

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

Pension Application of William Blackburn S14967

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky, Caldwell County ss:

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court, before B. Caldwell, M. D Rucker, J. C. Langston, N. Oliver & John W. Marshall Esquires, justices of the County Court of said County and State, now sitting in the town of Princeton, William Blackburn a resident of said county and state, aged seventy five 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 7th 1832

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1776 with Captain Andrew Russell for one year, and served in the 5th Regiment of the Virginia state line, under the following named officers: The regiment was commanded by Colonel [Charles] Scott, and Major Richard Parker (who was afterwards killed at the siege of Charleston) That his captain was the said Andrew Russell and the Lieutenants of his company were McElhany, and William Lane & his ensign was William Smith and he (this applicant was Second Sergeant of the Company. That at the time he enlisted, he resided in the County of Fairfax, state of Virginia, and entered the service in that County. That the place of rendezvous was Newgate, now Centreville in Fairfax County, and we marched from thence to Dumfries; from thence to Falmouth; thence to Fredericksburg; thence to Richmond; thence to Williamsburgh, where we were stationed awhile, after which we were marched to old Jamestown and crossed the [James] river to a place called Hog's Island [Hog Island]; from thence we were marched to Suffolk & Smithfield, from thence to Portsmouth and crossed the [Elizabeth] river to Norfolk, and were stationed there awhile; from thence we proceeded down the bay to Watch the motions of the British, Tories and negroes – after remaining there awhile we were ordered back to Norfolk and to Williamsburg. At this time many of us were sick, and we remained here some time – those that were not sick were ordered Northward to join Gen'l. Washington. After serving out the full tour of the enlistment, he was discharged, by his Colonel, but which he has long ago lost. He states that he knows of no person in this Country by whom he can prove his service, but there is one Charles L. Broadwater [Charles Lewis Broadwater, pension application S8096] living in the County of Fairfax state of Virginia, if he is not dead since July last by whom he could prove it, but he has no means of procuring his evidence at this time. The said Broadwater went into the marine service, but we were well acquainted in the same county, and I once (in 1826) procured his affidavit to that effect (which is herewith transmitted) with a view to get a pension under the act of 1818, but was afterwards informed by a lawyer in Tennessee (Mr Benton) that I could not succeed unless I was worth less than a certain sum, which then was not the case, and so the matter lay until now.

He further states that again in the year 1781, he was still living in the same County of Fairfax and started out to view the Western Country, and after arriving at Pittsburgh, he Volunteered, and was appointed a sergeant under Captain Briece[?] to guard the public stores from Pittsburgh to the falls of the Ohio [at present Louisville KY]. That a part or nearly all of Colo. [Joseph] Crockett's regiment was in this expedition that he was commanded by Colo. Zachariah Morgan [sic: Zackquil Morgan], and Gen'l. [George Rogers] Clark That he volunteered for two months, but when this time was out, the exposed condition of the stores required the further aid of the Corps to which he belonged to assist in guarding them; and he with others volunteered to remain until they could be spared with safety to the public stores, and he remained in this service for five months longer, making in all seven months as a Volunteer and twelve months as a regular. He declares that he has no documentary evidence in his possession which would prove his service, and he does not know of any person living by whom he can prove his Volunteer service but must rest that claim on his character for truth. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll

of the agency of any State whatever. And the Court propounded the following interrogatories to the applicant as required by the War Department, to which he made the following answers

Question by the Court 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Fairfax, State of Virginia, on the 12th day of February 1757.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. I had a record of my age in an old Bible in my native county but when I was last there I could not find it.

Question by the Court 3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in the county of Fairfax when I entered the service. Since the War I lived in North Carolina a good many years in Wilks [sic: Wilkes] County, and in Tennessee several years, and I now live with my children in Caldwell County Ky. & have for the last four years

Question by the Court. How were you called into the service – were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I enlisted as a regular soldier the first time, and the next I was Volunteer

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental & militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. Besides those I have named, there were Capt. Scruggs, Lt. Watkins. I do not remember particularly the militia regts. in Virginia – there was some drafted militia in the expedition to the falls of Ohio, but where from I do not now know.

By the Court 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a discharge from the regular service given by Colonel Scott, but which is long ago lost. I received no discharge from the volunteer service.

By the Court 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer. I am known to Rev. James W. Mansfield, Spencer Calvert, Anthony Laughlin, William Asher & many others.
[signed] William Blackburn

Oct. 23 1826 I Charles Lewis Broadwater of Fairfax County & commonwealth of Virginia do on my oath state, that I was intimately acquainted with William Blackburn of said County from his infancy, & that he enlisted in the Continental Service (I think) in the year 1776 under Capt. Andrew Russell of the 5th Virginia Regiment at which time I was in the United States Navy, in the same year I was appointed 1st Lieutenant in the 10th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Edward Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], Maj'r. General George Weden's [sic: George Weedon's] Brigade. [signed] Char's L Broadwater

NOTE: According to a document in the file, Blackburn died on 13 March 1841, survived by children.