

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Razen (Rezin) R. Harlan R4609

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/17/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Missouri, County of St. Charles: Sct.

In the Record and proceeding of said Court all the following (to wit)

Declaration upon oath of Razin Harlan made before me Nathaniel B Tucker Judge of the 2nd Judicial Circuit for St Charles County sitting on the 19th day of July 1825. The said Harlan deposes and declares, That he enlisted in the Army of the United States sometime in the month of October, 1778 in the Spy Company of Captain John Biggs in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel McCullaugh in the line of the State of Virginia, that he served for the period of three years on the Western frontiers of Virginia & Pennsylvania and took the oath of allegiance to the United States before Colonel John Gibson, that in the month of October 1781 I was entitled to my discharge and received one from Captain Biggs, but I remained in the service under after the defeat of Colonel Crawford [William Crawford], That my original discharge & Certificate of having taken the oath of allegiance was both lost with some other papers in the Miami River.

Sworn to in open Court 19th of July 1825

S/ Wm Christy, CCC

S/ Razen R. Harlan

State of Missouri County of St. Charles: SS

On the 19th day of July 1825 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for the County of St. Charles R. R. Harlan resident in said County aged 65 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of the 18th of March 1818, the 1st of May 1820 and the 1st of March 1823, That he the said R. R. Harlan enlisted for the term of three years on the ___ day of October 1778 in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain John Biggs in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel McCullaugh in the line of the State of Virginia. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit

Nothing

S/ Razen R. Harlan

On the contrary I am insolvent and in debt two or three hundred dollars, which I am unable to pay. I am now between sixty & seventy years old and am laboring under bodily complaints which are painful and dangerous, I am also a cripple and entirely deaf my wife & all my children are dead except one and she lives on the Red River and is poor, my discharge & Certificate of having taken the oath of allegiance before Colonel John Gibson I lost in the Miami River

S/ Razen R. Harlan

Sworn to before me in open court 19th of July 1825

S/ Wm Christy, Jr. CCC

State of Kentucky County of Mercer: Sct.

On this 3rd day of March in the year 1834 personally appeared before the Honorable, the Justices of the County Court for the County of Mercer, in the State aforesaid, in Open Court, being a Court of Record, now sitting, Rezin R. Harlan, a Citizen and resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-one years and upwards, who being first duly affirmed according to law, doth on his affirmation make the following statement and declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the United States passed on the 7th of June 1832.

I entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – In the month of February 1778, I enrolled myself as a militia man, in that part of the State of Virginia, now called Ohio County, in the company commanded by Captain John Biggs and performed militia duty until the month of November following, when at the request of Colonel John Gibson of Pittsburgh he and others met at a place then called Catfishes Camp, now Washington Pennsylvania – the Oath of allegiance was there administered to me by said Colonel Gibson. I then enlisted, with others, to serve for three years or unless peace was made or we should be otherwise sooner discharged, and an oath to that effect was also administered to me. This took place on the last day of November 1778, to the best of my present recollection, – I served faithfully the whole of three years And at the last of November 1781, I received my discharge signed by Colonel Samuel McCullough, Major Joseph Ogle and Captain John Biggs. In the month of December 1796, in attempting to cross the Miami River on my return from Fort Greenville, with a wagon and team I lost my pocket book in the River, containing my discharge, a certificate for 1000 acres of land and other valuable papers, none of which I have ever seen or heard of since. At the time I enlisted as above stated the officers promised us that we should be well paid, but as to myself I have never received one cent.

In 1780 we marched under the command of Major Joseph Ogle to an Indian Town on the Muskingum River, where we kill 15 Indians and burnt the Town. I was engaged in marching from point to point and from Fort to Fort. I was twice at Pittsburgh – In the summer of 1780, the times became so alarming that Colonel Gibson, as I understood, wrote to General Washington calling upon him to send some additional aid for the relief of that part of the Country. My services were mostly confined to the defense of the Western Parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia, but from my engagement and oath I was bound to serve the United States at any point, my officers chose to order me. During the three years aforesaid, I was engaged in many skirmishes and battles with the Indians. I never was in a battle with the British. My whole service was in the capacity of a private. I was born in Frederic County Maryland on the 23rd of June 1762 – and now reside, and have resided in Mercer County, Kentucky, for about five years last past. I know of no human being now alive who has any knowledge of my Services except the Reverend Benjamin Ogle whose affidavit accompanies this declaration. And I hereby relinquish every

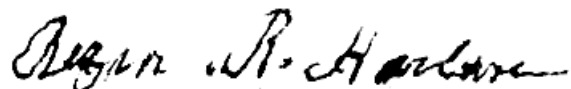
claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present – and I further declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency of any State or Territory.

