

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

Pension Application of William Butler S30306

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Trimble County

On this 11th day of February one thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty personally appeared before me John F Butler a Justice of the County Court of Trimble County William Butler a resident of Kentucky in the County of Trimble aged ninety two years and three months 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.

I was born on the 11th day of November 1757 in the State of Virginia and in the County of Prince George While I was quite young my Father John Butler removed from Prince George the County of my birth to Amelia County in the same State. In the Spring of the year 1776 as well as I now recollect I was called into the service of the United States by draught for the term of three months as a private in the militia forces. I served under Cap'tn. Rowland Ward and I recollect that his son Rowland Ward, Jr was his first Lieutenant. Our Company Rendezvou's. at Amelia Court House Va. Five other Companies Rendezv'd at the same time and place one commanded by Cap'tn. Thomas Wilson. his 1^s. Lieutenant was Peter Randolph The other Company was commanded by Captn Gabriel Fowlkes one of whose Lieutenants was John Knight. From Amelia Court House we marched as did also the other two Companies through Petersburg to Williamsburgh [sic: Petersburg to Williamsburg] Va. and then quartered in what was then called the new Barracks. The three Companies there drew their arms and accoutrements at the magazine We then moved through Little York to Hampton and there quartered in an old Church From that place we were sent out to the sea coast by companies or parts of company as guards The point of this service was about seven miles below Hampton. The squads thus sent out remained on duty about one week each and I remained on that service and at that place for the full term of three months or untill the full term for which I was draughted expired. At the close of this service I delivered up my arms & according to orders at Hampton as did most of the men others who had gone off deposited their arms &c at Williamsburgh after their return home. After returning Home we met at Amelia Court House and Rec'd. our pay I think from the Captain. Col [Thomas] Nelson an officer in the regular Army as I understood had our companies under his charge He frequently inspected and reviewed us. during the service of which I have spoken we were in no battle and did not see an enemy. I recollect a look out boat which was kept at Hampton while I was then on service commanded by Captain Barren [sic: Barron] His business was to take frequent short excursions out to sea to look out as I supposed for the approach of the enemy

In the year 1779 as well as I recollect being still a Citizen of Amelia County Va. I was again called into the service of the United States by draught for three months as a private in the militia forces I served under Captain Pleasant Roberts. Charles Irby was his 1st Lieutenant as well as I recollect. We again Rendezvous'd. at Amelia Court House Va. and marched from there to West Ham [sic: Westham] about seven miles above Richmond to draw arms and accoutrements as well as I recollect. After remaining there a few days we marched through Chesterfield County To Petersburg thence to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County] as it was then called. We were then put under the Command of Gen'l. Robert Lawson a regular officer and there remained on duty untill the expiration of the term of three months for which we had been draughted Maj'r. Merryweather [sic: Thomas Meriwether] also a regular officer as I understood frequently exercised or drilled us while on this service I shall never forget the mortification of his brother who was a private in the company to which I belonged and my mess mate. He went to see his brother the officer with the expectation of receiving some favour (as we believed) in the way of advancement. He returned however greatly dejected & mortified and said he

would not again visit his brother. About this time money had greatly depreciated or could not be obtained I do not recollect of receiving any pay for the second term of service nor do I recollect of ever receiving a discharge I again Returned to Amelia County Va. In the year 1787 I removed to the State of Kentucky and have ever since resided in this State. I had never intended or expected to have applied for a Pension believing that it was glory enough to have contributed in any manner towards the achievement of the Liberty of my country I am now led to a different conclusion from the fact that thousand of distinguished patriots have availed themselves of the offerings of a generous people, and especially because I am now blind Having lost my eye sight about six years ago. And as this may be my unfortunate condition for several years to come I respectfully ask for such pension as under the laws of my country I may be entitled to receive. I would cheerfully have attended court to have made this declaration But by reason of bodily infirmity the loss of my sight & the inclemency of the season I am unable to do so. I will further state that I know of no person now living who can testify to my services. I will refer however to Jack Pryor and J. Strather bouth of Trimble County who know me and can testify as to my character for varacity &c. They are familiar with the traditionary accounts of my services and I think have talked with one or more persons who served in the Revolutionary war with me. I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State to my knowledge or with my consent. I have a record of my age taken from my Fathers register by myself The original is not in my possession [signed] W Butler

NOTE: Jack Pryor stated that "he had frequently heard an old man by the name of Daniel Farley say that he farley had served in the revolutionary war with the s'd. William Butler."