

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Willis Buchanan R1401

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 April 2012.

The State of Alabama } County Court February Term
Fayette County } 1835

On this 16th day of February 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Ho'le Walter Harkins presiding Judge William Buchanan a resident of said County aged 81 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he was born in Meclenburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County in the State of Virginia in the year 1754 and resided in that county until March 1776 at which time he entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer in said county under the command of Captain James Johnson who was commanded by Col. Benjamin Harrison and General George Washington and marched from said County to Richmond, and after we started from said place on our way to Philadelphia I secured the appointment of Lieutenat in the place of John Taylor who was broken for misconduct in office and acted as such through my whole term of service. From Philadelphia we were marched to New York at the time the british had possession of N. York and was in the siege which continued four or five days from thence we were marched to White plains and was in the Battle of said place [28 Oct 1776] from thence to Long Island and was in said Battle [27 Aug 1776] from thence to Trenton and there captured the Hessians [26 Dec 1776] from thence we were marched to Germantown and there had a skirmish against the British [4 Oct 1777] from thence we were marched to Philadelphia thence to Chesterfield and there had another skirmish against the British from thence we were marched back to Philadelphia and there received a discharge after being in service full two years which discharge I received in March 1778. My discharge and commission which I received was burnt in my house some years after the close of the war. 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 in any State he also relinquishes his claim to a pension as an officer and claims it as a private soldier owing to my not knowing any person whom he can prove his services by either as a private or an officer and that there is no clergyman living in my neighborhood to certify to my declaration therefore he refers to the annexed certificate of Collins Boyd and Jonathan Ward Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid William hisXmark Buckhanan

Ans 1 I was born in Meclinburg County State of Virginia in the year 1754

Ans 2 I have no record with me of my age but I recollect of distinctly of seeing it my Fathers Bible

3 I was living in Mecklinburg County State of Virginia when I entered the service. Since that time I have lived in South Carolina Georgia Tennessee and now in Alabama.

4 I entered the Service as a volunteer.

5 Col. Harrison Col Jones Col. Martin Col Taylor Col Eaton, Gen'l Henry Gen'l. Martin &c [were regular officers where he served]

6 My discharges was given me by Gen'l. Washington which were burnt in my house some years after the war

To the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled the Memorial of William W Buchannan humbly represents

That he was a soldier of the revolutionary war and served in various corps but chiefly in Washingtons [Lt. Col. William Washington's] Troop of horse during most of that glorious struggle a portion of the time as an officer. He was in the battles of Long Island, Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Guilford Court House [North Carolina, 15 March 1781] and several others. At the Battle of Guilford Court House

he was severely wounded in consequence of which he was sent home in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, where he then resided. Having recovered from his wounds, he joined the army, at the siege of Yorktown and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781].

By virtue of these services your Memorialist became entitled to a full pension under the provision of the pension laws of the United States, of which however he was unwilling to avail himself while he could get a living by the labor of his own hands. Being now about ninety seven years old and very poor, he has sought in vain to obtain a pension through the Pension Office, not being able, on account of the destruction of papers, the death of most of his old associates and the effects of age upon his own memory, to produce such proofs of his services as the rules of that office require. He has, however, obtained much unimpeachable evidence of his having actually served at different periods of the revolution for which he respectfully refers to the Pension Office, in addition to which he presents his own body marked with honorable scars and still bearing within it a ball received from the enemies of his country at the battle of Guilford Court House. Not doubting that these testimonials will satisfy your honorable bodies that he is justly entitled to the benefits of the existing pension laws, he prays a special act of Congress directing him to be placed upon the pension roll for the highest rate of pension awarded to a soldier of the revolution, to take effect from the fourth of March 183[1 written over 2, or vice versa] for which he will ever pray &c

Wm W hisXmarkBuchanan

State of Maryland City of Baltimore, to wit.

