

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Butler S21674

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/19/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Columbus County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term
1833

On this the 12th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful J G Bellamy, Bythel Haynes & Ephraim Branton Justices of the Peace for the County of Columbus holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting – John Butler a resident of the County of Columbus, and State of North Carolina, aged seventy-four years July 26 1833; 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

1. In the month of October 1778 (as well as he can now recollect) he volunteered as a private for a service of five months, then residing in Onslow County North Carolina in a company of Onslow Militia of which J. King was Captain and James Ballard Lieutenant (the Ensign not recollected). The company marched to Elizabethtown, Bladen County, and remained there until the 2200 men had collected under General Ashe, and General Bryan. There were several Militia Regiments but he has forgotten the names of the Officers, except that a Colonel Young commanded the Regiment to which the company he was in was attached. From Elizabethtown, the Troops under General Ashe marched by Georgetown South Carolina and within ten miles of Charleston, to the Salt Catchey [sic, Salkehatchie River], crossed that River, at the Three Sister Ferry [sic, Three Sisters Ferry], thence up the Savannah [River] to Augusta. The British were in Augusta, when the Americans arrived on the opposite side of the River, but immediately thereafter evacuated that place and marched down the River – pursued by the Americans. General Ashe, at length, encamped at Brier Creek, in the Fork near the River, where he was surprised and defeated by the Enemy. No preparations were made against an attack, although the American Light horse, who had been sent on a reconnoitering expedition the day before came in, & gave it as their opinion that an attack might be apprehended that night. Accordingly about breakfast time the next morning the attack was made in the rear of the American Encampment. The Americans fired but once – in consequence of their guns being of different calibers, and through neglect, there cartridges were all mixed up together in the ammunition wagon. General Ashe being among the first to leave the ground – Orders were given to the men to make their escape – some swam the River, and many were taken prisoners – killed and drowned. In a few days about 400 men of General Ashe's command collected at Purrysburg, on the other side of the

Savannah, and nearly opposite to the scene of action, and while there, their term of service having expired, they were discharged. He received a discharge in writing from Lieutenant Ballard, but has long since lost it. He does not recollect the names of any of the Continental Officers, except General Lincoln, who was stationed with the Continental Army, at Purrysburg, at the time he received his discharge.

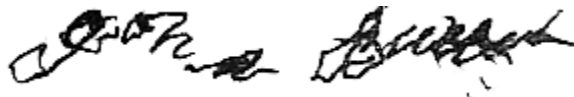
2. About twelve months afterwards, he again volunteered as a Private in a Company of Onslow Militia, of which one M. Albritton was Captain, and Nathan Murray, Lieutenant, for a service of three months. The Company rendezvoused at the Richlands on New River, and marched thence to Long Creek near Wilmington, at which place the Militia were collecting from the adjoining Counties, until they amounted to about 1000 in number under the command of General Lillington. The British, who were then in possession of Wilmington after a while marched up to the opposite or Wilmington side of the Creek. Colonels Brown & Young, who were on a reconnoitering expedition below the sound, received orders from Lillington to march up on the lower side, and charge the enemy, while he (Lillington) with his force would march over and sustain them. – Accordingly, General Lillington called on the Troops under his command for a sufficient number of volunteers under one Colonel Avery to go to the assistance of Colonel Brown, and out of the whole number, only 40 men, of which he was one volunteered. Colonel Brown, in obedience to his orders, made the attack as soon as the firing was heard, the man who had volunteered proceeded as rapidly as possible to the Bridge, but before they arrived there, about three quarters of a mile distant, it was ascertained that Colonel Brown, overwhelmed by superior numbers, had retreated – having had his arm broken in the engagement – upon which they returned to the place of encampment – where having remained until their Term of service had expired, they were discharged. He has no recollection of having received a written discharge and thinks that he received nothing but a verbal discharge – if he ever received any written discharge, he has lost it. He does not recollect any Continental officers – or any other Militia officers, than those already mentioned.

3. He next entered the service, not very long after the expedition above detailed, on board of a galley belonging to the United States, called the "Black Joke," mounting five three Pounders, of which G. Harrison was Captain, and one Braddick, Lieutenant – & manned with 50 man: He shipped on board, at the mouth of New River, Onslow County. The Galley sailed thence to Savannah, Georgia, thence to Saint Augustine, East Florida, and at Sunbury in Georgia, she had a sharp conflict with a British Brig – but after a few fires, she was hauled off – having sustained no loss – She then sailed around to New Bern, North Carolina, where his term of engagement (two months) having expired – he was discharged – He received no written discharge –

He has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person, whose testimony he can procure, 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 the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ John Butler



Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Answers to the interrogatories¹ prescribed by the War Department, as propounded to the

¹ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and

Applicant, by the Court.

1. I was born in Onslow County, July 26 1759.
2. I have no record of my age. It was recorded in a Family Bible belonging to one Joseph Jenkins, in Onslow County, and was destroyed in the house of said Jenkins was consumed by fire.
3. I resided in Onslow County during the Revolutionary War and until I came to this County, about 40 years ago, where he has resided ever since.
4. I was a volunteer in every instance.
5. I have no recollection of any Continental or Militia Officers or Regiments other than those mentioned in my declaration; and to which I also beg leave to refer, for the general circumstances of my service.
6. For answer – I beg leave to refer to the body of my declaration.
7. Isaac Etheridge, Luke R Simmons, Thomas Frink, John Simmons, Joseph Long & Gabriel Long.

[Thomas Frink & Luke R Simmons gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for eight months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

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

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

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

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.