

As the war had now fairly commenced, an act of Congress authorized the raising of six companies of Rangers; three to be raised on the Missouri side of the Mississippi, and the other three on the Illinois side. The Missouri companies were commanded by Daniel M. Boone, Nathan Boone, and David Musick. The commission of Nathan Boone was dated in June, 1812, to serve a year, as were doubtless the others.

The Indians, supplied by their British employers with new rifles, seemed bent on exterminating the Americans—always, however, excepting the French and Spaniards, who, from their Indian intermarriages, were regarded as friends and connections. Their constant attacks and murders, led to offensive measures; but I did not serve on Russell and Edward's expedition, in September, 1812, against the Indians in the Peoria region.

During not only the year 1812, but the whole war, I acted as a spy and was in constant service. The Missouri Rangers, by the terms of their enlistment, were to supply themselves with horses, accoutrements, provisions and provender, and they expected to have been mostly stationed, and in service, in the frontier settlements; but finding that they were chiefly required to scour the region beyond the verge of the settlements, they had necessarily to enter into some arrangements to procure their supplies, as they were too far from their homes to provide for their wants from that source. I was solicited by them to furnish these needed supplies, pledging me payment every three months, not doubting that they would promptly receive their own pay from the General Government.

I commenced furnishing these supplies early in the summer of 1812, when the Rangers were ordered to the frontiers; and these three Missouri companies were each to consist of one hundred men, and were nearly full, and all of them I supplied more or less. I furnished, upon an average, more than a hundred and fifty of the Rangers during the whole war. These men could not apply to the Government commissaries, had there been any in the country—and there were none; as from the nature of their