

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

Pension Application of Martin Burk S30298

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Oct 2011.

State of Kentucky } SS

Scott County } }

Personally appeared before me Robert McCalla a Justice of the peace for said county Martin Burk who being duly sworn deposeth and saith – that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of time of his services – but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than five years as mentioned in his declaration – and during which time he was a private and for such service he claims a pension – and he further states that he never was a Militia man during the old Revolutionary War and as to the events which accrued he is unable from the great length of time to give them minutely. And the reason why he is so late in applying for a pension is that under the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 he could not procure in Ky any proof of his services – and he was too poore to go to Montgomery County in Maryland upon an uncertainty Sworn and subscribed to this 16th day of July [1837], before me Martin hisXmark Burk

Scott County Kentucky

September the 10th 1838

Martin Burk of said county makes the following Declaration to obtain the benefit a pension act passed by Congress

And state on oath. That he Enlisted in the army of the Revolutionary War In Montgomery County State of Maryland in the month of May (But the year not recollected) in the company of Captain James Morris in the 12th Regiment Commanded by Colo Uriah Forrest – and travelled through Maryland Virginia and South Carolina under the command of Generals [Daniel] Morgan and [Nathanael] Greene and fought hard in the battles of Brandywine [sic: Brandywine PA, 11 Sep 1777] Bunkers hill [sic: Bunker Hill MA, 17 Jun 1775] and the Eutaw springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] and sundry other skirmishes. And then was ordered to Camden South Carolina. Then Returned to little York Virginia from thence to Annapolis and there obtained an honorable discharge – which was destroyed by wear and tear in his pocket not thinking he ever would have any use for it. And in all he served five years

Martin hisXmark Burk

Kentucky Scott County Sct

On this 19th day of November 1838 Personally appeared in open Court before the court of Scott County now sitting Martin Burk a resident of Scott County Kentucky aged eighty six 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 the 7th 1832 that he enlisted or entered the service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. This Declarant states, that to the best of his recollection It was on the 23rd day of May when he enlisted under Captain James Morris in Montgomery County Maryland and he enlisted for five years – or during the war and served the whole time faithfully under the command of Colo Uriah Forrest of the 12th Regiment of the Maryland troops. and the first Battle in which he fought was the battle of Brandywine and in which battle Colo. Forrest lost one of his legs by a cannon ball. Then said Regiment was commanded by Colo Betty [Beatty?] of Georgetown M'gomery County Maryland and marched from that place by the way of the head of Elk [now Elkton MD] crossing the Thornden[?] Roads and then [sic] to Bunkers hill and fought in that Battle and the next he fought in was that of Germinton [sic: Germantown PA, 4 Oct 1777]. and from that place to the Eutaw Springs and further states it was in cold weather [sic!] he had no stockings and had [not?] any shoes or at least they were so bad that he could be traced by his blood for miles and fought in the battle of

the Eutaw Springs still under the command of Captain Morris. then was ordered to Charlestown South Carolina which was burnt down before we arrived [see note below] – and then was ordered to Camden and that Battle was over before we got there – and from Camden we were ordered to little York at which place the British Surrendered [Yorktown VA, 19 Oct 1781]. And that was the end of my enlistment and from York to Annapolis in Maryland and then got a Discharge.

“Where and in what year were you born. Ans I was born in the County of Galloway [sic: County Galway] in Ireland in the month of November 1752

“have you any record of your age and if so where is it.” No written record in the United States all I know is from memory

“Where were you living when called into service – where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live.” I was living in M’tgomery County Maryland when I entered in the service and returned to the said county after the war was over and married in said County and then moved to Kentucky and lived in Jasmine [sic: Jessamine] county two years and moved to Scott Co Ky and has lived there ever since

“How were you called into service – were you drafted or did you Volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom” Neither. I enlisted for five years or during the war

“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” There was a Captain Thomas Bell of GeorgeTown Militia and Colo. Betty as stated above a Regular Commanded the 12th Regiment after Colo Forrest lost his leg and was unable to act. There are many others who I know at the time but now have forgotten there names

“Did you ever Receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it” I did receive an honorable discharge at Annapolis and it was worn out by wear and tear and my [illegible word] not thinking I ever would have use for it But cannot remember the name of the Officers that signed it But one was a Major

“State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can testify as to your Character for Veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.” Ans Colo Rich’d M Johnson Rev’d J M Drew Barnabe Worland & James Comb That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency of any State Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Martin hisXmark Burk

