

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Butler S15024

fn27VA

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Holmes Simpson

Punctuation, grammar and spelling not modified

The State of Alabama
Lawrence County

On this [left blank] day of November in the year 1832 personally appeared before me James B Wallace judge of the county court of said county and David Hall, Henry Gregg, Dennis Lindsey, and George Stephens Esquire commissioners of Revenue and Roads Commissioner of Roads and Revenue for the county aforesaid in open court held for Roads & Revenues for said county being a county of Record William Butler a resident citizen of said county & State-aged 78 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth in his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

I William Butler state that I have no record of my age but from the account of my father was born in October 1754 in Culpepper County [sic, Culpeper County] Virginia where I lived when I first entered as a volunteer in a company commanded by Capt John Williams, Col Toliver of Orange and Col Stevens of Culpepper Commanding and the troops from Orange, Fauquier and Culpepper rendezvoused at Culpepper Courthouse. A few days after we got into camp, we were ordered by an express to Williamsburg and arrived here after Governor Dunsmore [sic, Dunmore] had left that place for Norfolk. After being at Williamsburg some time, the married men were discharged and the single men were marched to Norfolk. I was was [sic] in the latter class-and transferred into another company commanded by Captain John Jamieson, Col.Scott commanding. On the way our troops had a skirmish with the *British at the Great Bridge and the latter fell back into Norfolk—When we arrived at Norfolk they had retreated to their ships. During our stay¹* nothing of consequence occurred after that. on New Years day succeeding they-cannonaded the town and set fire to it and the conflagration extended to all the houses except some we occupied which were also burnt when we left that place. We marched to Suffolk and were discharged without writing after being out I think about 6 months. Sometimes afterwards how long I cannot recollect, I was called on again and marched to Williamsburg from which place we were sent to Old Jamestown and after staying there a few months we were many taken sick and allowed to go home to recruit.

The next time was as a militia man under Captain Waugh Col. Burker [could be Rucker] commanding, we were marched into Pennsylvania and joined Gen. Washington's army-- This was after the British had taken Philadelphia . We remained in the army one tour and were marched back home—As to the continental regiment with Gen. Washington at that time I cannot be specific but I was acquainted personally with Col. Long and Col. Stevens. Captain Jamieson was the same mentioned before and Captain Gillerson.

I was detached as a substitute for my father into Albemarle as a guard upon some prisoners taken from Gen. Burgoyne's army--and remained a few weeks--I was called out for the last time previous to the siege of York under Capt Journey. Col Barbour started but left us at Williamsburg--we were marched to Little York and commenced the siege. I remained with the army until the Capture, and a short time afterwards was discharged and returned home but had no written discharge. At the siege of York, I was in General Steven's Brigade- As to the time I was in actual service I think it was about sixteen months but when I volunteered in the first instance it was for twelve months and we were at the time subject to a call of duty.

I lived in Culpepper County after the Revolution until the year 1818 when I removed to Lawrence County Alabama where I now live. I never had any commissions during the war-I can at present refer to no person living that can prove my service but in the hope that my name may be found on the rolls of the war Department transmitted from the state of Virginia- I submit my claim for a pension to the justice of my ~~county~~ Country and refer to Alexander Sake [could be Sale but his signature looks more like "Sall" or even "Sau"to me].

¹ This text only appears in the HeritageQuest version of this application.

As my neighbors to the state facts in the court, I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension expect the present and declare that my name is not on the pension rolls of the agency of any State.
Sworn to and submitted this day and year aforesaid

William Butler

Alexander Sake, a clergyman and Jacob K. Swoope, both residing in Lawrence County Alabama do hereby certify that we are acquainted with the said William Butler who subscribed and swore to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 78 years old, that he is respected and believed in this neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in this opinion and that we further certify that the said William Butler has sustained ?? insofar as his character for truth and integrity since our acquaintance.

Alexander Sake
J K Swoope

State of Alabama
Lawrence County

Personally appears before me Abraham M. De Graffenreid, acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid William Butler, who being duly sworn, deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, that he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following grades---

To Wit

6 months in the Minute Service at Williamsburg and Norfolk in the Years 1775 and 1776 as a private soldier in Captain John Williams' Company which company marched from Culpepper Court House Virginia to Williamsburg. At Williamsburg he was transferred to Captain John Jamiesons Company and marched to Norfolk, making in all the above service of six months.

2^d

In 1777 he marched from Culpepper Court House as a private under Capt John Gillerson to Williamsburg from Williamsburg we were marched as a guard to James Town at which place a number of us were taken sick. serving as well as my recollection serves me not less than three months when we returned home.

3^d

In 1778 we marched under Capt Waugh of the militia as a private into Pennsylvania where ~~I was in~~ we joined Genl Washington's army and served as well as my recollection serves me not less than two months.

4th

In 1781 he marched from Culpepper Courthouse as a private *in Capt. Lewis Yancey's Company to York Town, and remained during the seige [sic, siege] after which he went as one of the Guard to the Prisoners from York Town to the Barracks near Winchester in Virginia and was then ² discharged making a tour of sixty two days---and for such service I claim a pension--*

Given under my hand this 28th day of September One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Three.

[Addendum stated that in 1837 it was noted on his pay records that he died before OCT 1837 without wife or children. A correspondent, Mrs. John P. Moore asked for information for William Butler and a Samuel Butler of VA, NC and AL, but did not state whether there was a relationship between the two.]

² Again, this language only appears in the HeritageQuest version.