

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Burnett S32154

f37GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/14/06; rev'd 6/25/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6]

State of Indiana, County of Greene

On the seventh day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty seven, personally appeared in open Court, before Elisha M. Huntington President Judge and Thomas Bradford and William S. Cole Associate Judges, of the Greene Circuit Court (a court of record) Joshua Burnett, aged eighty four years, a resident of Plummer Township in said County of Greene 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 Army of the Revolution, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated -- That he was born on the tenth day of April 1753, in Elizabeth town New Jersey (then called East Jerseys) where he lived about thirteen years -- Thence he removed to Rutherford County North Carolina, where he lived till the year 1779 -- thence he removed to Wilkes County Georgia, where he lived at the time he entered into service -- In the spring of the same year, the State of Georgia was invaded by an Army under General Manson, who took up his quarters in Augusta.<sup>1</sup> In the first of May as nearly as he can remember, he was drafted as a private, among many others in Wilkes County, to repel the invasion aforesaid. The Captain of his Company was Richard Herd-- the Colonel of his regiment was John Dooly. Declarant does not remember the names of any of the inferior officers of his Company. He was drafted to serve six months. A part of the militia so raised under Colonel Dooly, were sent towards Augusta to resist and annoy General Manson, and part were retained to guard the frontiers; among the latter was Declarant. Wilkes County was then on the frontiers, and a party to which Declarant was attached guarded the Country from the incursions of the Tories and Indians, making frequent reconnoiters and scouting parties through the country, but having no battle, yet being constantly employed in scouts and the like -- Towards the close of the year, after General Manson had subjugated nearly the whole state, and none holding out against him except Colonel Dooly, he (Manson) sent Dooly a letter informing him that if he would meet him on a ridge near Washington Court house, in the same County, he would parole his men and let them go home, and Dooly finding resistance vain, did so, and this declarant with the other troops under Colonel Dooly, accordingly met Manson's Army at that place and laid down their arms, on condition that they would remain thereafter peacefully at home. And the Regiment being so disbanded, this declarant returned home in the same County, where he remained till again called into service as hereinafter stated. Declarant does not remember certainly the exact time of said surrender -- In the aforesaid service he served at least three months. But on account of his age and consequent

---

1 Georgia was invaded in 1779 by a British force commanded by Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell. No British officer by the name of Manson is known to this transcriber.

loss of memory he cannot recollect dates particularly. He recollects that one Elijah Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] was the Lt Col of said Regiment. About the time of said surrender, said Clarke, who refused to make said surrender, went off to North Carolina with about seventy men of said Regiment, and afterwards in the summer of 1780, sent word to those who had so surrendered, that if they did not meet him at a certain noted Spring in a wilderness part of said County of Wilkes, he would put every man of them to death, said Clarke having, in the meantime, been raised to the place of General of the Georgia troops – his direction was that they should meet him at said Spring on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1780. On the day appointed, this declarant with most of those who had surrendered, assembled at said Spring, where they waited till near sunset, when General Clarke arrived with his aforesaid seventy men. At that time the British Army under General Manson lay near Augusta, and on the same night, General Clarke marched these men (this declarant with them) marched to within three miles of said British Army. The distance was about 15 miles. They stopped at a Tory House, and drew on the Tory, without his consent, for such provision and provisions as they needed. They arrived at said house before day, and stayed till daylight. In the meantime, a young man belong [sic, belonging] to Clarke's party, asked leave of the General to ride to the banks of the river hard by, to water his horse. The young man went accordingly, and in the ford met a British officer, and with drawn pistol took him prisoner, and brought him before General Clarke, who drew his sword, and threatened the prisoner with instant death, unless he should disclose the situation of the British Army. The prisoner disclosed it. At that time there were 600 men under Clarke, all mounted men. The British having left Augusta and being encamped a short distance from it, had left a guard, magazine and cannon in it; and Clarke having learned these facts, as soon as it was day, marched round the enemy, and by a circuitous route, came into Augusta at the opposite side from him, entered the town, took the magazine and cannon, and with the cannon marched against the British Army, and at nine A. M. a battle between them began which lasted with various success till nearly sundown, when the enemy retired to a little distance, and Clark marched his men back into a Fort in the edge of the town – After night he returned to the battleground and found many British & Indians slain, and that the enemy had taken quarters in a large stone house on the bank of the Savannah [River], and before morning so fortified themselves, that General Clarke deemed a further attack on them not advisable. But Clarke raised an entrenchment about 150 yards in front of that of the enemy, and we besieged them four days, at the end of which the enemy sent a flag into Clarke, for capitulation; whilst the capitulation was going on succor arrived to the enemy, and our Army were obliged precipitously to retreat-- This retreat we made through the wilderness to North Carolina, passing the Savannah & Saluda [Rivers], the Army proceeding till they joined Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] & General Sevier [sic, Colonel John Sevier] on the Watauga [River] in North Carolina-- after remaining a few days, this declarant, along with his said detachment, under General Clarke, united with the Army of General Sevier, and all, under the command of General Sevier marched about 80 miles to the Kings Mountain in North ~~South~~ Carolina [sic South Carolina], where General Ferguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] was encamped, and where the Battle of Kings Mountain was shortly after fought [October 7, 1780]. A few days before the Battle, this declarant, having brought his wife with him from Georgia to North Carolina, to leave her at her father's who lived about four miles from King's Mountain, obtained leave of his officers to go to see her at her father's and to make provision for her living in which would soon happen, whilst on his way for that purpose, [he] was taken prisoner by a Tory Colonel and taken before Ferguson, who treated declarant humanely. Declarant had, then, in his possession, the parole he had received from General Manson, and showed it to Ferguson, telling him he had merely come from Georgia to see his father in law, upon which Ferguson released him, and he went to his father in law's, where he heard the cannon of the Battle of King's Mountain but was not in it. It was fought, as he thinks, in November 1780. Declarant

