

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Meshack Burchfield S16668

fn18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Missouri, Marion County

On the 7th day of May in the year 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before James Jamison and Daniel Hendricks, Judges of the County Court of said County of Marion now sitting Meshach Burchfield a resident of said County of Marion aged Seventy one 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated

In the year \_\_\_ the Indians broke in upon the inhabitants in Burk [sic, Burke] County in the State of North Carolina near the head of the Catawba River. The inhabitants left their homes and collected at the house of General Charles McDowell and so soon as a sufficient number had assembled we marched to Cathy's Fort at which the Indians were embodied. They fled at our approach. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] raised some troops and pursued them whilst the rest of us remained in the Fort. I was only a boy at this time. During a year and a half from this time we were frequently engaged in short excursions after the Indians who were always depredating on our frontiers. In 1777 in December I joined Colonel Joseph McDowell at Cathy's Fort [sic, Cathey's Fort] and entered on a campaign against the Cherokees and Chickamauga. We had several skirmishes with the Indians on this trip; killed ten or fifteen of them; destroyed one town of the Cherokees and returned home in February following having been in the Army upwards of forty days.

During the next spring and summer & fall I was engaged alternately in keeping Fort, cultivating the soil and spying after the Indians. And early in the winter Colonel McDole [sic, Joseph McDowell] raised about 180 mounted spies each man furnishing his own horse, equipage and provisions. I joined this Army and we marched immediately into the Cherokee Nation. On this excursion we killed some Indians, took five prisoners and destroyed several Indian towns. I served on this campaign a little upwards of thirty days.

At the age of 19 in 1779, I volunteered in February under Captain Robert Patton as a mounted volunteer for one year. We had about 111 men and the name of the Lieutenant was William Morrison. We rendezvous at Morgantown [sic, Morganton] in Burke County in the State of North Carolina; marched from thence through Charlotte County [sic, Mecklenburg County in which the village of Charlotte was then located?] to Camden where the troops were engaged about a week in procuring provisions for the Army which was expected from the North. From thence we marched towards Charleston by way of the Eutaw Springs, crossed Catawba River (or as it was sometimes called Congaree River) at Nelson's Ferry and arrived at Charleston in the month of April. In a short time after our arrival, we procured a few muskets but most of us were without arms.

Cornwallis landed at Charleston the same day on which we drew all muskets. Our army then lay at a place called Moncks Corner. My company was encamped at the big Church called Moncks

Corner Church. The British Army marched out from Charleston in the night – the battle commenced some hours before daylight and our white army were cut to pieces, slaughtered and dispersed. My company was nearly without arms and could make but little resistance and my companions were nearly all slain. The few that remained were dispersed into the Country. I with one other made our way (pursued by the Enemy) towards a bridge over the Walbro [?] River<sup>1</sup> with the view of joining Col. Washington's [William Washington] Horse which was encamped near this bridge but Washington had decamped and I never saw him afterwards. We then made our way to Camden and there joined Col. McDowell's Regiment reached lay there encamped with a Regiment commanded by General Caswell [Richard Caswell]. We then marched back about 200 miles towards Charleston to the Wateree River where we encamped and remained there two months until Charleston was taken. There were about 1800 men encamped here composed of the Regiments commanded by General McDowell, General Caswell and Colonel Bluford [sic, Alexander Buford] -- but it became necessary to retreat from this camp. The troops of McDowell and Castle kept together. But Colonel Buford took what was called then the Saulsbury [sic, Salisbury] Road and was totally defeated at a place known to us by the name of the hanging rock.

