

Washington County, Pennsylvania

Declaration of Samuel Rutan

(1754 – 1840)

Transcribed July 2002 by R Stoy

The following was transcribed from the microfilmed document "Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files," The National Archives, Washington DC, microcopy No. 804, roll 2105, frame 0711, file no. W4506 for Samuel Rutan.

The transcription is rendered as accurately as possible, including any misspellings, with the exception of the use of the script "ps", which is transcribed as "ss". The material is reordered from what appears in the file to be in date order.

I Samuel Rutan of Washington County in the State of Pennsylvania do swear by Almighty God the [?] of [?], that I served in the revolutionary war against the common enemy for one whole year – commencing in the month of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight [erased] hundred and seventy six – I enlisted as a private soldier in Captain Samuel Potters company which was raised in Morris County in the State of New Jersey and attached to Colonel Dayton's regiment of the Jersey Militia I served the United States faithfully till the expiration of the term of my enlistment, at which period my health was so bad that I was under the necessity of returning home, otherwise I might have reenlisted – I am now an old man, unable to work and in such reduced circumstances as to need assistance from my country for support – I never received any written discharge, the reason of which was we were discharged at Morristown within ten miles of which I lived I went home intending to come back and get my discharge and I did come back twice afterwards, but the colonel was so much engaged that he could not attend to it at that time, and I afterwards neglected it – It may not be improper to state that I was out several times in the militia and was in several engagements one of which was the Battle of Monmoth – In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Eighth day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and eighteen ---

[signed] Samuel Rutan [seal]

Washington County
Pennsylvania [?]

Personally before me James Allison, one of the associate Judges of the court of Common pleas for the county of Washington aforesaid, came Samuel Rutan who being duly sworn according law, doth declare that the facts stated in the foregoing declaration are true and signed the [?] in my presence – In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Eighth day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and eighteen ---

[signed] James Allison [seal]

Washington County
Pennsylvania [?]

Personally before me one of the associate Judges of the Court of Common pleas for the county of Washington aforesaid, came Daniel Davis who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Samuel Rutan during the revolutionary war and that the said Samuel did serve the United States faithfully for one year as stated in his declaration

Sworn and subscribed before [signed] Daniel Davies
Me this 8th day of May A.D. 1814

[signed] James Allison

State of Pennsylvania ss I Alexander Murdock Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas for said County, Do Certify that James Allison Esquire before whom the foregoing affidavits was made is and was at the time one of the associate Judges of the court of Common Pleas in and for said County duly Commissioned as Such, and that full faith and credit is, and ought to be given to all his official acts.
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Washington, the fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighteen.

[signed] Amurdock Protho^y.

Washington County
Pennsylvania SS

Personally before me one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace, on and for the County aforesaid – Came Simeon Simpson who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith, that he was well acquainted with Samuel Rutan (an applicant for a pension under the late law of Congress) before and during the Revolutionary war, that this deponent Knew said Samuel Rutan served in the regular army in captain Samuel Potters company, under the command of Col. Dayton attached to the New Jersey line and this deponent further saith that the said Samuel Rutan served at least one year in the said Captain Potters Company under the command of said Col. Dayton, that to the best of said deponents knowledge be the said Samuel Rutan is in reduced circumstances and stand in need of his country's assistance for Support and further this deponent saith not.

Sworn and Subscribed before
Me this 19th day of Jan^y 1819 [signed] Simeon Simpson

[signed] John Arlson

Washington County
Pennsylvania [?]

I, James Allison Judge as aforesaid, do certify that Daniel Davies and Simeon Simpson, the witnesses who testify to the service of Samuel Rutan in the revolutionary war, in order to attain the provision of the late act of congress in favour of certain persons engaged in the lands and [?] [?] of the U. States in the revolutionary war, are credible as witnesses.

[signed] James Allison

Washington County
Pennsylvania [?]

I, James Allison, Judge as aforesaid do certify that it appears to my satisfaction that the aforesaid Samuel Rutan did serve as stated in his declaration against the common enemy for the term of nine months on the continental establishment, and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support. In witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal this 14th day of July A. D. 1819.

[signed] James Allison [seal]

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Washington County ss

On the first day of October A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Honbl Thomas H. Baird Esq. President, and Brgd Mercer & John Hamilton Esq . associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County, now sitting, Samuel Rutan of Morris Township in the County of Washington and State of Pennsylvania, 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 7th 1832.