On this 3rd (third) day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four, before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Orphans' Court for Baltimore County, the same being a court of Record, personally appeared William W. Buchanan, aged ninety six years, a resident of Clark County, in the State of Georgia, but formerly a resident of Macklin County, Virginia, and who being first duly sworn according to Law doth his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, as a substitute, in the year 1775, for William Blanton, in Portsmouth, North Carolina, for nine months, during a part of the time he was stationed at the barracks below Edenton on the Roanoke River, he then went to Richmond in the State of Virginia, where he again entered the service as a private soldier until the fall of 1776. He then went to Potomac River – thence to Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, where he heard the Declaration of Independence read, deponent was in Philadelphia at the time on duty. He went from Philadelphia to New York City, and at New York joined the dragoons under Captain Harrison, and continued there and thereabouts for some time, and was under General Aaron Lee, who also had a brother who was a General. Deponent was engaged in the battle of Long Island, Flatbush; Trenton; White Plains; Sandy Hook; Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]; Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781]; Seige of Yorktown; He was at the battles of White Plains and Stoney Point then went to Sandy Hook then to Long Island – from Long to Trenton my [illegible word] at the battle of Trenton, and at the taking of the Hessians, [several illegible words]; then went to Chester County, Pennsylvania, then back to Philadelphia again – from Philadelphia on South to Cowpens – Captain Harrison [illegible word] at Susquehanna, and Captain Russel Jones took his place, as Captain; crossed [several illegible words] the head of the Chesapeake Bay – then crossed the Susquehanna – crossed the Potomac at nolens or newlens Ferry [sic: Noland's Ferry] – then went on the James River – crossed at Carterstown [probably Cartersville] – crossed the roanoke at Taylor's Ferry and so on to the Cowpens. There were upwards of three hundred, say three hundred and sixty five, other horsemen, (troops) went on South at the same time, as also Col. William G. Washington, who was the commander of the horse – also Colonel (old Wagoner) Morgan's [sic: Gen. Daniel Morgan's] Riflemen, went on at the same time: – was in the battle of the Cowpens with Col. William G. Washington, when Tarleton was defeated – was also in the Battle or Skirmish at Ramsey's Mills [19 Mar 1781], on what was then called Deep River. Deponent received a commission first as Lieutenant at Philadelphia and afterwards he was

appointed Adjutant major or Lieutenant Major, and which was endorsed (as he believes) on the same Commission. He very well remembers that his commission was partly in writing, and he performed his services under his commissions. His Commissions were burnt, as also his discharges, with his house, at Jones' Valley, Jefferson County, Alabama, say some ten or fifteen years ago. Was also in the Battle of Gilford Court House the 15th day of March 1781, and was there wounded in two places; viz. in the left breast by a musket bullet, which is still in his body – and on his left knee by a bayonet. His horse was shot at Gilford Court House. He was sent home from Gilford Court House to die or get cured, viz. at Roanoke, a corner of Mecklenburgh and Brunswick Counties, Virginia, and Warren County North Carolina, where his wounds healed up, and where he stoped until near the time Cornwallis was taken at York-town: He started and went to York-town, and arrived there a few days before Cornwallis surrendered. He was there and was on duty at the time Cornwallis surrendered. From Little York, he went to Richmond to get his discharge, but did not there get it, and went home – he then went back again to Richmond and got his discharge, which was burnt at the same time of his commission – so that he has neither his commission nor his discharge as he once had. The last time he saw Col. William Washington was at Eutaw Springs, where he, the Colonel, as deponent believes, was wounded in the arm, and he has never seen him since. Deponent once applied to have his papers made out for a pension, and went to Washington, Ray [sic: Rhea] County, East Tennessee, and applied to the Court there, of which Charles Keith was Clerk, but never had any papers sent on to Washington, D.C. to the best of his knowledge. His application to the Ray County Court, was before his house was burnt, as he had both his Commission and his Discharge at the time he made his application to the court as above stated. He has received money several times, once during Madison's administration, once or twice while Adams was President, and once while Jackson was President.

Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension List or Roll of the agency of any State, having been heretofore enabled to procure his daily bread by his own hands, he was unwilling to become a pensioner on the bounty of his country, but recent affliction and growing infirmities have reduced him to dependence thereon, He therefore prefers his claim. deponent also declares he served for some time, in addition to the above, in the Infantry. In testimony whereof this deponent hath herunto subscribed his name on the day and year first herein before written.

State of Maryland Baltimore County to Wit.

On the fifth day of February Eighteen Hundred and forty four, before me Charles G. Hicks a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Josias Harper a Resident of said County and being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangles of Almighty God deposeth and saith, that the Deponent Enlisted into the Continental Army previous to the Battle of New York and continued in the Service of the States until after the Surrender of Cornwallis at the Battle of York Town Virginia. Deponent Faught at the Battle of New York and White Plains also at the Battle of York Town Virginia. deponent also recollects of being acquainted with William Willis Buchanan (generally called and known by the name of William Buchanan) and that he was in the Regular Army of the States and belonged to the Horse Troop deponent has a perfect recollection of seeing William Buchanan at the Battles of New York White Plains, and York Town Virginia, and that he was acting at the time as an officer of the Troop either as major or Lt. Adj't. Major. deponent declares that the above named William Buchanan is now in Baltimore.

