

**Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements &
Rosters**

Pension application of JOHN BURNS S1944. Transcribed by Brenda Burns
Kellow, November 1985 f16NC

CERTIFICATE OF PENSION - OF BEDFORD COUNTY TENN. WHO WAS
A PRIVATE IN THE COMPANY COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN NELSON OF
THE REGIMENT COMMANDED BY COL. MARTIN IN THE NORTH
CAROLINA LINE FOR 7 MONTHS AND 21 DAYS.
(AS RECORDED IN Bk. E, VOLUME 7, PAGE 2. (M805-145))

Transcriber's Note: This John Burns is mistakenly identified by DAR applicants as the John Burns with wife Mary Elizabeth (Cunningham) and children: Anderson, Hays, Equilla, Berriman, Cunningham, Elizabeth, Leroy, John, George, William, Mary, and Lucinda as the RW veteran living in Bedford County, Tennessee on Caney Creek in Marshall County before it was cut out of Bedford. This John Burns did not serve in the RW. He died 9 November 1849 and he and his wife Mary Elizabeth are buried in the Chapel Hill Cemetery near his house on Caney Creek in Marshall County, Tennessee.

The John Burns, RW soldier with the following pension record SS1944, lived on the opposite side of Bedford County, Tennessee, and never lived in Marshall. He states in the below record that he moved from Guilford County, North Carolina to Bedford County, Tennessee in 1807. He lived in Bedford long before the John and Mary Elizabeth (Cunningham) Burns moved from Anderson County, South Carolina to their land on Caney Creek.

Application formatted and typed as it appeared on the pension document.

Brenda Burns Kellow

Inscribed on the Rolls of Est (sic) Tennessee at the rate of \$25 dollars and 66 cents per annum to commence on the 4th clay of March 1831.
Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed 7th of June 1832.

On the 10th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before Samuel Phillips, John P. Neill, and John P. Armstrong Esquires, gentlemen Justice of the Peace appointed to hold the court of the pleas and quarter session for Bedford Co., in the state of Tennessee, now sitting, JOHN BURNS, SR., a resident of the county and state aforesaid aged Seventy-nine years and six months: who first being duly sworn according to law take 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 he entered

the Service of the United States as a volunteer in the county of Guilford and state of North Carolina in Captain John Nelsons company attached to a regiment commanded by Col. James Martin, he states his Lieut. was by the name of Iasiah (sic) Gates [sic, Josiah Gates?] and that he volunteered and was mustered into Service in the Spring or Summer of 1776.———He thinks about the 1st of June. He states he was marched from Guilford Court House in North Carolina to Salesbury (sic, Salisbury) from that to Cabbreysford (sic) and Cataba (sic, Catawba) river, from there into the Cherokee Nation to Cataba (sic) Town. At which place one of our men killed one Indian. Our troupes (sic) destroyed Cataba (sic) Town and a great many other Towns that he cannot recollect the names of; he recollects Turkey Town, the Americans destroyed the corn that they grew by cutting it down &c.

(end page 1 of original text)

deponent further States that he remained in the Nation for some time and was then marched back home and discharged as dismissed at Robert Nelsons in Guilford County North Carolina he thinks and does believe about the first of November in the same year.———He also states that afterwards he was numbered where every ten men had to furnish one man for the Continental Service and in this way my class furnished three men at different times. He does not recollect the year. He further states that the Governor of North Carolina called for troops to guard the legislature of the state convened at Salem. He does not recollect the year, but he thinks he served about one month as a volunteer on this occasion, under John Nelson as Capt. He afterward volunteered under Captain John Nelson in Guilford County aforesaid to go against the Tories who were embodied on the Yadkin River about a mile pass the Shallow Ford on said river, but they were driven from that place as he was informed by Col. Campbell, from Halston [sic, Holston River] before Capt. Nelson and his men reached that place, he states that Capt. Nelson returned home with his men in about six or seven days after when they were dismissed. He states that after this he volunteered with the same Capt John Nelson. His Lt. was Iasiah (sic) Gates, his Col. was James Martin, he thinks he volunteered about the first of February in the year 1781. He states he was mustered into service at a Mr. Manganeries (sic) about six

miles below Guilford Court House in the state of N. C., in Gen. Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] army. He states the troops remained for sometime when they were mustered in Service, but was ordered and marched to Works Bridge on haw (sic) river.

