

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Simeon Buford S1180

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Barren County Sct

On this 26th day of March 1833 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid Simeon Buford a resident of the said county of Barren and state aforesaid aged Seventy Six 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 7th of June 183[2]

That he volunteered in the minute men in the army of Virginia at Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] Courthouse in Virginia under Captain Abraham Buford (afterwards Colonel Abraham Buford) and was attached as he now believes to the Regiment commanded by Colonel [Edward] Stevens - he thinks that a man by the name of John Gilletson was the Ensign of the company, that he was then marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] and compelled Lord Dunmore to go on board of a ship [8 June 1775] & prevented him from taking the powder & lead[?] it was in the early part of the summer of 1775 as well as he can now recollect that he enlisted or volunteered under Captain Abraham Buford and that he remained in service as well as he can now recollect until within a few days before the Christmas following, the precise time of entering & leaving the service he cannot now recollect, owing to the great lapse of memory but that he served on that tour of campaign at least five months and was occasionally in Skirmishes with British shipping at Burrells Ferry and old Jamestown.

That in the fall of 1776 he again entered the service under Captain William McClanahan and was again marched to Williamsburgh and after remaining there some time was marched to Jamestown the precise time of entering & leaving the service on this campaign he cannot now recollect but is certain that he served at least three months while under Captain McClanahan. This applicant states that during the first tour or campaign he was on & after Lord Dunmore had escaped on board the Roebuck he was at Hampton & was engaged in a battle with Lord Dunmores tenders and took one small vessell. that in the fall of 1777 he again entered the service under Captain William Chapman and was ordered on to the North and after the company had proceeded on as far as Fredericktown or Frederick in the state of Maryland they were ordered to return back to Virginia. the precise day of entering & leaving the service on this tour or campaign he cannot now recollect but sure it was at least three months - This applicant states that in all the before mentioned tours or campaigns he entered the service as a private and acted as such throughout the whole. This applicant states that in the commencement of the year 1781 he was again called into service in the company commanded by Captain Elijah Kirtley and was appointed Ensign of said company and marched to the head quarters of Marquis Lafayette and after remaining there some time he was appointed Quarter master by Colonel James Barbour and while acting as Quarter master he was sent by Governor [Thomas] Nelson to Orange Courthouse to remove the magazines which were there and pressed waggons to take them off out of the way of the British but a day or two before he arrived they had been removed to a place of safety and he was compelled to pay the expenses of the waggons which he had pressed out of his own individual money and has never received any compensation for the same. that he then returned to head quarters and in a very short time after his arrival at head quarters the captain (Elijah Kirtley) was taken sick and returned home and this applicant was appointed Captain in his place and continued to act as Captain for the balance of the campaign - that he was at the battle of Hot water [sic: Hot Water Plantation, or Spencer's Ordinary, 6 miles NW of Williamsburg, 26 June 1781] under Lafayette and was then captain of the company (Kirtley being sick & having gone home). That he was under Lafayette the whole time he was combatting Cornwallis previous to his capture at Yorktown. This applicant states that in the last campaign stated, under Lafayette he served at least two months as Ensign at least two months as Quarter master and at least four months as captain. This applicant cannot state the precise day he entered & left the service in this campaign last stated under Lafayette but is certain & positive that he served at least the length of time before stated as Ensign Quarter master & Captain

This applicant further states that when he first entered the service in 1775 as a minuteman or private he was told by his officers and so understood it himself that he was in the service during the war & was to hold himself in readiness to march whenever called on and to whatever point directed. He has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure except [several words illegible] below who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every [claim] whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares [that] his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

