

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

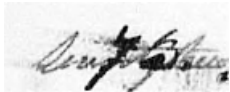
Pension application of Robert Burchfield R1444 Elizabeth Burchfield f41NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/16/09: rev'd 6/25/16

[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 'indecipherable' 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 Indiana Ripley County: SS

On this thirteenth day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Henry B. Hukile probate Judge of the Ripley County probate Court now sitting at Versailles in the said County of Ripley Robert Burchfield -- a resident of the said County of Ripley and State of Indiana aged Seventy Two [?]¹ 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service of the United States sometime in the month of March or April 1775, as a volunteer against the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina and served at Captain George Wathies [?] Station which was situated on the Hill on the shore of Catawba River in Rowan County North Carolina (now called Burke County) he served under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Colonel Matthew Locke -- Captain George [illegible], Lieutenant Robert Scott and Sergeant William Steel; he left the service in June in the same year after serving for three months. He also volunteered again immediately in the same month of June for three months more and served for three months at Captain Davis's Station higher up the River against the Cherokee Indians. During this term of Service he was commanded by General Rutherford, Colonel Locke, Major William Davis, Captain Samuel Davis and (Lieutenant James Davis, as he believes). He left the service some time in the month of September same year, after serving for three months. Afterwards in the year 1778, between the tenth & twenty fifth days of November he volunteered again a third time and marched against the British who were landing at the mouth of Savannah River at Savannah in Georgia. He served there for five months under General Rutherford, Colonel Locke, Colonel Archer Ben Littles [sic, Archibald Lytle], Major Nelson, Captain Robert Alexander, Lieutenant John Baxter and Sergeant Jesse Wethers, part of this term of service he served under Colonel Archer Ban Little , Major Nelson and Captain James Richardson in Colonel Ben Littles Regiment of Light Infantry. He left the service in April 1779 on Turkey Hill after first being duly discharged by Colonel Locke. He then afterwards in the month of November 1781, volunteered again and marched against the Cherokees who were plundering the frontiers along Nolichucky River, Watauga & Holston River's and served for one month under Colonel John Savier [sic, John Sevier] Major Walton Major Jonathan Tipton



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Captain William Trimble and Lieutenant Jesse Wathers. He left the service in the month of December following. He again in the month of May 1782 volunteered for three months more and served at Colonel Warfords' Station [Wofford's Station?] under General Charles McDowell Colonel Joseph McDowell and Major McDowell (cousin to the Colonel) Captain James Davis and Ensign Machie Burchfield [sic, Meshach Burchfield]² (brother to this applicant) Warfords Station was situated on the South fork of Catawba River and a place called Turkey Cove -- He left the service some time in August 1782. He then in the month of March following (1783) volunteered for the sixth time and marched against the Indians (also Cherokees) who came down upon the settlements in Burke County (formerly called Rowan County) and killed his father. He served during this term between three and four months and was commanded by General Charles McDowell, Colonel Joseph McDowell, Major Cleaveland [sic, Cleveland], Captain George Cathie [George Cathey], Lieutenant Thomas Smith and Ensign (or Sergeant) Richard Reed and left the service in the month of June same year. His place of residence at the time he entered the service the first time and during all his several terms except the fourth term when he served a month against the Indians) was in the County of Burke North Carolina. He entered the service as a volunteer at all the terms of his service. He was engaged in the Battle of General Ashe's defeat at Briar Creek [March 3, 1779]³ below Augusta in Georgia, and also in the Battle fought by Colonel Sevier and the Indians at Boyd's Creek [December 16, 1780]⁴ on the South West side of French Broad River in North Carolina (now called Tennessee) in this engagement he killed and scalped an Indians, who was aiming a death shot at one of the American soldiers. Afterwards he was also in the Battle of the Cherokee towns where they destroyed by fire two Indian towns.⁵

During his first term for three months at Cathies Station [sic, Cathey's Station] he served as a Ranger and one of the Guard along the frontier. During his second tour of three months at Davis's Stationed he also ranged the mountains and served as a guard on the frontier. During his third tour for five months against the British he marched from the upper part of Rowan County to Mecklenburg Court-house where for a short time the Army rendezvoused from thence he marched to Camden South Carolina from thence over the sand hills by the Eutaw Springs to the Ten Mile house this side of Charleston where the Army encamped from thence he marched by Edisto to Plurensburgh [sic, Purrysburg] in South Carolina on the Savannah River. There he joined Colonel Archer Ben Little's light infantry and was marched up the River to keep the British from crossing at Augusta where they encamped on a Bluff called Matthews Bluff from there he marched up the River a half mile where he crossed then marched through Augusta down the River to a Bridge crossing Briar Creek where he remained until the defeat of General Ash [sic, John Ashe], there he was compelled to swim the Creek to make his escape, and there he went down the River below Briar Creek Bridge where he crossed and again joined General Rutherford's Army then stationed on Turkey Hill where he was discharged. During this fourth tour (under Colonel Sevier) he marched from Nolichucky River to the big Island of French Broad River on to Boyd's Creek where the Battle aforesaid was fought, and from thence to Little River to one of the Cherokee towns where they burnt the same: from thence back to Nolichucky River. During his fifth tour (at Colonel Warford's Station) he served as a Ranger & guard on the frontier. During his sixth and last Tour (which added to the other five tours of service makes eighteen months service) he marched from Davis Station to Swannanoa River and French Broad

