

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Busby R1526

f43VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/7/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Goochland County: to wit

On this 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Goochland William Busby a Resident of the County of Goochland and State of Virginia aged seventy-two 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 with Colonel Armond [sic, Tuffin Charles Armand, Marquis de la Roueire] and served in the troop of Cavalry subject to the command of Colonel Armond who was under the command first of General Stephens [Edward Stevens] secondly of General Greene and thirdly of General Lafayette as follows till the close of the war (the company offices he cannot now recollect). That he was a resident of the County of Goochland and State of Virginia but that he enlisted under Colonel Armond at Hillsboro in the State of North Carolina. That from Hillsboro we marched to the Cheraw Hills at which place a soldier was shot for having deserted. We then marched to Weitzell's Mill¹ [March 6, 1781] where we had an engagement a few hours before day and we took 12 prisoners, then on through Salisbury & down to the old trading Ford on the Adkin [Yadkin] River where we had an engagement and a Colonel Morris commanded, then on to Guilford Court House where we had an engagement [March 15, 1781] from which place we marched to Richmond in Virginia from which place under the command of General Lafayette we marched to a place called the Raccoon Ford on the Rapidan River in the County of Orange where we were joined by General Wayne's Army from which place we marched to Machinck [Mechunk Creek?] Creek in Fluvanna County and from there we marched back to Dandridge Hills in Hanover County, and on to Richmond and after remaining in the neighborhood of the City of Richmond (viz.) at Bottom's bridge & other places for some time we marched down to a place called the Shirley Hundred and from this place we returned to the Holley Springs but before we reached the Holley Springs we fired at a British vessel which was grounded but without effect, from the Holley Springs we marched for York town when we got opposite old James Town General Wayne with his Army command attacked the enemy, we then went on to Williamsburg where we remained some time and then known to Yorktown where we remained until Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781] after which we marched with the prisoners on the way to Winchester where he obtained his discharge but the discharge has been lost & this affiant is unable to produce it. He enlisted with Colonel Armond for three years or during the war. Since the Revolutionary War he has generally resided in this County, with the exception of about ten years when he lived a part of the time in Louisa County & a part in Buckingham County.

¹ A/K/A: Whitesell's Mill, Whitsell's Mill, Wetzall's Mill, Wetzell' Mill, &c.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Busby, X his mark

State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

On this 20th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open court before the court of the County aforesaid now sitting William Busby a resident of the said County and State aged seventy-two years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following supplementary Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That when he made his former Declaration he conceived it only necessary to set forth his service in the regular Army, but being now so advised he will narrate his whole service in the Militia as well as the regulars. That in the winter of the year '80 he cannot recollect the day he substituted himself for Aaron Parrish in the Goochland militia as is proven by the testimony of said Parrish, and was a private in the company from the said County of Goochland under Captain Ted Curd marched from the Court House of the County in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Nat Morris to Hillsboro and North Carolina and remained there under the command of General Stevens until he enlisted as formerly stated, recollects one Colonel Bluford [probably Abraham Buford] and his Regiment at Hillsboro who were regulars he supposes, and no other officers or regiments, and served at least four months before his enlistment. That he then enlisted and marched through the country and witnessed the events formally related – and that he cannot relate any further particulars. That in the latter part of the year '81 when near Winchester with the prisoners as formerly mentioned a militia man named James Whitlock long since dead, being very ill, it was announced that any person who would conduct him home should receive a discharge – he undertook to do so, was discharged he thinks by one Captain Davenport and returned home and in this enlistment he served at least eighteen months as private in the cavalry. That he had a written discharge, but being entitled to some arrears of pay, he gave his discharge to Captain Thomas Underwood then a member of Assembly from Goochland who undertook to obtain his pay for him, but that he never received his pay nor has he ever been able to receive his discharge and has no documentary evidence. That he can prove his militia service by the affidavit of Aaron Parish as above mentioned and can prove that one Alexander Towles lately dead, who was in the militia when he enlisted upon hearing it said that he could not prove his enlistment observed that he could prove it by him, and that he could procure no other testimony. That the reason he could obtain no witness is that he enlisted in a foreign state in a troop of which not one member came from his Country, and upon breaking up of the troop they all went to their own homes and he has had no correspondence with them since. He hereby relinquishes all 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.

To Question 1st he replies I was born in Henrico County 5th April 1760.

To Question 2nd I have no record of my age –

To Question 3rd When called into service I lived in Goochland County since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Louisa & Buckingham County & now live in Goochland County.

To Question 4th I 1st substituted myself for Aaron Parish & then enlisted

To Question 5th Answered to the satisfaction of the Court

To Question 6th I received a discharge signed by Captain Davenport I think and disposed of it as

stated above –

To questions 7th Reverend Lewis Chandoin and John Underwood Esquire
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Busby, X his mark

[Lewis Chandoin, a clergyman, and John Underwood gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Virginia Fluvanna County to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for said County John Meeks² and made oath that he verily believes William Busby of said County of Fluvanna served in the War of the Revolution that he very well recollects frequently to have seen Mr. Busby while in service in the South & heard his name called often whilst the role was being called that said Busby was dressed in the Continental uniform & he supposes he belonged to the regular Army – that they wintered together at Cheraw Hills South Carolina & there they were also together at Hillsboro & at a small engagement at White's Mill South Carolina that he is now acquainted with Mr. Busby and verily believes him to be the same man. Given under my hand and seal the 18th day of Me 1838.