In answer to the questions prescribed by the War Department he saith

- 1 } He was born in Culpepper County Virginia and on the 19th day of December 1757
- 2 } He has no record of his age
- 3 } He lived in Culpepper County Virginia during the whole period of his services and moved } from there to Kentucky about the year 1789 and settled in Barren County about 33 years } past where he has resided ever since
- 4 } He volunteered every time he was called into the service
- 5 } He know the following regular officers General Lafayette General [Anthony] Wayne } General Nelson & Colonel Barbour. He remembers no continental or militia regiments } except the one which he thinks was commanded by Stevens
- 6 } He does not recollect ever to have received a written discharge but if he ever did it is now } lost & he cannot recollect by whom it was signed } He received a Captains commission from Governor Nelson but what has become of it he } does not recollect nor does he recollect what has become of his other papers or } commissions but presumes they are all lost as he thought them of no value.
- 7 } He would name Charles Martin William D Harlow John Jameson James Lowell Samuel } Strother Simon Lewis Samuel Marvill Jr. Henry Crutcher George W Trabno[?] Josiah } Moss John Yancy & Claiborn Harlow [as people in his neighborhood who could testify to } his character for veracity and belief in his services]

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] Simeon Buford

State of Kentucky }
Barren County } SS.

Be it known that before me Thomas J. Helm a Justice of the Peace in and for said county personally appeared Simeon Buford aged 76 years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following Declaration by way of amendment to his Declaration heretofore made out. He states that is as much as proof is required of his service in the capacity of Captain and ensign, He would refer to paper marked A. which is the affidavit of James Levell dated 17th July 1833, which is all the testimony he can now procure within his knowledge. He would also state that he was commissioned, as a captain as stated in his former Declaration, by General La Fayette. He was also appointed Quarter Master by General La Fayette who commanded; and was also, according to his best recollection, commissioned by the same General as Ensign. He states farther that said commissions are lost and it is out of the power of this applicant to produce them now. As to the proof, he would state that he was not aware that it was required, and was convinced to the contrary by a Brief marked O, herewith returned to the department. He refers said Brief to the Department for consideration; and he is advised that all the objections therein made are fully obviated, no proof being there required. He would respectfully represent that he is now very old, the powers of his mind, and particularly his memory, and the strength of his body being very much impaired. He is unable to leave his house & too infirm to attend personally to his business, & having to trust it to to others, who have no personal knowledge of his service, he cannot obtain such evidence as may be required, even though there were now living witnesses, of which he now knows none. He prays that if a Pension cannot be granted for the whole of the service set forth, that he may be allowed for so much as is free from objection, and he will hereafter, if he is permitted, obviate any objection to his services not allowed, which it may be in its power to remove. He desires the department may indulge him with a speedy examination of his claim for he is desirous that he himself may have the satisfaction of hearing that it is not finally rejected by that Government which he assisted in sustaining in its infancy. Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of July 1833.

[signed] Simeon Buford

State of Kentucky } sct.
County of Barren }

Be it known that before me Thomas J. Helm a Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared James Levell aged 83 the 22nd march last, who being first duely sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following statement, that is to say, He knew Simeon Buford of the county and state aforesaid during the Revolutionary War, and was well acquainted with him. He has personal knowledge of said Bufords serving in said War; and he will now state, according to the best of his recollection, the services he knew said Buford performed, and the capacities in which he acted.

Affiant has a distinct recollection of serving under said Buford, who was a captain of the company; and was in the Battle of Hot Water under the command of said Captain Buford. He states that said Buford was appointed Captain in the place of Captain Elijah Kirtly who was compelled by sickness to return home. Affiant farther states that he was sick while in Cap. Bufords Company and by his intercession, Affiant obtained leave to return home, having served two months under said Buford during which time said Buford acted as Captain. Affiant left said Buford still acting in the capacity of Captain when he left his company. He states that the above took place in the year 1781, about July, he thinks. He cannot remember the Regiment, only from the circumstance: He wore a Belt to carry his hatchett, which had a brass buckle on it, which had inscribed on it "21st Regiment," but he cant say that it was the 21st Regiment, or what Regiment it was.

Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of July 1833, before me James hisXmark Levell

NOTE: John Jameson in his pension application (S4427) referred to Simeon Buford as a "famous foot racer" during the Revolutionary War. A letter dated 6 Nov 1833 requests that Buford's name on the pension certificate be corrected from "Simon" to "Simeon," the name by which he was well known in Kentucky and Virginia as the brother of Col. Abraham Buford "who sustained such a dreadful defeat in SC during the War of the Revolution" at the Battle of Waxhaws, 29 May 1780. A letter in the file dated 25 Dec 1856 refers to a daughter of Simeon Buford.