State of Maryland Baltimore County, To, Wit,

On this twelfth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four before me John McComas, one of the Justices of the peace in the State of Maryland in and for the said County, personally came William Tyson, aged Eighty six years, a resident of the said county, and made oath on

the holy Evangely of Almighty God, that he entered the service of the united States in the Rebvolutionary war, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy five and was under the general Command of Washington, after which he marched to the City of New York, White Plains and Brandywine, having enlisted for three years during which times he deponent was personally acquainted with William Willis Buchanan who was then in the army of the united States. This deponent further recollects of seeing the said William Willis Buchanan generally known by the name of William Buchanan, engaged in the Battles of New York White Plains and Brandywine the said William Buchanan was entered in the Virginia continental services for three years more or less. This deponent recollects distinctly that the said William Buchanan was an officer of the Horse troops under the command of Colonel William Washington in the regular army and verily believes he was a Major or Adjutant Major, he the said Buchanan, afterwards went south where he remained until the end of the Revolutionary War but had not seen him until january last at which time they spoke freely to each other and related over their Revolutionary services, and that he continues to know him to be the same Identical William Buchanan who rendered the service in the horse Troop fo the Virginia Continental services [signed] William Tyson Senior

State of Maryland Baltimore County To Wit

On this twenty sixth day of April in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and forty four before the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for said County Personly appeared Wiliam Tyson a resident of said County and made Oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that in addition to the statements heretofore sworn to in regard to the services rendered by Wiliam Willis Buchanan in the Revolutionary War deponent declares that dureing hs acquaintance with Wiliam Willis Buchanan while in active servis of the united States Armeey that at one of the Northern Battles General George Washington's Horse was shot and that William Willis Buchanan give his gray Horse to General George Washington to ride deponent declares that he has a perfect recollection of the circumstance above described also of seeing General G Washington ariding Wiliam W Buchanan's Horse William Tyson

District of Columbia }

Washington County } To Wit: On this tenth day of April in the year of our lord, one thousand, eight hundred and forty four, before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace, in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared William W. Buchanan, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that in addition to the statements heretofore made and filed in the Pension Office in support of his Revolutionary service, that he was in the Virginia Continental line attached to the first company, and during the greater part of the Revolutionary war under the command of Colonel William Washington, and he acted in the capacity as stated in his declaration now filed in the Pension office, and was in active service during the whole war, with the exception of some short period, after he had received a wound at the Battle of Gilford Courthouse. And this deponent further declares, that he is unable at this late day to give any further detailed account of his services, or the Regiment he served in, but thinks he was attached to the first Regiment, but cannot say positively and that the statements aforesaid, together with the within, is all that he can recollect in consequence of late indisposition together with his age which has greatly impaired his memory — But notwithstanding, he well recollects many of the private soldiers and also many of the officers who belonged to the Horse Troops, or Cavalry he was attached to whilst in the said service, which he names, as follows, William Bassey, Sargeant [William Basy (Basye, Basey) BLWt1650-100], Seth Stratton, dragoon [S37473], John Goatly, dragoon [John Goatley, S35972], James Pritchard [W8534], All of whoome was attached to Colonel William Washington's Cavalry of the State of Virginia, and he also well knew Maj'r. Willis, Capt. George Walker, Henry Cooke, Sargeant, John Cook, and William Cook, both of which was also attached to the Cavalry or dragoons.

William W. hisXmark Buchanan

Balt'e May 18, 1844

This is to certify that I have this day examined the person of William Willis Buchanan, an old revolutionary soldier, and find it to exhibit the scars of several gunshot wounds, sabre-cuts, bayonet wounds &.

There appears to be a ball lodged in the right side of the thorax giving him some pain and causing disability. He is said to have served during nearly the whole of the revolutionary war, and has never yet had the benefit of a pension

A. R. Smith M.D.

I have this day (May 18th 1844) examined Mr William Willis Buchanan & concur in the above statement.

E. W. Theobald

State of Pennsylvania } Ss.

Lancaster County }

Philip Snell [sic: Philip Schnell, pension application S14419] being duly sworn says that he he served in the Revolutionary War from 1776 until after October 1781. He further says that he recollects of seeing William W. Buchanan in the service as an officer, but is unable to state his rank. He remembers he rode a smart young horse, and he was acting as an officer in the service at the seige of Yorktown in Virginia, in 1781. It is the same Buchanan whom this deponent saw in company with Mr Wright in July last at Baltimore. He had not seen him before, since he saw him at Yorktown. And further he says not

Philip hisXmark Schnell

State of Maryland: City of Baltimore towit:

On this tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and forty four, before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said City, personally came William W. Buchanan, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that in addition to the statements heretofore made and filed in the Pension office in support of his Revolutionary Services, that he was attached to the Virginia continental service, also the Virginia State line – during his services in the State line he was attached to a company of Infantry under the command of Captain Thornton, and other Captains, and rendered services for at least, or about, three years, and received his pay for the said services some time in the summer of the year seventeen hundred and eighty four, through a Mr. Broadhead, and during a part of the Revolutionary war, under the command of Colonel William Washington, during which services he acted in the capacity as stated in his declaration now filed as aforesaid, and was in active service during the whole war, with the exception of some short period, after he had received a wound at the Battle of Guilford Court House.