(end of page two of original text.)

He states that he was ordered from that place to pilot some baggage waggons (sic) to the Rocky Springs now in Rockingham County N.C., and after some days was ordered to have said waggons (sic) moved across Dan River into Henry County, Virginia which he performed agreeable order; he states that afterward he was marched to the battle ground of the Guilford Battle to bury some of the Americans who fell in that battle and were left on the ground. They found said men and buried them. He thinks he served on this tour of duty about one month and a half and was then dismissed, making in all about seven months and twenty-one days. He states he knew Major John Nelson of the Continental line but does not know what Regiment he was attached to. He further states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure except the testimony of William Cunningham¹ whose affidavit is here to affixed (sic) who can prove a part of one tour, who can testify to his Service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on any pension roll of any agency in the United States.

INTERROGATORIES BY THE COURT.

Int. 1. *Where and in what year were you born.*

Ans. *I was born in Baltimore county in the State of Maryland on the 10th day of February 1753, as I have been informed by my parents.*

Int. 2. *Have you a record of your age and if so where.*

Ans. *I have no record of my age.*

¹ [William Cunningham S3249](#)

(end of page 3 of original text)

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

Ans. I lived in Guilford county state of N. C. when I entered the service of the United States, and so remained there until after the Revolutionary War and moved from that county in the year 1807 to Bedford county in the State of Tennessee where I now reside.

Int. 4. Were you called into service, were you drafted or did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom.

Ans. I was a volunteer all the time I served.

Int. 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served: such continental militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I recollect Maj. John Nelson who was a regular officer. I cannot recollect any particular regiment except those under col. Martin and the Militia and volunteer Regiments under General Green [sic, Greene], the number of which if I ever knew I have forgotten.

Int. 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service.

Ans. I never did.

Int. 7. 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 as to your service as a revolutionary soldier.

Ans. The Rev. John Brooks, John A. Allain, Wm. Davis, Benjamin Stricklin, John Eakin and John C. Collwell sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John Burns (signature)

seal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Burns". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

J. McKisick, Clk., Shelbyville, Tn

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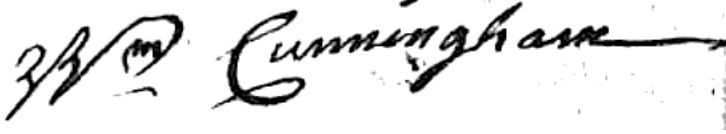
[John Brooks, a clergyman, and John A. Marrs gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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This day being the 11th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open Court William Cunningham, and after being qualified according to law deposeseth & saith That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted Soldier in Captain John Nelsons Company where I became acquainted with John Burns who signed the foregoing declaration; in the year 1776 in an expedition against the Cherokee nation of Indians the said Burns was a private soldier in the same Company with him and He was informed had been in the company before he joined it; said Burns remained in said Company during the whole time I remained with it, which he thinks was about 3 months; and how long he said Burns remained with said Company afterwards he does not know.

Sworn to in open Court
the 11th of August 1832

S/ Wm Cunningham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Cunningham". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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State of Tennessee Bedford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting justice of the peace in and for Bedford County John Burns who being duly Sworn, deposeseth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory; he cannot Swear positively 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: That he served not less than 5 months on his first tour [sic, tour] of duty to the Cherokee nation in Captain Nelsons Company, as a private soldier; and that he Served not less than one month at [text obliterated by an ink blot], but from the great length of time since, he cannot state the year, he says he served 6 days on his 3rd power against the Tories at the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin, but does not recollect the year and that he served on his last mentioned power of duty -- not less than one month and a half as a private Soldier making in the whole a term of Service of not less than 7 months and 21 days for which he claims a pension -- Sworn to and Subscribed this 5th day of January 1833

S/ Nathan D. Scharler, JP

S/ John Burns

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Burns". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[attested by James McKisick, Clerk]