

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Bullard S3103

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Rutherford County }

Under an act of Congress for the Relief of Certain Surviving officers and Soldiers, of the army of the Revolution approved, on the 15th Day of May 1828.

I John Bullard, of the County of Rutherford, in the State of Tennessee: Do Hereby Declare, that I Enlisted in the Continantal line of the army, of the Revolution for and Dureing the war and Continued in its service – untill its termination at which period I was Sergeant in Captain Ewills [Thomas Winder Ewell's] Company Commanded by Col. [George] Gibson, in the first Regiment, of the Virginia line, and I also Declare – that afterwards I Received the Benefit of Eighty Dollars – To which I was Entitled, under a Resolve of Congress, passed the 15th Day of May 1778. I further Declare – That I was not; on the 15th Day of May 1828 on the Pension List, of the United States.

Witness my hand, this 21st Day of July 1828.

Signed John Bullard

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County. December 24th 1828

Mr. Richard Rush./ Sir/ I Received your letter, of the 27th of November 1828 assuring me, that my Claim was Examined – and further, that it appairs, Did not Corobrate with public Records – and I Do not Know what was the Reason. If I was able to travil. I might perhaps find some of the old soldiers, that served with me in the same Company, (if alive) though a number of them ware Killed, at the Battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], and other places. – But I will, in addition to my Declaration – give you, and the government a short Narative of my Enlistment, and service Dureing the Revolutionary war – I served in the Militia, about four years, Before I Enlisted in the United States Army. and while in the Militia Service, I was at Genl. Gates's Defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], and taken prisoner and afterwards Escaped from them and I was also at Genl Blufords Defeat [see endnote] – and sufered many other Hardships, and privations. Dureing that time – Then I Enlisted in the Regular Army of the United States – Dureing the war – in Dumfreis [sic: Dumfries], in the County of Prince William. State of Virginia, with two others, one by the name of William Rock, and the other by the name of William Flanigan and we took the Oath before a Squire Lethco – and also Received the bounty \$100-00 Each from a Capt. Ewell, and Remained in his Company – in the first Virginia State Redgmt, Commanded by Col. Gibson, in Genl. Mullenburghs [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade (and I Bleive that was in faul season of the year 1780 – and not long after Gates's Defeat.) Then we marched to Williamsburgh. from that place, we ware marched to the South – and at Petersburg Genl. Blueford took Command – and marched us to Hillsborough N. Carolina – then General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] took Command, and from thence marched us to a place Called Cherraw Hills on Pee. Dee [sic: Cheraw Hills on Pee Dee River in SC, Jan 1781]. then we marched to Guilford, where we had the Battle (with Lord Cornwallis) and there I was wounded and unable to march at that time – and Remained so untill the time Cornwallis was Taken – at York – [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] and after that time when the Amarian United States Army was Disbanded. I Received an Honourable Discharge By the Hand of Capt. Charles Ewell. (Brother to the Captain, I first Enlisted under.)

And now I beleive, that some of those officers names Ought to appair on Record, with whome I served – or if not. such Record must be verry Imperfect. – Because I served part of the time, as a Recruiting officer – and Enlisted I beleive about forty five men – some for five years [sic: see endnote] – and other for, and Dureing the war – and I Do hope you will make a perticular Examination of Those Records – and send me the Result of your Reserches – and you will greatly Oblige one of the Old, and wounded Revolutionists.

