

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

Pension Application of George Burns R1483

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia        } Ss

County of Randolph    }

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid George Burns a resident of the lower settlement on the Dry fork of Cheat in Randolph County and State of Virginia [probably Dry Run of Cheat River now in Tucker County WV] aged 76 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In Rockingham County [formed from Augusta County in 1778] and state of Virginia in June 1777 in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of his age he volunteered as a private in a company of Virginia Militia Commanded by Capt. [John] Cunningham, and marched to Staunton Augusta County. there rendezvoused with a few companies of Augusta Militia and some time in the month of July commenced a march under Col. [John] Dickinson by way of the Warm Springs [Warm Springs] crossing Jackson's River [Jackson River], the Allegany [sic: Allegheny] Mountain and Greenbrier River arrived at Camp Union, at a place where Lewisburg now stands. there joined the troupes under Col. [George] Skillern. lay there some time untill they had laid in supplies for the Campaign, then, in Augt. he believes they proceeded on the march across the Sewell Mountains to the Great Kanawha river at some short distance below the falls, lay here some time in consequence of the sickness of some of the Officers – then proceeded down the Kanawha to some distance below Pocatalico, halted there some time, then continued the march to Point Pleasant, at the Junction of the Kanawha with the Ohio – arrived here he believes in the month of Oct. remained at Pt. Pleasant awaiting the arrival of an army from Pittsburg (then Fort Pitt) after they had been he believes 2 or 3 weeks at this Fort. the circumstance of the death of the celebrated Indian sachem Corn Stalk took place [see endnote], but he did not witness his assassination being a few miles distant from the Fort at the time of this occurrence, soon afterwards Gen'l. [Edward] Hand from Fort Pitt arrived without an arms [army], after some days spent in consultation the expedition upon which they had started (which was against the Indians on the North side of the Ohio River) was abandoned – and in December they left Pt. Pleant and commenced retracing their steps, and arrived at Camp Union in Jany. 1778 he believes, remembers that they halted here a few days in consequence of extreme cold weather – then countermarched to augusta and was there discharged in Feb. 1778 having served as a private in the Va. Ma. eight months.

Then in April in the year 1778 in Rockingham County and state of Virginia, he substituted for John Parsons a private in the company of Va. Militia commanded by Capt. Joseph Berry in a Regt. commanded by Col. VanMeter [Garrett Vanmeter], and marched across the Allegany Mountain to Fort Pitt there joined the army under command of Gen'l. [Lachlan] McIntosh this was in June 1778 he believes – remained here some weeks – then decended the Ohio River to the mouth of Big Beaver Creek [at present Beaver PA], there landed and built a Fort, which was called Fort McIntosh, and remained there untill Nov and was then discharged and returned home where he arrived in Dec'r. 1778 having served as a private in the Virginia Militia not less than 7 months

In Rockingham County and State of Virginia in July 1779 he was drafted as a private in the Virginia Militia for a term of three months under Capt. Smith and was marched to Richmond and attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. [Benjamin] Harrison, and was here stationed to guard the military stores deposited at this place untill his term of service expired and was in Oct 1779 discharged and returned to his residence having served as a private in the Virginia Militia 3 months.

In Rockingham County and State of Virginia in Sept 1780 he was again drafted as a private for another term of 3 months in a company of Virginia Militia commanded by Capt. [Richard] Reagan, and marched to Williamsburg Virginia, was there attached to Col Waggoners Regt. and continued here until his term of service was ended, had no battle, but was employed in guarding and fortifying the place against enemy who were threatening the place and the surrounding country with an invasion – and also in guarding and keeping in check the negroes and disaffected – was in Dec'r. 1780 discharged having served as a private in the Virginia Militia another term of 3 months