We continued the retreat back to Cross Creek and arrived at Ramsour's Mill immediately after a Battle between the Whigs and Tories. Here we assisted in burying the slain. Captain Gillefall [sic, Gilbraith Falls] commanded the Whigs and Doty and Mills commanded the Tories. The enemy had at this time overrun the Country. Provisions being scarce, many of the troops left the Army for the purpose of procuring provisions and recruiting [sic, resting] their horses. I with some others from Ramsour's Mill marched back to Burke County where we remained a few weeks and then with many of the inhabitants situated over the Blue Ridge into East Tennessee. Here we encamped on Watauga River above Jonesboro for six weeks. We then returned to Burke County again and joined Captain Jonathan Camp's Company of Horse under Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] and marched to a place known by the name of King's Mountain. We were joined by Col. McDowell and another Colonel whose name is now forgotten. This was in October. At this mountain, we had a severe battle which lasted upwards of three hours with the British and Tories commanded by Colonel Furguson [sic, Patrick Ferguson]. We succeeded in obtaining a complete victory so that I think every enemy was either killed or taken prisoner. Among that prisoners was a Colonel by the name of Mills whom we hung; we also hung some others among whom were two men by the name of John McFall and Will Douglass. In this engagement we lost about 300 killed. For the services before mentioned I got a regular discharge signed by Captain Camp and Col. McDole [sic, McDowell]. Of the officers in this Army I recollect a Captain Sevier [sic, Col. John Sevier] and Captain Isaac Shelby [Col. Isaac Shelby] who was afterwards Governor of Kentucky. I then returned to Burke County having served a little upwards of nine months as a mounted volunteer in the service of my Country.

The next spring after the battle of King's Mountain, I joined Col. McDowell with about 180 mounted man and marched again against the Indians. On this campaign we had several engagements; killed about 50 Indians and destroyed five Indian towns on the ahead of Tennessee River and then returned home having been about on the campaign upwards of one month.

The next fall I went to East Tennessee on some business and during my stay there was a call for spies. I accordingly joined Colonel Sevier's battalion of mounted spies under Major Tipton in Jonesboro County Tennessee. We had near 200 men. We marched in the first of November in pursuit of the Indians. We came up with a considerable army of them between French Broad River and Tellico Block house – had a battle; killed upwards of 100 Indians; took about 40 rifles and destroyed seven Indian towns. We then returned having been absent two months. I am now Seventy one years of age. I was born (as I have been informed and believe) in the year 1762 in Sullivan County State of Maryland.

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1 John Robertson points out that this is probably a reference to Wadboo Creek or Swamp

When a child, my Father removed to North Carolina and settled in Burke County where he was killed by the Indians within my sight. I was raised in this County near the Pleasant Gardens and resided there when I entered the service of the United States except my last campaign against the Indians & was then in Jonesboro County Tennessee as previously stated.

I have no record of my age now but recollect to have seen the records kept by my Father. It is since destroyed. I have lived since the revolution in Burke County North Carolina, Warren County Kentucky on Green River where I resided 27 years. In Lincoln County Missouri and I now reside in Marion County Missouri.

I received only one discharge as stated above which was destroyed by my home being burned.

I am known in my present neighborhood by William Anderson, Benjamin Jones, Trent Jones, William McPheeters [?], Reuben Long and Jeremiah Taylor and others who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a Soldier of the revolution.

I know of no person living by whom my services can be proven and have no documentary evidence relative to my services. The precise length of time which I served as a soldier as stated above cannot be recollected now from loss of memory and old age. I subjoin the following statement.

I served in Cathy's Fort and on an excursion against the Indians in 1777 not less than three months

“ First campaign on the McDowell in '77 not less than one months and 10 days

“ In second campaign on the McDowell I served not less than one month.

“ In the service under Capt. Patton to Charleston and then to King's Mountain as stated not less than nine months.

“ In the third campaign against Indians I served not less than one month.

“ In 4<sup>th</sup> Campaign under Col. Sevier and Mayor Tipton, I served not less than two months.

In all 17 months & ten days

The whole of which service except when in the Fort, I served as a mounted volunteer.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Meshack Burchfield, P his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me James Jamison, President Judge of the Court aforesaid.

S/James Jamison, J. C. C. M. C.

[Jeremiah Taylor, a clergyman, and Reuben Long gave the standard supporting affidavit.]