John Bullard

State of Tennessee } County Court August Term 1832
Rutherford County }

On this 21st day of August 1832 personally appeared before us Henry Trott, James C Mitchell and Varner D Cowen Justices of the Quorum John Bullard aged seventy five 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 – that he was born in the State of Pennsylvania, and while a boy removed to Prince William County State of Virginia, and in his nineteenth year joined the militia service as a volunteer in Prince William under Capt John Shelton and William Clanagin Lt He was marched to Alexandria and then crossed the Patomack [sic: Potomac River] and through Maryland to near Baltimore (for the destination of the troop was to join the Army in Pennsylvania) and at that point met Capt Wall Peyton [probably Valentine Peyton] who gave such information as induced Capt Shelton to return home. He was in service not more than seven or eight weeks at this time. In the year 1780 he again entered the service, under the command of Capt John Britt at the Red house in Prince William [at present Haymarket], James Lovely Lu't. From this place he was marched to the Raccon ford on Rappahannock, and there joined Genl Gates who had under his command the Delaware and Maryland Troops. He recollects Genl Smalwood [sic: William Smallwood] and thinks he commanded the Maryland Troops. From this point he accompanied the army through Virginia and crossed Roanoak [sic: Roanoke River] at Taylors Ferry, and then to Hillsborough in North Carolina – crossed Pede at Haley's Ferry and marched on towards Camden, and halted twelve miles from that place [at Rugeley's Mill]. And was afterwards marched to Camden [sic: 6 mi north of Camden] and was in the battle at that place which he thinks was fought in August 1780. After the defeat he fled with the Virginia and North Carolina Militia to Hillsborough and he was there discharged and returned home, Some time in the month of September. At the battle of Camden he recollects [word interlined illegibly] Gen'l DeKalb and Gen'l Smallwood & Gen Morgan [sic: see endnote]. In these two campaigns he thinks he served nine or ten Months. He obtained a discharge at Hillsborough. He has lost his discharge, given him by Shelton. His recollection is that no Troops to march Southwardly was excused for a shorter period than nine months – and he thinks that he volunteered for that length of time under Capt Britt

In October or November 1780 as well as he recollects he enlisted as a regular soldier at the Town of Dumpriess during the War in the company commanded by Thomas Ewell 1st Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col Gibson. John Roach, and William Clanagin enlisted at the same time, and belonged to the same company [see endnote]. He was furlowed for two or three weeks and ordered to join his company at Williamsburgh, whether the Regiment had marched in the meantime; which he did and there found Genl Mulenburg in command. Here the troops rendesvoused and was from thence marched to Petersburg, and at this point he thinks Col Buford took command of the detachment and marched to Hillsborough North Carolina. In this march the army crossed James River at Carters Ferry [now Cartersville], and Taylors Ferry on Roan Oak, and thence to Hillsborough, and joined the main Army at that place, and Genl Green had the command. After encamping here some time we were marched to Cheraw Hill South, Carolina and encamped at Hicks Creek, and he was together with a detachment of four or 500, was marched back under the command of Mg Redley [possibly Major Thomas Ridley] and recrossed the Pede at Haleys Ferry to Guildford Courthouse. He was wounded in the engagement at that place. He says he was acting Sargeant in said service, from the time he joined his company at Williamsborough until he was wounded at the battle fo Guildford Courthouse. Genl Green rendezvoused his Army at Troublesome Iron works he thinks, but he was placed in a hospital, at the Courthouse, where he remained five or six weeks – and he then applied to the Surgeon one Doc'r Gillett for permission to leave the hospital – which he did, granting him permission to go into the Country until he got well or to come home as he should think proper. He procured a horse after remaing a week or so in the neighbourhood and returned home – His discharg was afterwards sent to him from Williamsburg; but where it is he does not know – nor does he know of a person now living by whom he can prove his

services, either in the Militia or regular Troops.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] John Bullard

Interrogatories

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. He was born in Pennsylvania, in the month of May, but he does not know the year; but he will be 76 1st next May

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

Answer I have no record of my age

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

Answer He was living i Prince William County State of Virginia, and since then in the State of Tennessee

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute. And if a substitute for whom? He first volunteered, and then enlisted

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental and militia regements as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer, Genl Smallwood, Gen'l Stephns [sic: Edward Stevens], Genl [William] Woodford, Genl Morgan, Genl Green, Genl DeKalb – Col Smith – Mg Ridley – Gen [Charles] Scott – He recollects the Maryland Troops under the command of Genl Smallwood – The Virginia Troops. – He first volunteered in the militia, County Prince William State of Virginia – afterwards under Capt Britt, and joined Gen'l Gates and marched with Gates and was at the battle of Camden – and fled with the balance of the Militia to Hillsborough, was discharged and returned home. Afterwards enlisted 1st Virginia State Regiment – and was placed under the command of Genl Mulenburg. And afterwards Genl Green took the command was marched to Cheraw Hills, and afterwards to Guilford Court House where he was wounded – and after he had recovered he returned home.

