

**Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters**

Pension application of Peter Burns R20205

f19SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/12/10 rev'd 6/22/15 & 2/28/19

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

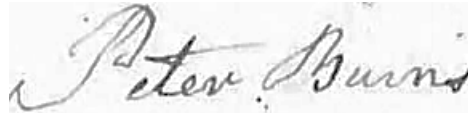
For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled an act for the relief of certain Surviving officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved on the 15th of May 1828 -- I Peter Burns of Saint Michael Township in the County of Madison and State of Missouri do hereby declare that I was an officer in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution and served as such to the end of the War at which period, I was a Captain in the second Regiment of the line. My commission has been lost, owing to my wandering and unsettled state.

And I also declare that I afterwards received a Certificate (Commonly called a Commutation Certificate) for a sum equal to the amount of five years full pay which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress of the 22nd of March 1783 instead of the half pay for life to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780.

And I do further declare that I have received of the United States as a pensioner since the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1826 no money.

Subscribed and sworn to Before me this 23rd day of December 1828  
S/ C. B. Herrick, JP

S/ Peter Burns



[Thompson Crawford and Elisha Bennett gave an affidavit as to the reputation of the applicant as a soldier of the revolution in his neighborhood.]

Revolutionary Claims

Treasury Department,

Peter Burns of \_\_\_ in the County of Madison in the State of Missouri has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such to the end of the war, at which period he was a Captain in the Colonel Hampton's regiment of the South Carolina line; and that he received occasions certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826, nothing ~~dollars, paid to him by the agent in the State of \_\_\_~~

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary  
S/ F. A. Dickins  
Treasury Department,  
Third Auditor's Office,

13th May 1829

It <sup>does not</sup> appears by the records of this office, that final settlement certificates had been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to Captain Peter Burns in the South Carolina line, ~~amounting to \_\_\_dollars.~~

It further appears that Peter Burns is <sup>not</sup> now on the pension list of any agency, and has <sup>not</sup> been so since the third March 1826 ~~at the rate of \_\_\_per month.~~

The Revolutionary records of this office furnish no information whatever in relation to the services of Captain Peter Burns of the South Carolina line.

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

War Department: Bounty land office  
15 May 1829

The records of this office do not show that Peter Burns of the South Carolina line ever received or is entitled to bounty land of the United States.

S/ Robert Taylor

[p 13]

State of Illinois Sangamon County

This day personally came before me Asa S. Shaw a Justice of the Peace now in and for said County John Purirans <sup>1</sup>and made oath that he was well acquainted with Peter Burns. That said Burns was a Captain in the Regular Service during the whole Revolutionary War in the Regiment under the command of Colonel Wade Hampton under the General command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in the State of South Carolina -- and that this affiant served in the Company commanded by said Burns and moreover the affiant states that it was generally reputed and believed that said Burns was a Captain in the Army of the Revolution, and manner as above stated.

Witness my hand & seal this third day of August 1829

S/ John Purirans



Sworn to & subscribed before me this third day of August 1829

S/ Asa S. Shaw, JP

[p 14]

State of Missouri County of Ste. Genevieve

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid John Campbell and who being sworn on his oath says that he is well acquainted with Peter Burns of Madison County of said State. And that he knew the said Peter Burns whilst he was a Captain in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment of South Carolina during the Revolutionary War and that

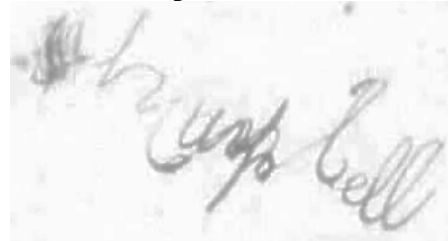
---

<sup>1</sup> Sic, [John Purvians S32459](#)

said Captain Burns, was discharged or quit service at the end of the Revolutionary War in the State of South Carolina. And that the said Captain Burns is now at the least seventy-nine years of age.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the sixth day of April 1825,  
[illegible signature], JP

S/ John Campbell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Campbell", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 8]

Frederick Town in Madison County Missouri

Honorable SD Inham

Secretary of the Treasury United States

Sir,

At this special instance and request of Captain Peter Burnes Senior I herewith enclosed to you the documents of said Burns preparatory of obtaining his pension as an officer of the Revolutionary Army.

