Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Balaam Ezell S31016 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 25 Jan 2014.

Commonwealth of Kentucky }
Trigg County } Sct.

On this day personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of our Worshipful County Court for the County of Trigg aforesaid, now sitting, Balaam Ezell, a resident of said County of Trigg and state of Kentucky, aged Seventy six years on the 7 day of October next, who being 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 7th June 1832. That he was born in the County of Sussex in the State of Virginia on the 7th day of October 1756, and continued to reside in said County until some time after the termination of the Revolutionary War. That in that county he entered the service of the United States in the month of October, 1776, after the completion of the 20th year of his age, as a volunteer under Captain Gray Judkins and Lieutenat Harman Webb, who commanded the Company in which he was marched to Little York, distant 80 or 90 miles, passing through Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], crossing James River at James Town, and going through the Counties of South Hampton, Isle of Wight, Nancymond [sic: Nansemond] &c – at little York his company joined the regulars & other troops under the command of General [Thomas] Nelson, at which place General — Stubane [see endnote] had the direction of the entrenchments, and under him, in the construction of said entrenchments he, said Ezell, laboured for some time, and that on this, his first tour he served three months, during which time the British frequently landed from their vessels, and committed sundry depredations, but he was not in any skirmish with them, nor was there any battle fought.

In the month of September, 1777, he was again marched, as a volunteer, from his native County, to Little York, under the same officers who commanded him the first time, namely, Captain Judkins and Lieutenant Webb; the troops at Little York were during this as in his first tour commanded by General Nelson

In this same tour he also served three months, employed in keeping guard, and working on the entrenchments and fortifications; at the expiration of which time, he was marched back to Sussex County, there having been no fighting this trip, the British being employed as before, in occasionally landing and committing waste &c

In the month of April 1781, he said Ezell, was marched, as a volunteer, under his same Captain & Lieutenant, to Smithfield, distant about eighty miles from Sussex, in expectancy of a battle with the British, which battle, did not, however, take place. The troops, and he among them, were here regularly discharged, on the Saturday before the second Sunday in May, 1781 [i.e. on May 11], after having been kept in service something more than a month; General Nelson having Commanded – His three tours, making over seven months service, rendered by him, said Ezell.

He states that he never received any written discharge; that he removed from Sussex County sometime after the conclusion of the War, to Brunswick County Virginia, where he lived about seven years; he then removed to Mecklenburg County, Virginia, where he resided about fourteen years; and from thence came to this County of Trigg, Kentucky, where he has lived ever since, and that he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his revolutionary services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in the United States. Sworn and subscribed to this 17th day of September, 1832.

NOTE: "Stubane" apparently refers to Gen. Baron von Steuben, who did not arrive in America until late in 1777 and did not arrive in Virginia until late in 1780. Ezell may have been confused with a later tour.