

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Burdin (Verdin) S12369 NY DE
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } ss.

county of Monongalia } On this 28th day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared before the County court of Monongalia, John Burdin, a resident of said county, 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 June 7th 1832. That he enlisted as a private soldier for one year, in the county of Chester and state of Pennsylvania with capt. Perry commander of a company stationed at Lewis town, on the capes of the Delaware [sic: Lewes, capes of Delaware Bay], but he cannot recollect the year – that Col. David Hall was commander of the regiment of troops – that his Lieutenants name was John Hazzard and his ensign William Hall [pension application W7639] – that his enlistment was in the winter, and in the month of March following joined the company at Lewis town – that during the season we were employed in keeping the enemy from taking cattle and provisions, acting as a flying camp – that at the end of his term he was discharged by Capt. Perry at Lewis town, which he has long since lost – that he is unable so far as he knows to prove his services. that the only person who served in that company with him, who moved to this part of the country was Ezekiel Burrows [S39259], who is dead, and he understood was a pensioner under the law of 1818.

That he again enlisted as a private soldier, for seven months in the month of May 1780 in the state of New York with Capt. Richard Sackett [W18994], attached to a regiment commanded by Col. Selden – that the troops were engaged during the same year in scouting and guarding the frontiers – that during this service he saw the British officer Andre brought to camp [Maj. John Andre, spy with Benedict Arnold, captured 23 Sep 1780, brought to Tappan NY] – that on the first day of December of the same year, he was discharged by Capt. Sackett, which he has also lost.

That he again enlisted in the Delaware regiment, the same year peace was proclaimed, but was discharged at New Castle about the first of July – He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John hisXmark Burdin

I Thomas P. Ray, clerk of the County court aforesaid, do hereby certify, that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court, in the matter of the application of John Burdin, for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this 28th day of August in the year 1832 and 57th year of the Commonwealth.

[signed] Thos. P. Ray

State of Virginia } ss.

Monongalia county } This day personally appeared before me William Lazier, one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace in and for said county, a man who appears to me above the age of seventy years, a resident of said county, who calls himself John Verdin or Burdin, who after being duly and solemnly sworn doth depose and say, That he cannot, nor never could read or write, that he believes his sur-name began with a V. that he beleives his memory failed him when he stated in the foregoing declaration that he was enlisted in Chester county Pennsylvania he is now under the impression that it was eight miles from Lewis town Delaware, on Broadkill creek where there was a Draw bridge, on a farm of John Solman Dorhman, that this must have been in 1778 from the testimony of William Hall a sergenat of our company – that he recollects the names of Ammus Green [Amos Green?], Wm Noble [William Noble], John Bignell, Robert Butcher, Hubbard Dodd who was in his mess – that he served in Capt. Perry's company for the one year the time for which he was enlisted.

That he is confident his former statement of his services, under Capt. Sackett is correct, he recollects John Stewart who deserted from the British was a messmate of his in Sacketts company.

That he was discharged immediately after his enlistment in the Delaware regiment which was in a company commanded by Capt. Hazzard – that he was born in Sussex county Delaware the yeare he does not know but beleives he was seventy six last March – lived in this county eight years previous to which he resided in the state of Ohio, that he removed to this county upwards of forty years ago from Delaware and after living here about ten years removed to Ohio. John hisXmark Verdin

I William Lazier, a Justice of the peace as aforesaid, to certify that the said John Verdin or Berdin made oath to and subscribed the foregoing declaration at the county aforesaid on this 17th of June in the year 1833. As witness my hand and seal. Wm Lazier

Morgantown 22^d April 1834

Jas. L Edwards esq'r/ Com'r of Pensions [James L. Edwards. Commissioner of Pensions]/ Dear Sir,

I have just this moment received your letter of 14th and at the request of Col. Hanway [Samuel Hanway R4583] inform you that you have misunderstood the extracts which I handed you from the committee of safety in supposing that these extracts alluded to two men of the same name.

Col. Hanway clearly states, that he served as a captain in 1775 of a volunteer company and not minute men” as you state, to march against Dunmore – that during the same year the law passed to raise the “minute men” in which he was appointed a Lieutenant in Capt. Jones’ company, which he resigned and was appointed a captain of Marines. he is mistaken in the year that he received the latter appointment – it was evidently in 1776.

