

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Ensmingar R3360

f27VA

Transcription by Fred Weyler

28Mar2013

Ensmingar, Joshua

VA

R3360

[p2] State of Indiana

In the Probate Court of

Shelby County SS

Shelby County August Term 1841

On this 10th day of August in the year of Our Lord eighteen hundred and forty one, personally appeared before the Honorable Jacob Kennerly Judge of said court now in session – **Joshua Ensmingar** a resident of Liberty Township in the County of Shelby and State of Indiana, aged Eighty one years (on the 8th day of March last) who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States as a private under the following named officers, and served as herein states -

Our Colonel's name was Samuel Vance, our Captain's name was John B. Bary, our Lieutenant's name was William Deen, and our Ensign's name was William Bowler –

Some time in the fall of the year 1780, (and which time I do not distinctly recollect, but from the certificate of services which I received from the abovementioned officers I believe said time to have been about the 23rd day of October) I was drafted from the Militia of Augusta County in the State of Virginia (where I then resided) and rendezvoused with about 30 other recruits for the American Army about that time, at the Paynter Gap Mill in said County of Augusta, at which place we were put under the command of Sergeant John Huggard and were marched under his command the next day to Staunton in the same county where we with others were formed into a company under the command of Captain John Bary under command of whom with the above named Lieutenant and Ensign we marched from Staunton by way of Winchester and across the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry through Frederick in the State of Maryland. We continued our march stopping a day or two at a time occasionally until we arrived at a fort occupied by the American troops, about two miles above York Town on the York River. Said fort was situated on the opposite & northerly

[p3] side of the river from York Town. At this fort we met our Colonel (Samuel Vance) who had left us at Staunton the day before we marched from there, Our company remained in the fort until some time in the Spring, when our company and two other companies were stationed about three fourths of a mile down the river from the fort where we were occupied in digging a trench or ditch across a neck of land from the river to a bay to protect our troops from the enemies light horse. We were occupied in digging said trench about three weeks. When we had completed the trench we were marched back to the fort. When we arrived there, we were informed that the enemy had landed on the same side of the river, and but a short distance below us. The same or the next day a part of our troops, myself among [?] the rest, our Captain, Lieutenant, Ensign and about twenty five others of our company (I think ours was called the thin company, we had seventy three men in it including the officers) were ordered out of the fort. We marched down the river and across the trench that we had dug, and beyond it about half a mile, where we made a halt and remained until some time in the afternoon when we were attacked by the enemy. After exchanging a few shots with them we were ordered to retreat, which we did back to the fort and arrived there about sunset. We lost in this engagement (I think) six men killed. After this our

company remained in and about the fort for several weeks, when a part of our troops myself among them, had another engagement which took place near the same ground where the first did.. I think the Americans lost (in killed) about sixty men. Our company had five men killed (I do not recollect their names). Our company belonged to the tenth regiment which was commanded by Colonel Samuel Vance from Greenbriar County in the State of Virginia. The last engagement above mentioned took place a few days before the surrender of Cornwallis. I was present and saw Cornwallis surrender his sword. I think it was LaFayette who received his sword. General Washington, LaFayette and other officers were present. This took place about a mile below the fort above mentioned and on the same side of the river about the middle of the day or a little after. The officer who received Cornwallis sword returned it to him after a short time. I have forgotten the name of the fort and the names of most of the officers that were there, those whom I recollect besides those above mentioned were Colonel Law & Major Fletcher. General Washington was not with the Army when I first went to the fort. On the 21st day of October 1781 and a few days after the surrender of Cornwallis, I got my discharge which I now have in my possession and design to enclose it in this application. I ;lost said discharge in the state of Virginia about forty years ago. And supposed it had been with some evil intent taken from my possion [sic] and burnt or

[p4] destroyed. But I lately and unexpectedly about the first of June last (1840) received the same from the hand of William Hunter, a son of a brother in law of mine by the name of James Hunter. I was informed by said William that said James Hunter died about the 1st of April last in Monroe County Virginia and that said James on his death bed requested said William to give said paper to me and states that about forty or 41 years ago he took said paper with several others from my possession and without my knowledge. I am well satisfied that the same is the discharge or certificate which I received form my officers in October 1781. The following is a copy of it to wit: "We the undersigned do certify that Joshua Ensmingar has served one year in Gen Washington's Campaign in 1781 and was in the battle and surrender of Cornwallis. We do testify that he was under our command at the surrender of Cornwallis at Little York. Given under our hands this 23rd of October AD 1781 (signed) Col. Samuel Vance, Capt John B Bary, Lieu William Deen, Ens William Bowler."

I was born on the 8th day of March 1760 in the state of Maryland near the Sugar C_____ ↑ (I have in a statement myself know from a _____ kept in Dutch by my father.) ↓ At the time I was drafted I lived in Augusta County Virginia, I remained in the service as above stated from the time I entered the same in the fall of the year 1780 till the 20th day of October 1780, and then received the above mentioned certificate on discharge, since which time I have lived in the following places towit- After said discharge I returned and lived in Augusta County Virginia about two two years when the county was divided leaving me in Bath County where I live [sic] about 2 years, and then went to the Botetourt County and lived there about five years. I then went to the County of Rockbridge & lived there about thirteen years. I then went to the County of Monroe where I lived about 6 years. I then went to the County of Kenhaway [sic Kanawha] and lived there about twenty years (all in the state of Virginia) and from the last mentioned county I came to Shelby County Indiana where I now reside and have lived for the space of about 12 years. I do not know where any record of my age is to be found except the statement I have above referred to.

I do not know of any person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my services in the Army as above set forth nor do I know of any documentary evidence except the

certificate above copied. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

Joshua Ensmingar x his mark

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year first above mentioned.

Sylvan B Morris Clk

[Routine county supporting statements and certification by:

Amos Sparks clergy

David Thacher neighbor

Sylvan B Morris Probate Court Clerk

Jacob Kennerly Judge

Vertical note in left lower margin:

ENSMINGAR. JOSHUA

(VA) R-3360

Vertical note in right lower margin:

33.237 Joshua Ensmingar

Declaration

Indiana

Following several pages of the file contain inquiries and responses indicating that the claim was rejected as fraudulent, that the discharge was a forgery, and Ensmingar's statement of events indicated ignorance of the facts.]