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

Answer He did receive a discharge, and from Capt Charles Ewell and they are all lost

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer. Hugh Robison, David Patton, Zachariah Bush, George Espy, Ch. Espy Col Ths Seary Col Ths Racker, Larkin Thecker, John Hoover, John Warren, Moses H Glasscock – William Gray – James Gray – William Cowen, Isaac Hewes, Alexander Espy – Wm Stacey – Blake Sedgley – Dan Bullard

State of Tennessee }

Rutherford County }

Be it remembered that on this 17th day of April 1833 personally appeared before me, the undersigned Henry D. Jamison a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid John Bullard, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as 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 – For eight weeks or Two months as a volunteer militia man under Capt John Shelton – For eight months as a volunteer under the command of Capt John Britt – For six months as a Sergeant in the regular service under the command of Capt Thomas Ewell – And for such service I claim a pension – Affiant would here

again repeat that he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his said services – all his companions in arms that he then knew, being dead or removed to parts unknown to declarant

[signed] John Bullard

State of Tennessee }
Rutherford County }

Be it remembered that on this 14th day of December 1833 personally appeared before the [illegible word] an Acting Justice of the peace for the county and State aforesaid John Bullard a revolutionary soldier; and the same person, who has filed his declaration with the pension Commissioner at the City of Washington, and has rec'd a Warrant entiteling him to thirty three dollars and some cents. The said John Bullard beleaves that some mistake has ocured with the pension department with regard to his revolutionary services and beleaves that he is entitled to more than the above sum per annum – He makes oath to the following facts touching his revolutionary services – that the department may compare them with his declaration now on file at the City of Washington. He is about Eighty years of Age. And in County of Prince William State of Virginia, he volunteered his services as a private soldier under Capt John Shelton. He served Two months. And when discharged he again volunteered for six months under the same Capt. He served the six months and was discharged in Williamsb'g. He returned home. He was then drafted for nine months [see endnote], and served under Capt John Britt – and was discharged near Dumfries. He was drafted from the County of Prince William, for eighteen months – under Capt Wall Peyton [see endnote] – and He served ten months, and was discharged on Broad run. And afterwards when Gates went from the north to the South, he marched with Capt Peyton under Gates to Campden, and was at the battle of Campden – and in this Tour he served the balance of his Eighteen months – that is ten before Gates came to the South and Eight afterwards – and was dischargd at the Bird Tavern or Ordinary on James River by Maj Meriwethers [sic: Thomas Meriwether]. He returned home. He enlisted in the regular service under Capt Ths Ewell at Dumfriess, and he thinks during the War. He was marched to Williamsburg, and then to Cheraw Hills and then back to Guildford – and was in that battle. He served as a regular seven months. He was a Sergeant in the Militia Eighten months, and he was a Sergeant in the regular service six months. He makes oath, that he served his country in the militia Two years and Eleven months and in the regular Army seven months. He knows that the service for as long a period of time as here stated and he believes longer. He therefore claims a pension for the period of three years and six months. He has since his former declaration found a record of his age, and he will be Eighty come May next

[signed] John Bullard

NOTE:

The various statements by Bullard include the following apparent errors:

“Genl Blufords Defeat” refers to the defeat of Col. Abraham Buford at the Battle of Waxhaws SC on 29 May 1780. The Virginians there were Continental soldiers.

Enlistments in the Continental Army were for a maximum of either three years or for the duration of the war.

Gen. Daniel Morgan was not at the Battle of Camden.

A John Roach filed pension application W3871 in which he claimed to have enlisted from Prince William County into the Continental Line, but not in the same regiment as Bullard. Moreover, the 1st Virginia State Regiment was not at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Drafts into militia service were for three months each. Under a state law enacted in May 1780, some militiamen were drafted for 18 months into Continental service.

I could find no officer named “Wall Peyton.” Bullard presumably referred to Valentine Peyton (BLWt2241-300), who was captured or killed at Charleston SC in May 1780. No Captain Peyton appears to have been at the Battle of Camden.