² [Meshack Burchfield S16668](#)

³ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

⁴ <http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boyds creek.html>

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1782.html

River across two small rivers called Pigeon Rivers on to Tennessee into the Cherokee Towns where the Indians were defeated, from thence he marched back to the station where he continued to remain until the danger was past. He was acquainted with Colonel Archer Ben Little, Major Nelson, Captain James Craig, Captain Richard Simmons Captain John Beverly and Lieutenant Hughes of the regular service, and as a before stated he served in Colonel Ben Littles Regiment of Light infantry. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, and he has no documentary evidence to prove the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Robert Burchfield, X his mark

[Elias Robinson, a clergyman, and John Hunter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Answers to the Questions prescribed by the War department and propounded to the above named applicant by the said Court. Answer to first Question. I was born the 18th day of December 1759, above Baltimore on Pipe Creek Maryland. Answer to Question second. I [have] the record of my age as given by my Father. Answer to third Question. I resided in Rowan County North Carolina during all my service except the Term of one month, since the Revolution I have resided in the State of Kentucky from thence I removed to this State where I now reside (Ripley County Indiana). Answer to fourth Question. I volunteered as before stated. Answer to fifth Question. The General circumstances of my service all within stated. I was acquainted with Colonel Archer Ben Little and with the officers named with who belonged to the Continental Army and served in Colonel Ben Little's Regiment of Light infantry. Answer to sixth Question. I received two written discharges one from Colonel Locke during my third term and one from Captain Davis during my fourth term. Answer to seventh Question. Eugene[sic ?] Col. John Hunter, Doct. Cornett, Col. Robinson of Versailles and all who know me.

[p 11: On February 26, 1845 in Ripley County Indiana, Elizabeth Burchfield, 77, made application for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of Robert Burchfield; that she married him in the month of March 1787 in Burke County North Carolina; that her maiden name was Elizabeth Hill; that her husband died October 29, 1844 in Ripley County. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12]

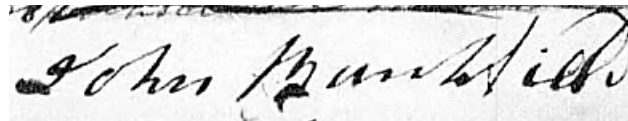
State of Indiana Ripley County:

On this 20 sixth day of February 1845, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable the Judges of the Ripley County Circuit Court now in session John Burchfield⁶ a resident of said County aged 77 years who being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the beginning of 1787 he became acquainted with the above named applicant for a pension. That her name before her marriage was Elizabeth Hill. That she was the daughter of Colonel Hill of Rowan County North Carolina. That during the year 1787 or for a part of the time he was stationed at Tugalo or Tugaloo station on the head of Savannah River South Carolina her residence at that time was about 20 miles from said station in Burke County North Carolina on the waters of Catawba old Catawba River. That this deponent well remembers of the marriage between the said Elizabeth Hill and Robert Burchfield who was a Pensioner of the United States

⁶ probably the same man as [John Burchfield W8175](#)

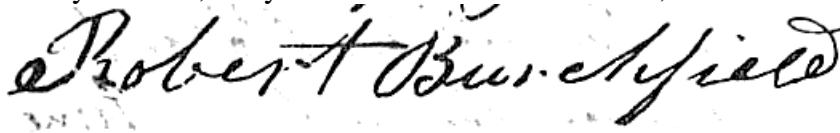
at the time of his death which took place on 29 October last. That they were married in the month of March (the precise day he cannot state) in the year 1787. The reason why he can recollect the said marriage so well is from the following reasons amongst others. The year of 1787 (the time of their marriage) was notorious from the fact of an Indian massacre called the "Defeated Camps" which took place in the wilderness between the Crab Orchard and Clinch River. This said Robert Burchfield and his wife the said Elizabeth Burchfield removed to Kentucky that year to wit the year of their marriage 1787. They were married by one James Davidson Esquire a Magistrate who was killed in about two years afterwards by the Indians on the Swannanoa River. This deponent has from that period until the present been intimately acquainted with the said Robert and Elizabeth Burchfield and knows her to be the same person before spoken of as the daughter of Colonel Hill, and the lady married to the said Robert Burchfield in 1787 -- as aforesaid. That they have always continued to live together as man and wife from the said period of 1787 -- until the time of the death of said husband and raised a large family of children and further the deponent saith not.

S/ John Burchfield

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Burchfield". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sworn to and subscribed the 20 sixth day of February 1845 before me in open Court.

[p 16: On August 31, 1854 in Ripley County Indiana, Robert Burchfield a resident of Delaware Township in said County filed a power of attorney in which he states he is the son and legal heir of Robert Burchfield, a pensioner for his services in the Revolution; he claims that his father was due an increase in his pension during his lifetime and he seeks to recover the amount due his father; his father died October 29, 1844 at which time he was drawing a pension at the rate of \$60 per annum. His father died leaving a widow Elizabeth Burchfield who died September 20, 1845; his father died survived not only by his widow but also by the following children: Mary Burchfield (now Mary Roberts) Sally Kelly -- Betsey Oneal [Betsey O'Neal?], John Burchfield, Nancy Whitam, Kitty Smith and Robert Burchfield, Junior.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Burchfield". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the North Carolina militia.]