That in the year 1819 (he believes it was) he made application at the War Department of the United States, for a pension under the act of the 18th of March 1818, and that on the evidence then offered by him of his having served in the Army of the Revolution, his name was placed on the Pension List Roll of the Pennsylvania Agency, as now appear by the records in the Department; that his name was struck [?] the Pension List on account of his being in possession of a greater amount of property than was allowed by law; that he served as a private in the Army of the Revolution in the company of Captain Potter, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Elias Dayton; that he now resides in Morris township, Washington County Penna, and did reside there when he first applied for the pension above names; and that previous to his residence in this county he resided in Morris County New Jersey; and that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State or, if any, only on that of the Agency of the State of Pennsylvania.

Sworn to and subscribed the day
and year aforesaid.

[signed] Sael Rutan [seal]

[signed] Thomas Officer Pro.

I Samuel Rutan of Washington County Pennsylvania, formerly of Morris County New Jersey, aged Seventy eight years, and now on the pension roll of the United States, in order to obtain the benefet of An Act of Congress passed on the 7th day of June 1832 do hereby make the following amended declaration, viz That I enlisted in the Army of the United States on the 14th day of February 1775 in Captain Potter's company of Col Elias Daytons Regiment of the New Jersey line, for one year, I continued however at that time in the service of the United States until the 15th April 1776, being fourteen months, during which time I was ordered with the said company to Albany, from thence to Johnstown and German flats to the Fort stanwix, where the company remained with the other troops for six months, and from thence to Ticonderoga where I remained stationed until my term of enlistment expired, when I the said Samuel Rutan, re-enlisted in Captain Potters company of said Col Daytons Regiment for the term of two months, together with the other troops of said Regiment stationed there, accordingly I served until the 15th April 1776 as aforesaid, until other troops arrived to take the place of Col Daytons Regiment whose time had expired.

Immediately after my return home in the spring of 1776 I volunteered and served one month May, in Captain Peter Latens [Layton] company of militia of Col Seelys Regiment, stationed at Elizabethtown New Jersey and when the term was out, I again enlisted for another month, June, in Captain Carters company of said Regiment, and when the term had expired I again enlisted for the month of July in Captain John Lindleys company of said Col Seelys Regiment, thus I served three months in succession during which time I was stationed at Elizabethtown as aforesaid. In the summer of 1777 I enlisted and served one month in Captain Peter Latens company of said Col Seelys Regiment, and was present and engaged with the enemy on second River near Newark. In the month of September 1777 I enlisted and served another month in the said company which was stationed at Mount holly. And in the month of June 1778 I enlisted and served one month in said Captain Latens company and was present and engaged with the said company in the battle of Monmouth, and in the Summer of said year I enlisted and served another month in said Captain Latens company during which times I was stationed with the company at Morristown, and immediately after the term had expired I again enlisted and served another month in said company under the command of said Captain Laten, which was stationed during the month at Elizabethtown point. Last of May or beginning of June 1780 I again enlisted, and served for two months in said Captain Latens Company which had been and still was of Col Seelys Regiment and was present and engaged with the enemy at the battle of Connecticut farm and shortly afterwards was present and engaged with the enemy at the battle of Springfield being under the immediate command of General Washington. Besides the fourteen months which I served in the regular Army of the United States of Col Daytons Regiment I volunteered and served ten months in the Militia, as detailed in the foregoing declaration, moreover upon all occasions of alarm and emergency, I turned out as a volunteer against the enemy, for ^the^ Service however I make no claim, I only ask a pension for two years Service to the United States which I have faithfully performed as herein stated, and I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension except the present and that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any state, only on that of the United States.

Sworn & Subscribed

April [?]th 1834

[signed] Wm Lindly

[signed] Samuel Rutan

Washington County, Pennsylvania [?]

Personally came before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county, Daniel Davis, of said county and made oath according to Law. That he is, and has been for near Sixty years, well acquainted with Samuel Rutan, who has subscribed his name to the above declaration, that he served with him in the same Regiment from the 14th July 1775 till the 15 April 1776 under the command of Col Dayton, as stated in the above declaration. The ten months service of Militia duty performed by the said Samuel Rutan as by him stated, I verily believe that he duly performed, not only from my own knowledge, but from the concurrent opinion of his neighbours where he formerly lived, as well as in the county where he now lives. The said Samuel Rutan moreover is considered to be a man of an excellent character, sober, honest & correct in his habits, hence the truth of his declaration cannot be doubted