Whether Captain Peter Burnes Senior has made out his case, to be a good one, is a matter to be, I presume, determined by yourself, and the Laws of Congress on the Subject of Pensions. But it is confidently hoped that Mr. Burnes case is embraced by the Law of Congress approved the 15th May 1828. At the advanced age of Mr. Burnes and the long lapse of time he may not have complied in every minutia, prescribed by your late predecessor -- but presume enough has been done, to enable him, in the decline of life, to receive some remuneration, for his past services in the Struggle "that tried men's patriotisms." I have had a personal acquaintance with Captain Burnes for nearly ten years -- and from his character generally, and to some distinguished men of this nation, to whom he stands nearly related, to wit the Honorable John Rowan<sup>2</sup> of Ky & I do most heartily lend my feeble aid, in giving him some assistance, to obtain his pension. Captain Burnes requests me to state the following of himself. He (Captain Burnes) is eighty-three years of age, he is in extreme indigence. He received his commission of Captain from the Governor of North Carolina he served under the Continental officers first under Colonel Alexander Martin and afterwards under Colonel Wade Hampton who were commanded by Generals Gates & Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. He was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs, the Battle fought at Camden & Snowy Camp besides several skirmishes. He says that immediately

---

<sup>2</sup> ROWAN, John, (uncle of Robert Todd Lytle), a Representative and a Senator from Kentucky; born near York, York County, Pa., July 12, 1773; moved to Kentucky around 1783; received a thorough classical training; studied law in Lexington; admitted to the bar in 1795 and commenced practice in Louisville; member of the second State constitutional convention held at Frankfort in 1799; secretary of State of Kentucky 1804-1806; elected as a Republican to the Tenth Congress (March 4, 1807-March 3, 1809); member, State house of representatives 1813-1817, 1822, 1824; judge of the court of appeals 1819-1821; elected to the United States Senate and served from March 4, 1825, to March 3, 1831; chairman, Committee on the Judiciary (Twenty-first Congress); appointed commissioner for carrying out the treaty of 1839 with the Republic of Mexico; president of the Kentucky Historical Society from 1838 until his death in Louisville, Ky., July 13, 1843; interment in the family burial ground at Federal Hill, near Bardstown, Nelson County, Ky. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000471>

after the end of the Revolution, he removed from his residence in Mecklenburg County NC to the frontiers of Georgia where he resided until the year 1802 at which time he moved to this country where he has resided ever since. It is a fact within my own knowledge -- that Captain Burnes is as poor as it is well possible for a man to be and that he does live entirely upon the charity of his friends & neighbors, and if not shortly relieved by Congressional provision -- that he must become a County charge. Ignorant myself of the nature of business of the Department over which you have the honor of presiding. This communication, may come to you, in an uncouth or awkward manner -- But I presume the substance is much more important, in this case, than etiquette or official formality.

I am requested by Captain Burnes that should he be so fortunate as to be placed upon and received as a pensioner under the act of Congress to which we have already averted to, that you will do him the kindness, so to inform him -- and that in this event he will authorize some friend, here, or in Washington to draw his pension, and begs that, in the above event you will give him such information early, as to enable him to get his money with as little delay as possible.

You will have the goodness to address Captain Burnes to the place, named at the head of this letter, to my care.

With Great Regard, I am Dear Sir  
Your Obedient Servant  
S/ Thomas Moseley, Junior

South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>3</sup> relating to Peter Burns  
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 928A

AA3

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/28/19

[p 2]

State of North Carolina

Mclenburgh County [Mecklenburg County]

This may Certify that I Peter Burns [indecipherable word] a Trup [Troop] of Light Dragoons and Served as Captain in the ten months Service under General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] in the first Regiment and has not received my pay as yet from the said State of South Carolina and I have sold my right to James Maxwell of Mclenburgh.

Witness my hand November 13<sup>th</sup> 1787

S/ Peter Burns, Capt.

N. B. And I do alow [allow] him all the Principal arising from the same

S/ Peter Burns,Capt.

<sup>3</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.