

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Cunningham S3249

fn32NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/22/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[State of Tennessee, Bedford County]

On this 9th Day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 Personally appeared in open Court be [before] the worshipful Samuel Phillips, John B Armstrong and William McClure Esquires gentlemen Justices of the peace appointed the Quorum to hold the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Bedford County in the State aforesaid, now sitting, William Cunningham a resident of said County aged eighty-five years three months and seven days; 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 the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted soldier in Guilford County and State of North Carolina, sometime about the last of July 1776 and was placed in a company commanded by Captain John Nelson, and Lieutenant Josiah Gates who was under the command of General Rutherford Colonel James Martin and John Paistley [sic, Paisley] – he states he was marched to Salisbury; and from there to Catheys Fort on the head of the Catawba River, and from there he was marched into the Cherokee Nation, passing some small Indian towns the names of which he does not now recollect; on to the town of Watawga [Watauga] where an engagement was expected, but the Indians had left the Town, and the Americans sent it on fire and destroyed it. Deponent states that the troops under General Rutherford remained near that place for some days for the arrival of the troops from South Carolina under the command of General Williamson [Andrew Williamson]; and from there he was marched back into Guilford County again and dismissed in the month of November in the same year after serving not less than three months. Deponent states that sometime after that he thinks year 1780 he removed to that part of the country now called Washington County in the State of Tennessee and settled on Nolichucky River and that he volunteered and entered the service again as a private soldier in Captain Adam Sherrill's company of volunteers, who were under the command of General John Sevier, and was marched upon French broad River about the middle of June 1780 and was stationed there for three months, during which time he was frequently out on scouting parties against the Cherokee Indians who were at that time very troublesome and frequently committed depredations on the whites, And as well as he now recollects he was dismissed from service about the middle of September 1780 after serving not less than three months, making in all a

term of service of not less than six months actual service in the war of the Revolution for which he claims a pension. Although he states he was in several scouting expeditions against the Tories previous to his removal from North Carolina for some eight or ten days at a time, but for that service he does not claim a pension. He further says that he never did receive a discharge in writing. This applicant says he was born in the County Dennagall [sic, Donegal] in the North of Ireland on the 2nd day of February 1748 – agreeable to the information of his parents, and that he has no record of his age whatever – He further says that he had no acquaintance with any regular officer with the troops where he served, he says he saw General Williamson in the Cherokee Nation who he was told was a Regular Officer; that he has no recollection of the names or numbers of any Regiment that was with the troops where he served at this time – and believes the foregoing declaration exhibits a history of the most prominent circumstances of his Service. Applicant says he is known to James B Lawery Esquire Colonel John Blackwell, Thomas Coffey Esquire and James D Anderson in his present neighborhood; But on account of old age and being very infirm he has not been able to travel about so as to form an acquaintance with a clergyman; nor does he know of anyone in the immediate neighborhood where he now lives – he says he was a citizen of Guilford County North Carolina when he first entered the Service, and resided in Washington County East Tennessee when he was last in service and from there he removed to South Carolina and in the year 1817 when he removed to the State of Alabama where he remained until the year 1829 when he removed to Bedford County Tennessee where he has resided ever since and where he now resides; And that he hereby are relinquishes all and every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in the United States. He further states that he has no documentary evidence whatever and declares that there is no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service except what he can prove by the Affidavit of John Burns Senior.¹ Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jas. McKisick, C Clk.

S/ Wm Cunningham

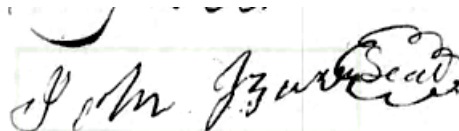


[fn p. 17]

This day John Burns Senior a resident of Bedford County aged upwards of Eighty years personally appeared in open Court and after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he was a soldier in the War of the Revolution himself and that he became acquainted with William Cunningham who subscribed and was sworn to the foregoing declaration, in the summer and fall of the year 1776 that he was then a private soldier in Captain John Nelson's company and that said William Cunningham served as such in the Cherokee nation not less than three months – Sworn to and subscribed this 9th Day of May 1833.

S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk

S/ John Burns



[James B Lowry and James D Anderson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ [John Burns S1944](#)

[fn p. 4: letter dated September 7th, 1844 addressed to J L Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions from William Cunningham, the son of the veteran by the same name stating that sometime in March 1838 his mother died; that his father then moved from Tennessee to Alabama to live with him; that his father died April 15, 1842 and had not drawn his pension from the time he left Tennessee in 1838 until he died in 1842. The veteran's son is inquiring as to how he might file for the pension due his father from the time he moved from Tennessee until the date he died.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for six months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]