The extract of the 15 May 1776 is merely (as well as I recollect) an order for the pay’t. due to Hanway &c as a Lieutenant.

When I wrote his declaration, he could not fix with certainty the periods he served under these several appointment, but relied upon the records at Richmond & Amelia county. I wrote to Rich’d Booker esq’r. of Amelia to procure a copy of the order appointing Hanway, a lieutenant of the Amelia minute men, as the records of the committee of safety do not go back to 1775, in order to show you the date of that appointment – which I requested him to send to you.

By reference to Honb’l. E C Wilson you will be satisfied that there is not a more honorable man in his district.

I have no doubt that he served as a captain of the volunteer company untill fall of 1775

As a Lieutenant from fall of 1775 untill May 1776

As a Marine captain from May to Dec’r. 1776 – but as soon as you receive the document from Amelia it will fix the period of his appointment as a Lieutenant.

I have seen David M Hoge, before whom the declaration of Everly [Simeon Everly S8446] was made. he says his signature is genuine. I wish to take the deposition of Wm. Wilson to prove the length of Everly’s service under Clarke, which I expect to get in a few days and will then transmit you the original papers.

According to your directions, I again wrote the declaration of John Verdin or Berdin since which his papers have been returned to you, he is unable to make further proof – he is willing to take a pension for his services under Capt. Perry it is all he can prove. I was waiting to get Wm Hall’s testimony again, when I received it with your letter – he served under Perry without any doubt.

I am very respt’y/ Your ob’t. serv’t/ Thos. P. Ray

[On 7 May 1834 Burdin was issued a certificate for a pension of \$40 per year for one year of service. The word “Dropt” is written on the certificate.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote “Fraud” on this report.]

John Burdin –

on the 13th of November 1834 this man stated that he was in his 77th year of age – and that when in his Seventeenth year of age (but cant tell what year that was) he enlisted on Broard Kill creek

Delaware under Capt. William Perry (but dont know for what term he did enlist) went to Lewis town that being head quarters at which there was about one hundred men under Col. David Hall, remained at Lewis town and up and down the Bay Shore for pretty nearly one year.

in the year in which Gen'l. Arnold commanded at Stoney Point [sic: not Stony Point NY, but West Point, beginning 3 Aug 1780] (but cant tell what year it was) he enlisted in the State of New York (but cant tell at what place or county he did enlist) under Capt Sacket – and guarded the lines there – there was about 80 men – dont know long long he was in service in this enlistment – & thus ended his service –

Evan Morgan [S11098] aged 81 Pensioner and a man of exceedingly strong memory, and of first respectability – has known Burden for many years – previous to the passage of the Pension law Burden & himself had frequently talked about the Revolutionary Struggle and their participation in it – in these conversations Burden has frequently told him – “that he had enlisted and shortly thereafter desserted and was not taken”. Burden also stated to Morgan in the conversations aforesaid that he had done some service at sea before his enlistment & was taken prisoner,

A Copy

Note from a long conversation with Burden, I am entirely satisfied that he is an impostur – & has imposed upon Mr Ray who wrote his Declaration – W. G Singleton/ Nov. 28 1834

[The following letter to James L. Edwards has no date.]

The claim of Jno. Burdin after I had refused to admit it, fell into other hands, and was admitted. The proof being deemed by me insufficient – Mr Singleton has reported upon the claim and pronounces it a fraudulent one. The name of Burdin was accordingly dropd from the Roll. Mr Ray seems to think that injustice is done him.

No evidence is to be found in Delaware Will you have the goodness to decide upon it

Yours Respectfully/ H H Sylvester

Morgantown 31st Mar 1835

Col. J. L. Edwards/ Com'r of Pensions/ Sir

I received last night yours of 24th stating the name of John Burdin was drop'd from the roll.

You must judge from the report made to you, but I assure you that injustice has been done this man – his services were clearly proven by William Hall his sergeant, who is still living and a pensioner. Hall as I stated to you when I sent the testimony is a very worthy estimable man, and no one who reads it, who knows him could doubt for one moment.