In answer to the several interrogatories directed by the Secretary of War to be propounded to applicants for pensions – I state again that I was born in the County of Frederic, State of Maryland, on the 23rd June 1762 – but raised principally in Berkeley County Virginia until I was 15 years of age. I then removed with my uncle Michael Rawlings to Pennsylvania, near where Cannonsborough now is – And continued to live with him until the Commencement of the year 1778, when I removed with him to the now County of Ohio, Virginia – and in February 1778 as before stated I joined Captain John Biggs' Company of militia. In my whole service I acted not as a substitute or a drafted soldier, but as a volunteer –

After the war was closed I went to Virginia, remained a short time, from thence to Tennessee, then North Carolina, where I continued to live until the death of my wife which happened in the year 1794. I assisted my father to remove from Berkeley County Virginia to the State of Ohio in 1795. For some time thereafter I was engaged driving his Team, when in December 1796 I lost my pocket book containing my discharges as before stated in the Miami River.

Thomas W Fry, William B Moore, James Hart Junior, David Hart, Andrew G Kyle, John Pitman, James Green and Harvey Green, ^{Isaac Chapline} are some of those of my neighborhood who will testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my having served in the Revolutionary War. There are also many others who will testify to the same facts.

Sworn and subscribed to on the day and year first aforesaid.



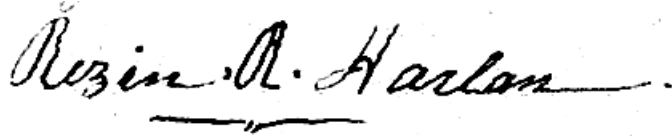
[Isaac Chapline, a clergyman, and Thomas W Fry gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17]

Dear friend Edwards [J L Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]. I here send you a Statement of all that has occurred in my case since you wrote to me and am thankful that you was so kind as to inform me what was yet wanted to establishing my claim I have made every effort in my power to procure Testimony but cannot find a person now living who was then of age to have a perfect knowledge of my services many of the company were killed and all the officers were killed and what few survived our since dead. I am the only survivor that belonged to that company. I am now upwards of seventy years old we had the promise of pay from General Washington but as for myself I must say of a truth I have never received one cent to this day I have not enjoyed a comfortable day's health in twenty years and worse than all that I am dead deaf all the world and all the noise in it is as silent to me as the grave, there is many who were children then whose parents lived in the Fort who well remembers me but were too young to have a perfect knowledge of every particular. So as to establish my claim that only one I could think of or fine was one Benjamin Ogle son of Major Joseph Ogle who lives five hundred miles from me. I had to travel more than a thousand miles in my sickness and deafness among strangers without money in the depth of winter to procure the Testimony of Reverend Benjamin Ogle but he is like all the rest was too young at that time to have a perfect knowledge of every transaction yet he has testified as far as his knowledge and youth admits. Dear friend it is all that I can procure if it is not sufficient I can do no more. Dear friend Edwards if my claim should be good I hope the dear Gentlemen at the head of the War Department will seriously consider my

case and as I have the promise of pay from such high afar to as George Washington and has never received money clothing or land I hope they will grant me something in their wisdom something equivalent I need add no more but well conclude by sub scripting myself with all due respect your poor unfortunate Sufferer

S/ Rezin R. Harlan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rezin R. Harlan". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

March 12th, 1834

[p 18]

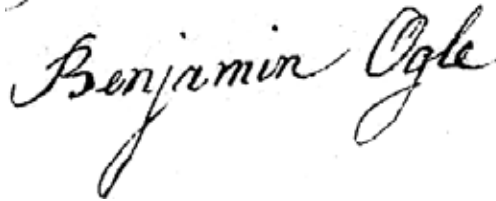
State of Illinois St. Clair County:

This day personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Reverend Benjamin Ogle of the County of St. Clair and State of Illinois and formerly of the County of Ohio and State of Virginia who being first duly sworn according to law deposes and says that he was well acquainted with Rezin R. Harlan in the Revolutionary war and that he and the said Harlan lived in one Fort then known by the name of the Courthouse fort since West Liberty. Being young he has not perfect knowledge of everything that transpired nor is he prepared to say who the said Harlan was under as Joseph Ogle (his Father) and John Biggs were both officers in said Fort, yet he well remembers that the said Harlan bore arms in the defense of the frontiers and sometimes in the summer of the year of our Lord 1781 the said Harlan with several others were at work on a plantation a mile or more from said Fort when a party of Indians fired upon them of which ran to their guns two of the five were killed and the said Harlan with two others kept the house and fought while any Indians was to be seen and by their valor saved the scalps of those that were killed and all the property when relief came from the Fort and made immediate search for the Indians none could be found but it was thought that one or more were killed. I have every reason to believe that the said Harlan was a good Soldier and was much respected by the officers and others.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of December A.D. 1833

S/ Joshua Begole, JP

S/ Benjamin Ogle

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Ogle". The signature is written in dark ink and is written in a fluid, connected style.