In Augusta County Virginia in April 1781 he substituted for Adam Simmons a private for a term of 6 months in a company of Virginia Militia commanded by Captain Francis Long, and marched through Rockfish gap in the South Mountain to Charlottesville [sic: Charlottesville], from thence to Richmond, was there attached to Col. Strickers Regt. remained stationed for some time at Richmond under Gen'l. [William] Campbell then marched to a place near Williamsburg was there placed under command of Col. Butter, and was soon after driven by the enemy to a place called Hot Water, where an engagement took place in July he believes [Battle of Spencer's Ordinary 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 June], which was very hot for a few hours, was then driven by the enemy to Muddy Run Camp, the retreat covered by Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne, from Muddy Run Camp marched to Richmond, from thence to crossing James River 5 miles above Richmond marched through Chesterfield to Goods [sic: Goode's] Bridge on the Appomattox lay here some time, then marched to Petersburg then to Blanford [sic: Blandford], from thence to Eastham, thence crossing James River marched to New Kent C.H. there joined La Fayette's [sic: Lafayette's] army then marched to Williamsburg – lay here a short time, then marched in pursuit of the British army under command of Lord Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] to York Town, this was late in the month of Sept. continued at Yorktown in the army commanded by Gen'l. Geo Washington, until the the surrender of the British army which took place in Oct. 1781 (he believes on the 19<sup>th</sup> day) a few days after this event he was marched to the Winchester Barracks as one of the guard to conduct the prisoners to that place, arrived here with the prisoners about the last of Oct.. 1781 his term of service having expired he was discharged having served 6 months as a private in the Virginia Militia, making in all not less than 27 months as a private in the Virginia Militia. He was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1757 in Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Virginia, moved to Rockingham County Virginia in the year 1772. lived in that county untill 1800 then moved to, Randolph County Virginia where he now lives, and owing to exposure while in the service has become blind, and very infirm.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. 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.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid      George hisXmark Burns

The said Justice then proceeded to propound the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department to which he made the following answers

To the

- 1<sup>st</sup>. I was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1757 in Loudon County and State of Virginia
- 2<sup>d</sup>. I have no record of my age, but remember the account given me thereof by my parents
- 3<sup>d</sup>. When called into service I was living in Rockingham County Virginia
- 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Campaign to Point Pleasant I volunteered In the Campaign to Fort Pitt &c I was a substitute for John Parsons. In the last Tour, I was also a substitute for Adam Simmons In all the other Tours I was drafted.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. At Point Pleasant, knew Capt. [Mathew] Arbuckle who commanded the Garrison stationed there. Gen'l. Hand who came down from Fort Pitt Cols. Dickinson and Skillern, at Fort Pitt he seen Genl. McIntosh, Cols. Vanmeter, from Hardy (then Hampshire County Va. and Col. [D.] Evans from Monongalia County and Col. [John] Gibson. at Richmond in 1779 knew Col. Harrison, in '81 he knew Col. Stricker, [Thomas] Hugart, Harrison, Butter &c. Genls. Campbell, Wayne and La Fayette, at

Yorktown he seen Gen'l. Washington, Clinton, and the Baron Steuben, the number of Regts he does not remember, and has forgotten which were Regular officers or Militia, the nature of his service is as detailed in his Declaration.

6<sup>th</sup>. I Rec'd. a Discharge at the end of each term of service. I have forgotten by whom they were signed, they are all lost many years ago.

7<sup>th</sup>. I am known to Ebenezer Flanagan and Samuel S. Wiel who reside in my neighborhood and can testify as to my character, and their belief of my services &c. George hisXmark Burns

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pension applicants in present West Virginia. For details see my appendix in the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

George Burnes, Applicant Served 27<sup>th</sup> months –

    this man has removed from Randolph county & has not been met with –

    John Long a man of character says he has known George Burns for 15 or 20 yrs. and he is about 55 or sixty years old. Cant possible exceed sixty.

    Henry Farnsler, also Gentleman of charactor has known Burnes for a long time – thinks he was born during the Revolutunary war, has head Burns came into the county with the British army before he [two illegible words] time –

    this is one of Johnson F Newlan's [sic: Johnson F. Newlon's] cases –

    A Copy.

    W. G Singleton/ Nov. 25 1834

NOTE: In Nov 1777 near Point Pleasant a Lt. James Gilmore was killed by unknown persons. In retaliation, American soldiers murdered Chiefs Cornstalk, his son Ellinipsico, and Red Hawk, who were being held as hostages. See the pension application (S8979) of William Pryor.