immediately after the battle rejoined his army, and marched 100 miles to Moravian town N. C. where they guarded the prisoners taken in the battle, till the latter part of the following winter, or the first of March – at which time General Clarke received an express from General Morgan [sic, Col. Daniel Morgan] to join him at the Cowpens – whereupon General Clarke detached his men from those of General Sevier, and marched (this declarant still with them) about 100 miles, directly to the Cowpens, and joined Morgan on the evening before the battle. But on the way to Cowpens, it was rumored that Cornwallis was passing with his army through the neighborhood in which the wives of Declarant and two or three others of the men then lived and Declarant and those men obtained leave to go to the protection of their families, for a few days, under promise to rejoin General Clarke at the Cowpens. Declarant accordingly went to his family where he remained part of a day, and then proceeded with one John Prier (a soldier of the same Regiment) directly to the Cowpens – where they arrived on the night after the battle [January 17, 1781], and joined the Army of Clarke. On the morning after the battle the prisoners were sent to Moravian town, and Generals Clarke and Morgan marched their men (declarant still with them) to join General Greene [Nathanael Greene] at Guilford. On the way, at the crossing of the Catawba, they were opposed by a British force under Cornwallis, where a battle ensued. Declarant was in that battle. It lasted about four hours. Our Army had crossed the River. Cornwallis pursued in our rear. We resisted his passing the Ford, till he found a ford below, and when our Army found the enemy were crossing below, we moved off to join Greene, and marched and joined his Army at Guilford Court, about 10 days or more, before the battle at that place. Immediately on our arrival there, this declarant was (with 20 or 30 men) sent with four or five wagons into Virginia beyond Dan River after guns & ammunition as guards thereto. They proceeded there, procured the same, and returned with them on the same day of the battle [March 15, 1781], but not until Greene had retreated. We first had news of the defeat when within about four miles of Guilford, where all the men with the men with the wagons turned round for Virginia, except declarant and John Palmer a cousin to declarant who also belonged to Clarke's Georgia troops, who with declarant, pushed on to join their own troops who were still retreating, but did not join them till they had reached Rutherford County near Broad River North Carolina. General Clarke was still with the troops. We proceeded then towards Georgia through South Carolina. On our way, in South Carolina, we fell in with a party of Tories and British troops under Colonel Dunlap a British officer, who retreated into a large house hard by, where they fought us manfully. Overpowered, they at last surrendered, and we took Dunlap and several of his men prisoners. We took him and the prisoners back to a little town in North Carolina called Gilbert, where Dunlap we kept confined some time, in an upper room, where one of our man (as was said) privately shot him dead with a pistol. We then returned in the South Carolina towards Georgia, for the purpose of going home. But as declarant's wife was still near Kings Mountain at his father's [sic, father-in-law's house], General Clarke discharged me on our way through South Carolina, promising me a written discharge when I should arrive in Wilkes County Georgia, which he accordingly afterwards did. Thereupon declarant went to his father-in-law's and brought his wife and family to their home in the County and State last aforesaid. Captain Herd, and General Clarke were all the time of the aforesaid services with the said troops with which the Declarant served as aforesaid, and Major Cunningham was the major who commanded under General Clarke, in said troops during all the time after Declarant was paroled as aforesaid. This Declarant was discharged, as he verily believed, in October 1781, but he cannot recollect the exact day and may be mistaken even in the month. But he can state positively that he immediately from and after said 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1780 (which date [he] remembers distinctly from the circumstances that a song fresh in his recollection made on the subject of his meeting Clarke on that day at said Spring) he served in the Army of the revolution as above detailed, at least one year, and he verily believed to thirteen months. After his six months for