And this deponent further declares that he is unable at this late day to give any further detailed account of his services, and that the statements aforesaid, together with the within, is all that he can recollect in consequence of late indisposition together with his advanced age, which has greatly impaired his memory.

William W. hisXmark Buchanan

State of Maryland Baltimore County, To Wit,

On this Eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and Forty Four before the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for the County aforesaid, Personally appeared, Jesse Phelan [S11237], aged eighty nine years a resident of the said county and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, That he was well acquainted with William W Buchanan, who was generally called William Buchanan when he was acting as an officer and soldier of the Revolutionary War. This deponent declares that his first acquaintance with the said Buchanan took place some short time before the Battle of Long Island after which deponent well recollects of meeting frequently with him at different times and places during which times they fought in the Battles of White Plains, and Trenton also in the Battles of of Brandywine, Germantown, and Yorktown, Virginia And this

deponent further declares that he well recollects when William Buchanan joined the horse troop or dragoons near the city of New York as a Lieutenant after which he was acting in the capacity of a Major under the command of Colonel William Washington as the deponent is most confident some two years before his said Colonel march South which was some time in the latter part of the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine or in the beginning of the year seventeen hundred and Eighty, after which time this deponent declares he did not see the said Wm Buchanan until some short time before the battle of Yorktown in the State of Virginia in which battle they were engaged before and after which he well recollect of having several interviews, and that the deponent declares and depose and say the William Buchanan who is now in the Cit of Baltimore is the same Identical Person who rendered the aforesaid services in the Virginia Continental Line as well also in the State line [signed] Jesse Phelan

State of Maryland City of Baltimore Sct.

On this Eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace of the State of Maryland in and for the City of Baltimore aforesaid personally appeared Ellen Webb, of said City, aged Eighty four years, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that she well knew William W. Buchanan, who is at present in the City of Baltimore aforesaid, when he was acting as an officer in the Virginia Line, in Colonel William Washington's troop, as well also when he was acting as a private Soldier in another part of the Virginia Line. This deponent further declares that she most particularly recollects the same identical William W. Buchanan before and when he was engaged in the Battle of Guilford during which engagement he received a wound by a musket bullet, afterward when she this deponent was present and an eye witness to the fact, and this deponent further declares that she knows the above named Buchanan who is spoken of to be the same Identical person from the fact of her aiding the Surgeon who dressed his wound to prepare lint and bandage. And that during the Revolutionary War she well knew him at different times and places from the fact of marching from and to different parts with the Army, with her husband who was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. [See endnote.] Ellen herXmark Webb

State of Maryland Baltimore City to wit

Be it remembered that on this fourteenth day of February Eighteen Hundred and forty five before me the subscriber one of the justices of the peace of the state of maryland in and for the said City personally appeared Charles Robinson a Residents of baltimore City and formerly a Residents of Baltimore County in state of maryland who saith that he about Eighty Six years of age and made oath on the Holy Evangely of almighty God that he Entered the servis in the Armerican Revolutionary Armeiy in the year of Seventeen Hundred and seventy five or six and continued in the servis of the united states until some time after the Battle of Verplank [sic: Verplanck's Point NY] and Stoney point during the said time he became acquainted with William Willis Buchanan who was at the same time in the Regular armeiy of the Revolution and was attached to the Horse troop and declairs that the said William W. Buchanan was a acting offier his Rank he is unable to state but veryly believes that at his first acquaintance he was acting as Lutenant but thinks afterwards he was either Sergent or adgt magari deponent further declairs that the William W. Buchanan was ingaged in the Battle of Verplank and Stoney point and further declairs his reason for knowing the said William W. Buchanan was that the said Buchanan was a man of much notority for his manhood and as swordsman and also during his acquaintance with him the said Buchanan rowd a grey Horse and this deponant further declairs that he was personally acquainted with the said Buchanan and had several interviews with the said Buchanan during their servesis in the Revaulioney war and this deponant declairs that the said Buchanan Called on him in the City of Baltimor on the Eleventh day of this present month and this depenent declair that he is the identical William W. Buchanan who was in the servis in the American Revolutionary war as aforesaid

Charles HisXMark Robinson

NOTE:

Unless otherwise noted, many of the supporting witnesses did not apply for pensions for their own services, or, in the case of Ellen Webb, for service by her husband. If Ellen Webb was a camp follower, as claimed, she would be among the few whose names are known.

On 26 Sep 1844 J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, wrote that Buchanan's claim was rejected because the supporting papers "contain such statements as I cannot admit as evidence, without violating rules to which we invariably adhere."