadkin river in Rowan County North Carolina where he lived untill his death. [See note below.] Where his sone William, my father coming to the age of 22 years married Mary Boone daughter of Squire Boone the 1st & sister of Colo. Daniel Boone the explorer & setler of Kentucky. Squire Boone who was from the west of England to Pennsylvania where he maried Sarah Morgan, of welch [sic: Welsh] extraction by whom he had twelve children Eight sons & four daughters which were named Sarah Israel Samuel Jonathan Elizabeth Daniel Mary George Nathaniel Edward Squire & Hannah; with his wife & these children he remov'd from Pensylvania to Rowan County in North Carolina where he resided untill his death.

William Bryan with Mary his wife lived in Rowan County No. Carolina untill they had ten children namely Samuel Daniel William Phebe Hannah John Sarah Abner Elizabeth & Mary with his wife & these children he removed to Kentuck in the year of 1779 & settled at a place called Bryan's Station [often spelled Bryant's Station] on Elkhorn Creek in Fayette County [at present Lexington] where the Indians killed him & his son William, while hunting for gaim, for the support of the family; Samuel the oldest of these children, married Mary Hunt on the 5 day of October 1775 — she was daughter of Colo. Jonathan Hunt & Isabella his wife of Rowan County No. Carolina who was of English extraction but born & rais'd in new Jersey. Samuel Bryan & Mary his wife lived in Carolina four years after marriage & had two children when they moved to Kentucky in the year 1779, in which State they reside at present they had Eleven Childrin, Ann Phebe William Abner Luke Thomas Sarah Mary Daniel Hampton & Samuel with whom they reside at present in Campbell County Ky January 1, 1830

Luke Bryan the fourth of these children married Mary Sanders daughter of Capt. John Sanders & Sarah his wife, in 1807 S'd Luke & Mary had 12 Children namely [punctuation as in original], (Alphonso Hunt) Sarah S, (Mary Boone) (Elthelbert Walsingham) (Darius Armildid H.) John Samuel Jesse) Joseph McMurtrey,) William Sanders) James Luke) (James William) (Thomas Newton,)

Alphonso eldest of these children Married 1830 Ann White Daughter of Nathaniel & Margaret his wife

at present 1834 we reside with our children Luke & Thomas in Marian County Indiana
Sam'l & Mary Bryan.

NOTES:

In his own account addressed to Gov. Thomas Jefferson on 22 Aug 1780, George Rogers Clark wrote of "destroying the crops and buildings of Chillacauthy" after arriving on 6 Aug. In the same letter Clark stated that the number of his casualties at the engagement at Piqua on 6 Aug was 14 killed and 13 wounded.

The route by which Morgan Bryan moved from Winchester VA to Rowan County NC was referred to by Moravian immigrants as the "Morgan Bryan Road." Later it was called the Great Wagon Road. US 11 and US 220 follow roughly the same course as far as Greensboro NC.

On 18 Dec 1839 Mary Bryan, 80, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Samuel Bryan by Col. Joseph Williams in Rowan County on 5 Oct 1775, and he died 4 Mar 1837. With her application is part of a family record stating that Luke Bryan was born 22 Nov 1784.