S/ Horatio J McGruder, JP

[f p. 37]

I Abraham Davis³ of the County of Louisa and State of Virginia being now about ninety-eight years of age being 1st duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God do hereby swear That I became acquainted with William Busby of the County of Fluvanna and State aforesaid in the winter of 1780 and 81 at Cheraw Hills in South Carolina where we took up winter quarters. I was under the command of Colonel William Washington and the said Busby belonged to Colonel Armond or Armong's Corps of horse in the War of the Revolution. I also well recollects seeing the said William Busby again in 1781 at Hillsboro North Carolina whilst we were stationed there. I knew the said Busby well both at the Cheraw Hills & at Hillsboro, we were on duty together, and I am now in the presence of the said William Busby, and know him to be the same man that I saw and knew as a soldier in the revolutionary War at the place aforesaid. After we left Hillsboro we were separated and I did not see him again whilst engaged in the service. Given under my hand this 1st day of August in the year 1838

S/ Abraham Davis, X his mark

[f p. 39]

State of Virginia Goochland County Sct

On this 16th day of December 1834 personally appeared in open court before the court of the said County now sitting William Busby a resident of the County aforesaid aged seventy-four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following explanatory declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That in the year 1780 he substituted himself for one Aaron Parrish as a private in the militia of the said company of Goochland and in the early part of that year, marched in the Company of Captain Ted Curd, Thom Miller Lieutenant, from the Courthouse of Goochland

² [John Meeks S38207](#)

³ FPA W538

County to the South – Nat. Morris was Colonel – marched to Hillsboro in North Carolina and after remaining there a short time, he was induced to enlist in Colonel [word obliterated and illegible] Corps of Cavalry, for which there were officers obtaining recruits from the Militia at Hillsboro. That in the militia he served at least two months as private. That according to his understanding he enlisted in Armond's Corps for 3 years provided the War should continue so long. That he was a private and thinks his immediate Commander was named Brown. That from Hillsboro he marched in the Corps under Armond to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina. General Stevens commanded at this place and he remained there some time. While there a deserter was shot. That in the latter part of the summer they marched from the Cheraw Hills, still under General Stevens, into the upper part of South Carolina and at a place called Whitesell's Mill, they had a skirmish with the enemy. The British came on them about two hours before day break and they captured twelve prisoners. That Armond's Corps made several charges and the enemy retired. That after remaining some time in the neighborhood of Whitesell's Mill in the fall season they marched into North Carolina, and marched backwards and forwards for some time watching the enemy – that in the latter part of the year they marched towards Salisbury and before they reached that place General Greene took command of the Army as he understood. That after remaining a day or two about Salisbury, they marched on in pursuit of the enemy and at the Trading Ford on the Yadkin River, they had another engagement with the enemy – there were a few rounds fired and both parties drew off. ^{This battle took place about [one or more words indecipherable] the} night. Thence he marched to Guilford Court House and was in the and action at that place. There was a skirmish with the enemy and the next morning the battle commenced. The battle was fought in open ground. He made several charges, and the Army was compelled to quit the field. The battle was hard fought, and he solved many men killed on both sides. That after the battle of Guilford the Army marched towards Virginia, [indecipherable word or words] always in the neighborhood of the enemy and finally in the spring of the following year they joined the Army of the Marquis at Richmond. That after marching about in the neighborhood of Richmond for some time, the Army marched to the North as he understood to prevent the British from getting to Winchester where the prisoners were. At some distance above the Raccoon Ford the Army formed a junction with General Wayne and returned the British having turned back – marched through the upper end of Louisa [County] with the Army made a road. And thence down to Dandridge's Hills in Hanover. Sent out once to go to Goochland Court House, and returned to Dandridge's. Remained two days at that place and marched then to Bacon's branch near Richmond marched thence to New Kent Courthouse then went to Holt's Forge, thence to the White House, and Shirley Hundred and returned to the Holly Springs – marched thence down towards James Town and was in hearing of a battle at that place though none of the Marquis' men were engaged in it Notwithstanding General Wayne, as he understood, repeatedly asked for a reinforcement – marched thence to Williamsburg and remained there some time, and from that place to York, and found the British fortified. At Williamsburg Washington & the French Army joined them. Was present at the siege and surrender of the enemy and after that event he marched with the prisoners towards Winchester. That in the County of King William he thinks, he obtained a discharge in consequence of the following circumstance – One James Whitlock who was a regular Soldier, was sick with a fever and he was told if he would get someone to take him home, he and that person should be discharged. Whitlock chose him and they were both discharged and he carried the sick man home, who soon died. That this was the cause of his getting a discharge and a small arrears of pay being due him, he sometimes after they or gave the discharge to one Thomas Underwood, who was a delegate to the General Assembly from

Goochland upon his undertaking to procure the pay for him. That said Underwood after postponing the business for some time, died without getting the pay for him or returning his discharge, and that since his death he has been unable to recover that paper though he has made frequent applications to his representative. And that in this tour he served at least eighteen months as private in the cavalry. That in relation to his not claiming a pension under the law of 1818, – either in 1819 or 20 he heard of that law and upon reflection concluded that he would be entirely unable to prove his service, and that it would be useless for him to trouble himself about it. That after some time and old acquaintance named Alex Fowler sent him word to come and see him for that he could prove his service. That he made two appointments with a son of Mr. Fowler who lived in the neighborhood but before he saw him, said Fowler died. That he proves his having entered the militia by the testimony of Aaron Parrish for when he was a substitute and that to his service as a regular soldier after the most diligent search he can procure no testimony, And that this may be the accounting for by the most of his comrades being foreigners, and having dispersed after the service, as well as by the lapse of time. That since he made his former declaration he heard that one Billey Lawrence a member of the Corps lived in the County of Kanawha but upon sending to that place he ascertained that he was dead upwards of 20 years since.

Sworn and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Busby, X his mark