

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robert Burnside S17304

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS

County of Madison }

On this 27th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Madison now sitting Robert Burnside a resident of Madison County & State of Kentucky aged as he believes 74 years who being first 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 was born in Lancaster County Pensylvania in Oct'r 1759 and has record of his age in Bible at home that he volunteered as a private in the Militia of North Carolina on or about the 16th of June 1780 under Col. Butler [Gen. John Butler] who marched & joined Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates Army & he this applicant was detached with others a few days before Gates defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] to join General Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] as a reinforcement which he did at or near the mouth of Fishing Creek on the 14th or 15th of August 1780 that two days after the battle in which Gates was defeated Sumpter with his troops while taking some Refreshment & detached from their arms was suddenly attacked by Col Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] & in this defencless situation this applicant was badly wounded in his arm & taken prisoner to Cambden S. C. & put into what was called pine Hospital & under guard where he suffered confinement about three weeks when he broke past the guard & arrived at home in Aurange [sic: Orange] County N. C. where he started from after much suffering from his wound & want of food that on his return he was taken sick & lay for some time not perfectly recollected but believes he was about 5 weeks unfit for duty that as soon as he was able to do duty he volunteered under Captain John Clendennan [Clendenin], said to be of the regular dragoons that we marched from Aurange County N. C. to the relief of Hillsborough which we found in the hands of a Col. [Hector] McNeil Commandant of the Tories our captain pushed into the Town [probably 12 Sep 1781] where we were fired upon & compelled to give way this applicant was thrown by his horse & taken prisoner & put in jail but broke from them the same night & returned home Soon after he volunteered under Captain James Lansdale of Aurange N. C. & marched up into N. C. to Hilts Race paths in Aurange County in chase of Tarlton and at the s'd paths having formed a junction with Col. Lees Core [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion] we fell in with a body of Tories & some British Comanded by Col & Mag'r Piles who we defeated by killing some & taking many prisoner [sic: see note below]. After this I had a Tour under Capt. Christman & we defeated Col. Fannen I think in Randolph Cty [sic: David Fanning, possibly at Brush Creek, Oct 1781]. After this I had many short Tours & was constantly on duty Either as a Soldier a spie & going Express from the 16th June 1780 untill the surrender of Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] at yorkTown on the 19th Oct 1781 that he did not between these periods attend to any business for himself as that part of N. C. he resided in was from the Surrender of Charles Town [Charleston SC, 12 May 1780] by Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln one continual scene of war & trouble untill the capture of Corn wallace, Shortly after which he removed to Madison County Kentucky where he has resided ever since up to the present period he is not knowing to any person being a live to substantiate his claim nor has he any documentary evidence to show he has to rely on his oath and the affirmation of his neighbours as to his credibility & as to his reputed services That he is known to the Rev'd Peter Tribble [or Tribble] & Tilverton Payton [or Telberton Peyton] who can testify concerning his services & veracity he hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to a pension or an anuity accept the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension rool of any agency in any State Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Robt hisXmark Burnside

State of Kentucky }

Garrard County Sct }

On this 20th day of November 1833 personally appeared before me M V Grant a Justice of the Peace for s'd County, and as such one of the Judges of the Garrard County Court,

Robert Burnside a resident of said County of Garrard, who being first duly sworn, doth on his oath state, that he is well acquainted with Robert Burnside of Madison County, Kentucky applicant for a pension; and that he has seen the declaration of s'd Robert Burnside and knows that s'd. Robert Burnside was taken as a prisoner at Sumpters defeat, and was again taken a prisoner at Hillsborough. This affiant was too young to be a soldier of the Revolution, but he has a more perfect recollection on this subject from the fact, that his father was also taken as prisoner at Hillsborough and was confined for Eleven months and 12 days.

Robert Burnside

NOTES:

At the engagement on 25 Feb 1781 often called "Pyle's Massacre" or "Pyle's Hacking Match," the troops under Col. Henry Lee killed 99 and wounded 150 of Col. John Pyle's 400 Loyalist recruits. Some of the few prisoners taken were murdered that evening. There was no casualty among Lee's men.

On 5 Jan 1844 Burnside applied to have his pension transferred to Clay County MO where he had moved for the following reason: "That his wife is dead & that all his children live in the State of Missouri except one & that he has removed from Kentucky to Missouri that he might live the remainder of his life with his children who reside in the state of Missouri, that he is old & infirm & his children all married & that he can live with them more comfortably than to keep house himself." On this document he signed his name "Robert Burnside."