

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Burk S16332

Transcribed by Will Graves

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10/16/10: rev'd 7/25/20

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

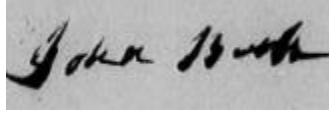
State of Indiana Wayne County: SS

On this 20th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Wayne Circuit Court the Court of the County of Wayne aforesaid, now sitting, John Burk, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-two 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.

In the year 1776, James Burk the father of this applicant enlisted himself and his son, the said John Burk, who was then under sixteen years of age, in the mounted service, (then turned Light horse) in the month of March for a three months tour; this applicant was then a resident of Wilkes County and State of North Carolina. There field of service was principally in the counties of Wilkes, Surry and Rowan and under the command of Captain Jesse Walton (Lieutenant's name not recollected) and James Burk, Ensign. If there was any written discharge given him for this service this applicant knows nothing of it, but supposes his father kept it, who died in the regular service and the August following. This applicant after the death of his father remained with the family until the year 1779, when they removed to the West on the waters of Nole Chucke [sic, Nolichucky River], where the frontiers were continually harassed by the Indians, and said applicant was again called on as a spy, serving in that capacity in detached tours throughout the summer, under the command of Captain Amos Bird, Lieutenant Thomas Mayfield & Ensign John England; that these were short tours, from 10 to 30 days at a time, nor can he recollect what number of these tours he served, but is certain they were not less than three or four. Afterwards this applicant went into South Carolina where he served a short tour of two or three weeks against the Tories, under Captain William Ritchie. Thence he returned into North Carolina and entered the service as a volunteer on a three months tour under Captain Samuel Johnston, Lieutenant Elisha Runnels, and Edward Turner, Ensign, but was not attached to any other troops, but dismissed in about two or three weeks. Then, in 1781, this applicant was drafted for a three months tour, and marched under the command of Captain Alexander Gordon, Lieutenant David Witherspoon and Silas Tompkins, Ensign, who were commanded by Colonel Francis Locke & joined General Greene in South Carolina, passing through Campden [sic, Camden], thence to Columbia on the Congaree [River], and thence to the battle of Eutaw Springs, thence was marched back, having in charge the prisoners, to near Salisbury, where this applicant received a written discharge for a three months tour, signed by Francis Locke, Colonel. Been in the spring of 1782, under an order for every 16 men to furnish one, this applicant furnished his quota in hiring a substitute for 18 months.

This applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ John Burk



sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid

[James Martin, a clergyman, and George Hunt gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[George Hunt and John Finley also testified that they had seen a written discharge in the possession of John Burke purporting to be discharge from a three months tour of service in the revolution and signed by Colonel Frances Locke.]

The Court now propounds the following questions, to which the applicant answers, in the words annexed. To wit –

Quest. 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. According to my father's Record I was born July 23rd 1760 in what is now called Rockbridge County Virginia.

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

Answer. I kept the record of my father until the year 1811 then the Bible in which it was fell into a bucket of sizing and stuck together in such manner as to become useless.

Quest. 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. When I was called into service I was living on the Yadkin River in Wilkes County North Carolina I continued to live after the Revolutionary War in North Carolina until the year 1795 when I removed to Kentucky and continued to live there until 1811. I then removed to the County of Wayne Indiana where I have resided ever since and where I now live.

Quest. 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. When I first went into the service my father enlisted himself and the in a three months light horse to work. I was under the control of my father. I expect my father got a discharge for each of us. I was then only 16 years of age. I went out afterwards frequently as a spy for 15 or 20 days at a time never to exceed 30 in the year 1779, in the year 1780 I went out twice for two or three weeks at a time against the Tories to watch their movements. In August 1781 I was drafted and went out a three months tour with Captain Alexander Gordon, Lieutenant David Witherspoon Ensign Silas Tompkins. I received a discharge for the same.

Quest. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. When I first went out I was with no regular Army, nor any higher officer than the Captain under whom I served in the last services as a spy I was with a Captain by the name of Amos Bird, in my last service I was under General Greene, Colonel Locke when I and day first started as our Colonel and afterward a French Colonel by the name of Malmadeau [sic, Malmedy] (or some such name not recollected), was put over the North Carolina Militia as our Colonel, though I think he was only a Captain in the Regular Army, and was put over us because it was supposed he was better calculated to command in action than a militia officer. I was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs.

Quest. 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given

and what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a discharge but Mr. John Finley took it out to the legislature of Indiana and left it there as he states in his certificate above.

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

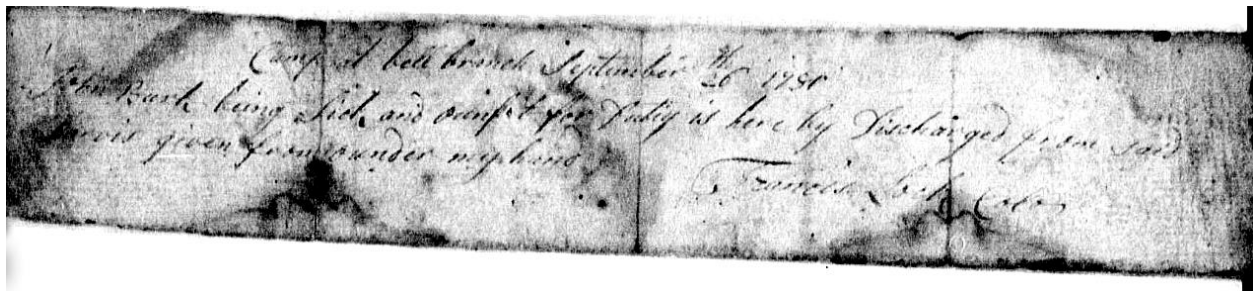
Answer. Judge Beale Butler, one of the members of this Court, Sheriff John Whitehead, General George Hunt, James Martin and many others who are not present at this time to testify.

Camp at bell branch September 26th 1781

John Burk being Sick and unfit for Duty is here by Discharged from said

Sarvis given from under my hand

S/ Francis Lock Colo



State of Indiana Wayne County

Be it remembered that on the 18th day of March A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County of Wayne John Burk aged 72 years who being by me duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory 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 periods mentioned below and in the following grades

To wit, In the year 1776 I served as an orderly Sergeant for three months in a company of light horse commanded by Captain Walter in the State of North Carolina. In the year 1779 I served as a private soldier in a company of Spies commanded by Captain Bird for a number of detached tours for not less than two months. I served in South Carolina as a private soldier in Captain Ritchie's Company three weeks. I served in North Carolina as a private soldier in a company commanded by Captain Johnson for three weeks. I served for three months as a private soldier in Captain Gordon's Company, making three months service as orderly Sergeant, 6 1/2 months as a private volunteer and 18 months by substitute 22 months & two weeks as private, and three months as orderly Sergeant, and for such service I claim a pension. This deponent further states that since making his declaration to which this is intended to be annexed as an amendment he has procured his discharge referred to in said declaration and since the same herewith.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year first above written given under my hand & seal

S/ William M Dunham, JP

S/ John Burk, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.83 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for three months service as a private in the cavalry and three months service as a private in the infantry of

the North Carolina militia. Veteran died February 1, 1836.]