More than a year ago when Burdin's declaration had been sent by you to some officer in Delaware I remarked to you that Burdin was so very ignorant, weak in body & mind that it was difficult to take his declaration & at the time Mr S. examined him his wife says that he was confined and suffering greatly with a disease of the head and a few days after one of his eyes bursted from his head – he is now barely alive and distressly wretched and poor.

Hall says when Burdin was a boy he was weak ignorant and the butt of the mess.

I have deemed this statement coming within my knowledge due to Burden.

I am very resp'y Yrs Thos. P. Ray

Morgantown 11th April 1835

Col. J. L. Edwards/ Com'r of Pensions

I did not suppose that Mr. Singleton would have reported to you the foolish statement of old Morgan, that Burdin had told him of his desertion.

I am sure if you had heard it you would have rejected it a once – but to do Burdin the justice to state to you the origin – Burden after describing his services (when he made his declaration Morgan was present) said, that the sergeant at the end of the year told B. that he had enlisted him for two years & he should serve longer. that the morning after he was packing up to leave camp & his messmates told him he must

stay a year longer – that he put on his napsack and left the camp and got but a few hundred yards when he heard men hallooing behind him. he ran & they following for a mile – he hired out within six or eight miles & frequently went to camp for his employer with provisions in a Jersey waggon.

I enquired of William Hall the sergeant who told me the same story, and remarked that Burdin was so ignorant and stupid a fellow that he thought he could induce him to believe he had been enlisted for 2 years – but the race after him was for amusement, and he frequently met with him afterwards.

If Burden was before you ignorant and weak as he is, you would be satisfied that there was no design about him – he is too ignorant to fabricate, and certainly as devoid of sense as any human creature I ever saw that was not deaf and dumb.

Hall is now dead or I would get him to give you a statement in relation to Burdin – you have his deposition, and if you desire any evidence of Hall's character, which I have given you, it will be sent your.

I am very resp't'y/ Yr ob s't/ Thos. P. Ray

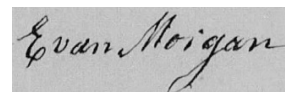
Clarksburg July 4th 1835

Sir [George W. Crump, Acting Commissioner of Pensions] I last mail received above from Mr Tho P. Ray of Morgantown Va wishing me to give you the character of Wm Hall who was a witness in the Case of John Burdins, an applicant for a pension from Monongalia County Va, I have said all I know in that case in a letter to Mr Edwards, I think dated about the 12th of May last, – I then stated that I did not know the appliant Burdins, – That I was acquainted with Hall, – That his character was good &c &c I have state that any testimony Mr Wm Hall has given may be relied on
your obe't se't/ Nathan Goff

Morgantown July 8th 1835

Honb'l. Lewis Cass [Secretary of War]

I have seen a letter from the Pension office which states that John Burdens pension cannot be paid until I write to you. Burden told me that he had deserted, and I understand that some of his messmates after his year was up tried to make him believe, that he was enlisted for two, and they run him out of camp. I did not know whether he was jesting or not at the time, but I have no doubt now but he served more than one year and that his messmates tried to make him believe he was enlisted for a longer term, I have known him about fifteen years, and I scarcely know a more weak or ignorant man, and a great deal of his conversation is in a light and jesting way – he is now reduced to the utmost poverty and is a distressing looking object. I am respectfully yours/ Evan Morgan



Morgantown 9th July 1835

Geo W Crump esqr/ Acting Com'r. of Pension/ Sir

On my return home a few days ago I received yours of 26th I sent it to old Evan Morgan, with a request that he would write you, and I wrote a line to Mr. Goff to give you the character of Wm Hall – there is not a more respectable family in the county and it is a numerous one than the Hall's.

Of Burden's services as stated in his declaration I have no more doubt than that of Anthony Wayne [Revolutionary War General], and no one could doubt it who could have examined him a year ago. his mind & body is now much enfeebled.

Resp'y I am yrs Thos P Ray

[The following note in the file is type-written.]

January 19, 1836

Sir: The petition of John Burdin is herewith returned. The Department on reviewing the case has determined to restore his name to the Pension Roll. I have therefore directed the Pension Agent to pay him as formerly, on the production of the proper vouchers, from the time to which he was last paid. To Hon. B. Storer, House of Representatives.