Sworn & Subscribed

April [?] 1834

[signed] Daniel Davies

[signed] Wm Lindly

Washington County Pennsylvania ss

Personally came before me John Wilson Esquire one of the Justices of the peace in and for said county Moses DeCamp formerly of Essex County New Jersey, now of Washington County Pennsylvania and being duly sworn doth depose and say. That he is and has been for sixty years and upwards intimately acquainted with Samuel Rutan of the said county of Washington, United States Pensioner and now an applicant for an increase of Pension and who has subscribed his name to the foregoing declaration. This deponent prior to and during the Revolutionary War lived near to the residence of the said Samuel Rutan. The River Passac [Passaic] merely dividing them, that he was present on the 14th February 1775 when the said Samuel Rutan enlisted in the Army of the United States, in Captain Potters Company of Col Daytons Regiment of the New Jersey line, that the said Samuel Rutan returned to his residence sometime in the month of April 1776, having served the United States at that time Fourteen Months. This deponent was also well acquainted with Captains Laten [Layton], Carter & Lindley all of Col Seelys Regiment, and that the said Samuel Rutan did a tour of one ^month^ under^each of^ them as stated by him in the above declaration, and that he also performed the other Seven Months in Captain Latens company as detailed in his said declaration, the said Samuel Rutan was well known to be an ardent friend to the independence of his country, that in addition to the two years which he thus served the United States, he turned out upon all occasions of alarm and emergency. The said Samuel Rutan moreover, has uniformly sustained a good moral character and considered to be a man of undoubted veracity

Sworn to and Subscribed this 22nd day of April 1834

[signed] Moses Decamp

[signed] John Wilson

[Although there is no date on the following letter, it was written between Jan 1840 and Sep 1842, since Mrs Rutan is referred to as a widow. This letter likely prompted the hearings held on 4 Nov, which follow]

Lindlys Mills Washington County Pa

Dear Sir

At the request of Mrs Rutan I send you enclosed her declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836 I have been acquainted with her for more than forty five years and have no doubt of the Justness of her claim She has resided for that space of time a near neighbour to me and has sustained a most exemplary character and she still retains her mental and physical powers to a surprising degree for one of her age but her pecuniary circumstances are such that if she is entitled to assistance from her country and can obtain it she will no doubt pass the short time she may yet survive more cheerful and contented than to be dependant on her friends and it would in some measure compensate for those trials privations and hardships which she suffered during the Revolutionary war On examining the records I think you will find that Samuel Rutan (the husband of the applicant) was placed on the pension list under a former act of Congress and afterwards dropped from the list in consequence of his being in possession of property and that under a subsequent act of Congress he was again placed on th4 list at perhaps 60 or 70 per annum which was afterwards increased to (I believe) 80 dollars

The witnesses whose depositions are attached to the declaration Viz Sarah Simpson and Lydia Sayer are persons whose characters are unimpeachable If the proof is considered sufficient please direct the Certificate to Lindlys Mills Washington County [?] (either to the widow or myself) or if any more proof is necessary please inform us I can assure you that I have no Interest or motive in addressing you other than a desire that Justice be done to an aged & respected neighbour

Most respectfully yours

[signed] Wm Lindly

James L Edwards Esq

State of Pennsylvania

Washington County Ss On this 4th day of November A.D. 1840 personally appeared in open Court before the Honourable Nathaniel Ewing and the Associate Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas in and for said County Eleanor Rutan a resident of Morris township in said County of Washington and state of Pennsylvania aged Eighty one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836 That she is the widow of Samuel Rutan who was a soldier in the army of the Revolution and late a United States pensioner She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Rutan on the twelfth day of February in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight by the Rev^d M^r Elmor pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Turkey Essex County New Jersey She is not aware that any record was made of her marriage She has a distinct recollection of the month and day of the month on which she was married and she knows the above mentioned time to be the year for the following reasons Viz by the record of the births of her Children particularly her oldest son Jacob Rutan who was born on the 25th day of July 1779 which she perfectly recollects was one year from the next July after her marriage She further declares that the next summer after her marriage her husband the said Samuel Rutan was draughted and performed a tour of duty of 35 days during which time he was in the Battle of Monmouth She also recollects of his being at the Battle of Springfield and at the Connecticut farms and performing a tour of duty of one month at each place She is satisfied that he afterward performed several other tours of duty but she cannot now designate either the time or place She further declares that her husband the said Samuel Rutan died on the 4th day of January 1840 and that she has

remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed She supposes that it is not necessary for her to mention the services performed by her husband the said Samuel Rutan previous to her marriage as the proof of that is already at the department

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written
in open Court.

