

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Buck S16672

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
County of Frederick } Ss.

On this 1st day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Frederick County now sitting Thomas Buck a resident of the County of Frederick & State of Virginia aged seventy seven 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: That in the fall of the year 1777 a call was made on the militia of the Counties of Frederick, Dunmore [renamed Shenandoah in 1778], Augusta, Berkeley Hampshire &c for men to march immediately to Fort Pitt in order to defend the said Fort against the British & Indians; the commander at the Fort Col. John Gibson, having received information, that sixteen thousand British & Indians were expected to lay siege to the same; he wrote letters to the Commandants of each County, at least this deponent is confident, that one was sent to Col. Pugh commandant of Dunmore County for aid to defend said Fort. Whereupon Col. Pugh immediately summoned the Militia and this deponent then acting as adjutant paraded the Militia in Woodstock, the County seat and by orders of Col. Pugh read Col. Gibsons letter to them; Whereupon the field officers of the County Pugh, Bird, Tipton & North proposed to receive volunteers and gave them the privilege of choosing their own officers; whereupon two companies were raised and this deponent was elected to the command of one of them and in a few days in company with the other company marched to Fort Pitt where General [Edward] Hand had arrived and had the command of that Garrison. The names of this deponents subaltern officers were John Crookshanks [John Crookshank] 1st Lieut. Jacob Yost 2^d Lieutenant & Lionel Branson Ensign. At Pittsburg [Pittsburgh] there was a Capt. Heth of the regular Army. That when those companies arrived at Fort Pitt the report of the intended attack was contradicted or the British &c had declined the siege but there being such a number of men collected and enlisted as this deponent thinks for six months, the General proposed carrying an expedition to the Indian Towns; and the troops at Pittsburg were embarked on board of boats to Wheeling called (Fort Henry) there to await the arrival of the General and to proceed to the mouth of the Great Kenawha [sic: Kanawha River] where they were to meet the troops from Augusta &c but on the arrival of the General at Fort Henry the small pox had broken out in camp and the winter coming on (it then being late in November or beginning of December the General though it best to decline the expedition and discharged the troops except a certain number to remain the six months to garrison that fort That this deponent did not remain the six months, but his ensign and part of his company did remain till the expiration of the six months. In the year 1778 or '9 he is not certain which, he was appointed to raise a company of minute men to hold themselves in readiness for six months when called upon that this deponent did raise to company required and hold himself in readiness for service whenever called upon but never received orders to march; this deponent has forgotten by what authority he was appointed to the command of this company; whether by Law of Congress or the commander in Chief of the Americans; and was appointed by the Court or by the field officers of the County nor has he any documents to cast light on that subject nor does he know of any person living that can substantiate it as the circumstance was not notorious the company never being called into service. This Deponent further declares that when the British were on their march from Carolina to Virginia he then resided in Frederick County and received a letter from one of the field officers of the said County to raise a company of horsemen to move Burgoyne's prisoners [Burgoyne's troops captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777] from Albemarle Barracks [20 Feb 1781]; that it was apprehended th British troops were on their way to release them that this deponent in forty eight

hours had a company of seventy odd men mounted and [illegible word] thirty miles on their road to the barracks but meeting the prisoners under guard on their way to Winchester he and his company were requested to proceed to Fredericksburg as it was not known what point the British would make that they did proceed to Falmouth in the neighbourhood of Fredericksburg and reported themselves to Gen'l. Mughlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] then in command at Fredericksburg who thanked them for their prompt services and requested their continuance till it was ascertained what route the British would take and when it was ascertained that they had gone to the capes of Virginia and garrisoned themselves at Little York the Volunteers were discharged. This deponent is not certain of the time he was then in service perhaps it might be less than a month for he never applied for any pay for the service. In addition to the foregoing services this deponent did furnish a substitute to serve during the war which cost him a considerable sum of money. This deponent does not recollect the time this substitute was furnished nor has he been able to find the receipt which was given for the said substitute. The substitutes name he thinks was Henry Townsend. He 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 And in answer to the questions prescribed by the Regulations of the War Department he says as follows.

To the 1st. I was born in Frederick County in the year 1756.

To the 2^d. I have a record of my age in a family Bible, at my own house.

To the 3^d. I was living in Dunmore, now Shenandoah County in Virginia. I have lived in Frederick County since the Revolutionary War, and now live there.

To the 4th. I was an officer & volunteered.

To the 5th. Gen'l. Hand, Col. John Gibson & Capt. Heth at Pittsburg and at Fredericksburg Gen'l. Muhlenburg [were regular officers where he served]. I have stated my service in my declaration.

To the 6th. I received an appointment in writing which accompanies this declaration signed by Jos. Pugh.

To the 7th. Gen'l. John Smith, Judge Tucker, Maj'r Isaac Hite, James M. Marshall and hundreds of other gentlemen [can testify to his character for veracity and reputation as a soldier of the revolution].
[signed] Tho. Buck

Dunmore Sct. Sept'r. 5th 1777

At a meeting of the Volenteers in the town of Woodstock Thomas Buck Gent. was unanimously chosen Captain Given under my hand
Joseph Pugh

Virginia Frederick County Sct.

Thomas Buck being first sworn, saith that in addition to the time alluded to in the affidavits accompanying his declaration for a Pension, he was engaged in collecting arms, blankets, kettles &c &c for the use of his company on the campaign, for it must be recollected that on such expeditions there were at that time no public stores to resort to, and he believes he was engaged in that service two or three weeks; and in Proof of that service he refers to Colonel Pughs orders to that effect and to a few out of many appraisements Bills, also to the accompanying affidavit. He also states that when discharged at Fort Henry they were allowed a day for every 15 miles travel which amounted to 22½ days, besides two or three days detainure at Fort Pitt to return the camp equipage they had taken for the intended expedition to the Indian Towns and to settle the ration accts, and get a supply of provisions &c to establish this statement a copy of the general orders will accompany this, though the Generals name is not to it, its antiquity appears on its face, and it is believed that it is well known to militarymen that a commander of an army only issues one general order, which the officers may copy if they choose. In witness whereof the said Thomas Buck hath signed this affidavit.
[signed 12 May 1834] Tho. Buck

The Whole of the Militia from the Interior Parts of this State assembled in Ohio County, (Except the 100

Men and their Officers, who are to remain for its protection) are to Prepare to March; they will return by water to Fort Pitt and take with them all the Boats now here & between this Place & Fort Pitt, except [illegible word] that will be wanted for the use of this Garrison & that at the Beach Bottom [sic: Beech Bottom]; as there are some Boats Between here and Fort Pitt not Fitted with Rudders, the Q[uar]ter M[aste]r will send Two or three spare steering Oars, & spikes to fit to them. As soon after the Arrival of the Troops at Fort Pitt, as they can be Provided with Provisions & other necessary accommodations they are to Proceed to their Respective Counties.

The General Wishes them a good Journey, Thanks them for their Past services, & hopes that when the Necessities of their Countrymen shall again Call them forth, they will shew the same readiness to Assist them.

Dunmore Ss

Pursuant to order we the subscribers have appraised a Rifle Gun together with the shot pouch powder horn and Moulds & Wipers the property of Chas. Divenny to the sum of Eleven pounds five shillings
Christian Miller [pension application W18515]/ [two illegible words]

NOTE: The file includes supporting statements by Martin Zea (pension application R11984), Robert Russell (S6041) and John Smith (S6114). The file includes a letter by Thomas Buck from Belle Air dated 15 Jan 1834. There is also a letter stating that Buck was "the oldest magistrate but one in this County, and has held the office of High Sheriff."