

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Peter Butler S20890

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Virginia }

Louisa Cty } Sct

On this 11th day of Decem'r. 1837 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of the said County now sitting Peter Butler a resident of the County aforesaid, aged Seventy four 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.

The he was born according to his father's register on the 21st Aug 1763, and as soon as he became 16th years of age, that is in the summer of '79 he was put on the muster roll, in Caroline County in Virginia where he then resided, and was drafted into the militia immediately marched in the militia of that County under Capt. Richardson to Port Royal, served at that place in a regiment of militia under Colo [Sampson] Mathews for three[?] weeks as private and was discharged. There was no regular regiment at that place and no other militia regiment than the one in which he served. That soon after his return home he was again called out, and marched in the militia of the same county under the same officers, to New Kent, and Charles City counties, and to WmsBurge [sic: Williamsburg] where they were stationed for some time, thence to Ruffin's ferry [on Pamunkey River near Sweet Hall in King William County], and there he was discharged, and that in this tour he serve two months as private in the militia. He thinks he saw some regular soldiers in this tour, and the militia from the adjoining counties, but he does not remember any regular officers, or any militia officers, except one Col. Naw, and was in no battle. That in the early part of the next year he was again drafted and marched in the militia of the same county, under the same Capt. and Colo. and was stationed at the Mobbing Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] – was stationed at that place, and served two months as private in the militia and was discharged. That he cannot recollect his inferior officers in this or his former tours, but he remembers Col. Ennis [sic: James Innes], but he seemed not to be in command. He thinks there were some regular troops there but he does not remember particulars, and some militia from Hanover but all under Mathews. That he was drafted, he thinks in the next fall and marched in the militia of the same County, he thinks under one Johnson Faulkner Capt. to Richmond and was put under the same Colo. Mathews. Was at Richmond when the enemy burned the Tobacco warehouses at Manchester [probably under Gen. Benedict Arnold, Jan 1781], and they fired cannon from the Hill where the Capitol now stands accross the river and he understood killed one of the British. He remembers that the smoke from the fires was beaten down by a shower of rain, and smelled strongly of Tobacco. Served two months at least as private and was discharged. He thinks there were some regulars at Richmond but he does not remember how many or their officers, and does not recollect that there were any other militia. That he only returned home he thinks and was again called out in his own time, and marched to Richmond and again joined Colo Mathews' Regiment. He remembers the character of his Capt. but cannot recall his name nor does he remember the names of his company officers. Was at Richmond when the Marquiss [sic: Marquis de Lafayette, May 1781] arrived and remembers distinctly the first time he saw him, a little below Richmond. He was coming up, and when he met the regiment took off his hat, and bowed, and rode slowly along the whole line. They were encamped for some time at Fairfield, then marched to Holts Forge, thence back to the neighbourhood of Richmond, and was discharged at Fairfield, and that in this tour he served two months as private in the militia. He thinks it was in this tour that he was a Charles Cty Ct House, and saw blood on the walls, and learned that there had been a Battle there between Tarlton's men [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] and the Americans. He can remember no other militia regiments than the one

in which he served and remembers no officers other than those mentioned. That there were regular troops but he cannot describe them particularly. That soon after his return home he was again drafted and marched in company with another man from Caroline to join the army. The enemy were in the country and it was considered dangerous for them to go alone, but they went – passed through Fredericksburg and Falmouth and joined the army at the Rackoon ford [sic: Raccoon Ford on Rapidan River, Jun 1781]. He was there put into a company whose Capt. he cannot recollect but in the regiment of the same Colo Mathews, marched with the army in pursuit of the enemy. Stayed one day in Orange Cty he thinks until the troops all got together, and then followed Below Dandridges [in Hanover County]. They were so close on the enemy that they came to their camping ground before the fires had scarcely gone out. Saw fields of corn in the crossing from which the fences had been burned for many pannels and many horses dead from hard driving. Marched down on the north side of the Chickahomony [sic: Chickahominy River] and then crossed over to Richmond. Marched thence down the country after the enemy. Somewhere below Richmond the guard on the rear fired their guns to make an alarm daunting [possibly “taunting”] the courage of the militia as he understood – followed the enemy down and in the neighbourhood of York he fell sick and was discharged a few days before the surrender [of Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781]. And that in this tour he served three months as private in the militia. He saw Genls [Anthony] Wayne Washington and [Daniel] Morgan in this tour and many regular and militia troops, but does not remember any distinctly. That he was put on the muster roll and called into service so young, and was kept in the service so constantly, that he has not that distinct recollection of the transactions to which he was witness, that is desirable. But he is sure of the fact that he served all the tours he has stated and for the length of time claimed. That he learned some years ago that there was a provision made for Revolutionary soldiers and he was advised that he was entitled to a pension, and should make application. But he was old and infirm, was distrustful of his own memory, and could live without the bounty – and that it is only in compliance with the solicitation of his friends and family that he now applies. He does not know that any of his companions in the war are now alive whose testimony he can procure to his service – but his brother David knows of his service, and that he can procure no other testimony. He had written discharges, but not valueing them he has lost them, and has no documentary evidence. And that he refers to Wm Y Hiter and Charles Thompson for his character, and the reputation of his neighbourhood of his revolutionary services.

To Question 1st he replies – He was born in the month of August 1763 in the county of Hanover

To Question 2 My son Elijah Butler has my Father’s Bible containing the original register of my age, which I gave him.

To Question 3 I lived in the county of Caroline when called into service, and have lived principally in the County of Louisa since & now reside in County of Louisa in in which I have lived for thirty odd years

To Question 4 I was drafted into the service

To Question 5 The answer to this question is embraced in the foregoing declaration which I have now heard read over in open court and embraces all the circumstances of my service which I can recollect

To Question 6 I received discharges as stated in the foregoing declaration but considering them of no value I have lost them.

To Question 7 George Harris, Joseph Spencer, John A Harris, Wm Y. Hiter, Nath’l Thompson, Charles Y Kimbrough & Charles Thompson are well acquainted with me & will testify to the matters states in this question

Sworn to and subscribed the day and y’r as aforesaid Peter hisXmark Butler

Virginia Hanover County Sct.

Personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said County David

Butler a resident of the said County, aged seventy two years and a credible person, and made oath, that he is a year and ten months younger, that his Brother Peter Butler who is now applying for a pension, and lived in his youth, during the revolutionary war in the same house with him. That some time before the enemy came into that part of the country, his brother Peter was put on the muster roll, and drafted into the service, and that from that time until the end of the war his said Brother, was absent from home in the army at least half of his time, he thinks. That although he cannot describe each tour of service rendered by his said brother, yet he was often sent to him from home into the army, to carry him comforts and refreshments, and that he remembers distinctly seeing his said Brother in the army at WmBurg, at the Mobbing Hills, at Richmond and at the Rackoon ford. That when in the camp he remembers seeing many officers but can only recall the name of Colo Mathews. And that from his recollection of his brother's absence from home and from having seen him in the army he is well assured, his said Brother served at least as long and as often as he alleges.

Sworn and subscribed this 23^d day of January 1838

David hisXmark Butler

NOTE: Peter Butler may be the son of John and Mary Butler, who filed pension application W5953.