[signed] Eleanor Rutan

[signed] Jno Grayson, Proth^y

State of Pennsylvania

Washington County ss Before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Sarah Simpson who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that she is well acquainted with Eleanor Rutan the applicant in the foregoing declaration that she was present and saw the said Eleanor Married to the said Samuel Rutan as stated in said declaration and that they lived together as husband and wife from that period to the death of the said Samuel Rutan which was on the 4th day of January 1840 She cannot state positively the date of her marriage but she has no doubt but it was at the time mentioned in said declaration She has a distinct recollection of the said Samuel Rutan being Draughted and performing several tours of duty after his Marriage with the said Eleanor in one of which tours she understood and believes he was in the Battle of Springfield but owing to the great laps of time she cannot now state where he performed the other services

Sworn and Subscribed this
12th day of November 1840
before me

[signed] Sarah Simpson

[signed] Wm Lindly
Justice of the peace

State of Pennsylvania

Washington County ss Before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for Said County personally appeared Lydia Sayer who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that she is well acquainted with Eleanor Rutan widow of Samuel Rutan mentioned in the foregoing Declarations that She lived in the immediate neighbourhood of the Said Samuel and Eleanor Rutan at the time of their Marriage She was not present but she has a distinct ^recollection^ of her father and Mother going to the wedding and from her age and other circumstances she knows it about the same time stated in the foregoing declaration She also has a distinct recollection of the Said Samuel Rutan performing several tours of duty after his Marriage with the said Eleanor She further declares that the said Samuel Rutan died on the 4th day of January last [?] and that the said Eleanor has remained a widow since that period

Sworn and Subscribed this
4th day of November 1840

[signed] Lydia Sayer

[signed] Wm Lindly
Justice of the peace

Washington County ss
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

I John Grayson Prothonotary of the Court of Common Plea for said county do hereby certify that the within proof was made in open Court on the 4th day of November A.D. 1840

In Testimony whereof I have herewith Set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Said Court of Washington the 6th day of November A.D. 1840

[signed] John Grayson Proth^y

Washington County ss

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

I John Grayson, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas for said County, do hereby Certify, that William Lindly Esq before whom the foregoing depositions were taken, was at the time, and now is, a justice of the peace duly commissioned and sworn, that the foregoing signature purporting to be his is genuine, and that full faith and credit is and ought to be given to all his official acts. In testimony hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the said court at Washington this 7th day of December in the year of our Lord 1840.

[signed] Jno Grayson
Proth^y

Washington County,
State of Pennsylvania ss

Before me William Lindly a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally came Eleanor Rutan widow of Samuel Rutan decd and made oath according to law that the record which is posted on the opposite side of this Sheet is taken from an old family Bible which has been in the family for about forty seven years that a part of the names was copied from an old family record at that [?] but which is now not to be found that the record here presented was written by her husband the said Samuel Rutan

Sworn and Subscribed before me [signed] Eleanor Rutan
February 5th 1841

[signed] Wm Lindly, Justice of the peace

Washington County,
State of Pennsylvania ss

Before me William Lindly a Justice of the in and for said County personally appeared John Rutan and made oath according to law that the family record which is attached to the opposite side of the paper is taken from an old family Bible which belonged to his father Samuel Rutan deceas^d which has been in the family ever since his earliest recollections and that the hand writing is that of his father the said Samuel Rutan the two first names on the record are those of his father & Mother the others are the children of the said Samuel and Eleanor Rutan

Sworn and Subscribed before me [signed] John Rutan
February 5th 1841

[signed] Wm Lindly, Justice of peace

[The following is the page from the family bible]

Samuel Rutan Born the forth Day of September 1754
Ellen Rutan Born the Seventh Day of february in the y^r 1759
Jacob Rutan Born the twenty fifth Day of July in the y^r 1779
Sarah Rutan Born the twentyeth Day of September in the y^r 1781
Catherine Rutan Born the twenty Second Day of Janery in the y^r 1785
[torn]ugest the forth Day in the y^r 1787
[torn] twins Born and Dyed
[torn]ny Rutan Born Sixth Day of October in the y^r 1788
Abraham Rutan Born the twenty sixth Day of June in the y^r 1791
Elisabeth Rutan Born the twenty forth Day of April in the y^r 1793
John Rutan Born the tweny Seventh Day of May in the y^r 1796
Anne Rutan Born the ninth Day of December in the year 1798

William Lindly a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Washington Pa do certify that I am well acquainted with John Rutan whose deposition and signature is on the oposite side of this sheet and that he is reputed and believed in the nighbourhood where he resides to be a man of truth and veracity in which opinion I fully concur

[signed] Wm Lindly
Justice of the peace

Washington County Ss. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

I, John Grayson, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas for said County, do hereby certify, that William Lindley, Esq. before whom the above proceedings were had, was at the time and now is an acting Justice of the Peace in & for said County, duly

commissioned and sworn as such, and that full faith & credit is and ought to be given to all his official acts In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and office the seal of the said Court at Washington, the 9th day of February, A. D. 1841.

[signed] John Grayson, Proth^y

Robert Stoy document