January 29 1840

Scott County Ky

Dear Colo

I herewith send a request to you on Colo Butler to try and have an act passed for the bennifit of Martin Burk to enable him to draw a Pension as a Revolutionary Solider I have made all efforts in my power – and they have all proven abortive The last letter I Recieved from the War Department Stated that his claim was inadmisable unless he could prove by two witnesses who had personal knowledge of such alleged Service – which cannot be procured – nor no other than his own Declaration which he sent on stating minutely all his routs and battles in which he fought &c &c As to his being in the Revolutionary War – there is no doubt – and that he served 5 years as he stated in his declaration – and since he sent on his Declaration I have found has been severely wounded in the lift thigh with a Mesket ball at the Battle of Bunker hill and that the ball was taken out by Doct’r Betty surgeon to the 12 Regmt of the Maryland line I had him examined by Doctors Macey and Sinclair at the White Sulper Inn and they both concur in opinion that is a gun shot wound

Martin Burk has spent his blood and Treasure – and the prime of life in his country’s service and

now in his 89th year very poor and infirm unable to work and no property to support him is now holding out his Paralytick hands for that boon which a holy and Benevolent Government has designed for such as him to nurish and cheere him in his few last steps to the Grave – and denied is it because he is poor – The reason I ask is – I know men in this county who are dandled on the lap of luxuary rolling in Carriages – with land and slaves to support them drawing pretty pensions who never heard the war dogs howl only at a safe distance driving beevs and the like – and now grumbling like breeding cats against Government not giving them more and poor old Martin nearly at starvations point and cannot get a cent unless its through you and Colo Butler. Your friend personally and politically
Colo Johnson & Butler Was'ton City R McCalla

An Ameded Declaration In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress Passed June 7, 1832
State of Kentucky }
County of Scott }

On this 31 day of July 1841 Personally appeare open Court before the Magistrate Court Now Sitting Martin Burk a residenter of the County of Scott State of Kentucky Aged Ninety 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 7, 1832
That he entered the Services of the united states on the Maryland line at or near the Commencement of the war of the Revolution and was in the Service at last Five years he enlisted in Montgumry County State of Maryland in the month of May (the year not recollected) under Captain James Morison and in the Twelvth Ridgement Commanded by Colonel Forrest and was under the Command of Generals Morgan and green And Fought Hard in the battles of Brandy wine Bunkers Hill and at the Eutaw Springs and march though Virginia and South Carolina and was in other Batles but In consequence of his great Age and loss of memory he is unable to give as full an account as he desires and refers to his Former Declaration and evidence on Fil for the evidence of his Service He was honorable discharge at the Close of the war which discharge has been destroyed as It was Considered of No value He states that he is a Poor unlearnt man and has had a very Large Family of Children to Provide for and has lived a very retired life Confined in Poverty at home trying to make an honest Support for his familey and has in a great measure been Ignorant of the Provisions made for the Solders of the Revolution He was wounded in his Right thy with a Musket Ball in the war of the revolution which was taken out of his thy by the Surgeon of the 12th Ridgemt which wound has afflicted him during his whole life and he being entirely Ignorant of aney Provision haveing been made by Congress For Persons who were wounded in the War of the revolution he has never made an appication for a Pension as an Inviled he states that he now knowes of no Person who was with him in the Service or with whom he was acquainted during the war of the Revolution and the best evidence that he is at this great length of time able to Produce is his Wound which he received whilst he was in the Service of his Country in the war of the Revolution which he Prayes may be examined in open Court which wound was Examined about Eighteen months ago by drs Macey & Sincler and They Pronounce the Said Wound was made with a muskett ball and that the said wound Totaly disabled me From hard Labour in which the use of his leg is required He States that he Fought For liberty alone and that being obtained he was satisfied and would never have have applied for a Pension but from the urgent solitations of his neighbours and Friends who beheld his helpness and destitute situation and his neighbour Maj Robert mcCalla (who now no more) who had been acquainted with him for upwards of Thirty years kindly offered to attend to obtaing a Pension for him He hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity Except the Present and he declares that his nam is not on the Pension Roll of Any Agency in any State

[signed] Martin Burk

NOTES: The engagements named by Burk are obviously not in correct sequence, and there is no evidence that Maryland troops were at Bunker Hill or that any of them arrived at Camden SC after either battle there (Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1780 or Battle of Hobkirk Hill on 25 April 1781). Although Charleston suffered damage during the British siege, the city was not burned. It was occupied by the British from 12 May 1780 until 14 Dec 1782, during which period no American troops entered.