which he was drafted as aforesaid was out, he and all his Company with the officers thereof remained in service as volunteers at the urgent request of General Clarke whom the men loved and were willing to follow, and he served in that capacity all the time aforesaid after the expiration of said six months. He always served as a private, and in [illegible words] fifteen months. Therefore said discharge was all he ever received for the aforesaid services, and shortly after the war, it was burnt in his house which was set on fire by a Tory who owed him a grudge. With General Clarke, Colonel Dooly, Major Cunningham, General Rutherford, General Cronich, and Colonel Love he was well acquainted. He knew General Sevier, Colonel Campbell and General Morgan – and these were all the officers of the Revolution whose names he recollects. He has no record of his age. After he returned to Wilkes County as aforesaid with his family, he lived there about a year – thence he removed near to Ninety Six South Carolina where he lived five or six years – thence he removed to ~~East Tennessee~~ within 8 miles of ~~County~~ Augusta, Georgia, four or five years – thence he removed to Franklin County, Georgia, where he lived three or four years – thence he went to Burke County North Carolina where he resided where he lived several years, but cannot say how long – Thence he went [to] Buncombe County North Carolina-- thence he removed to Caulk County Tennessee where he lived about two years – thence he removed to Jefferson County Tennessee where he lived about one year – thence he removed to Hamilton County about the year 1809 – where he lived about seven years – thence he removed to Washington County Indiana, where he lived seven years – thence he came to said County of Greene, Indiana, where he now lives, and has ever since lived, except that for a short part of the time he returned to said County of Washington, Indiana but has constantly lived in Greene County Indiana for the last nine years – He knows of no person by whom he can prove his services aforesaid, except Mordecai Miller who is a Revolutionary Pensioner and whose deposition is hereto attached. But Joseph Wilson a clergyman of his neighborhood, and William Brazil & William Barker also citizens of his neighborhood, all well known to declarant can testify as to his character for truth and veracity, and their opinion of him as a Soldier of the Revolution. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Joshua Burnett, X his mark

[Joseph Wilson, a clergyman, William Barker and William Brazzel gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 26]

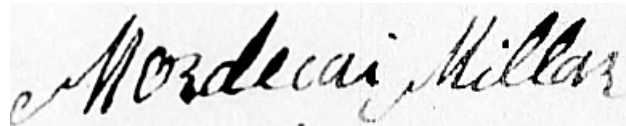
November the 4<sup>th</sup> 1836

This day personally appeared before me Henry McAllister a Justice of the peace in and for Adams Township in Morgan County and State of Indiana Mordecai Millar<sup>2</sup> and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is personally acquainted with Joshua Burnett of Green County and Plummer Township and State of Indiana and further states that he saw the said Joshua Barnett in the Service of the United States under General Clarke of Georgia at the time of the first Siege of Augusta.

Sworn and subscribed to this before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1836

S/ Henry McAllister

S/ Mordecai Millar

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mordecai Millar". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

---

<sup>2</sup> [Mordecai Millar \(Miller\) S16972](#)

[p 33: On November 4, 1842 in Knox County Illinois, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Illinois agency stating that he was unable to labor and support himself and family in Indiana and in consequence thereof was compelled to move to Illinois that his son (not named) might take care of him and his wife. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Georgia militia.]