

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Burke (Burk) S37802
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

DISTRICT OF Virginia, SS.

On the 31st day of March 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court for the said district, personally appeared William Burk aged sixty years, resident in Frederick County in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said William Burk enlisted in the fall of 1776 in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Peter Brian Bruin [Peter Bryan Bruin, pension application S42092] of the said state 11th Regiment Virginia line; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States until the end of the war, when he was discharged from service in Richmond state of Virginia, that he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], German Town [Germantown PA, 4 Oct 1777], Monmoth [sic: Monmouth NJ, 28 Jun 1778], white plains [28 Oct 1776], Long Island [27 Aug 1776], Eutaw springs [8 Sep 1781], Guilford Courthouse [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], Bufords defeat [defeat of Col. Abraham Buford at the Battle of Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] &c and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

I do Certify that William Burk has served as a soldier in Partizan Ligion Commanded by [Lt. Col. Henry] Lee from the 11th Day of March 1781 for which Time has Received no pay from the said Ligion Given under my hand this 12th Day of August 1783 Wm Winston [William Winston] Leut/ Lees Ligion Corporation of Winchester Towit
Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said Corporation Conrad Kremer and Made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that the above is a True Copy of the original sworn to before me this 2^d Day of oct 1817 J[?] Baker

I am called on by William Burke of Winchester Virginia, to certify my knowlege of his military engagements during the revolutionary war.

I well recollect William Burke to have enlisted under Capt. Peter B. Bruin in the reg't. commanded by the late Gen'l. Daniel Morgan; this was early in the war, & was the first company raised in the reg't.

I recollect repeatedly during the war to have seen William Burke & always a soldier, in this station I well remember him when the army was discharged.

For many years William Burke has resided in Winchester, he was robust on his discharge from the army & maintained himself by his labor, of late he has become debilitated & his understanding much imparied, & as I recollect him always considered by his officers as a gallant & faithful soldier. I give this certificate with pleasure.

Given under my hand this 7th day of March 1818.

John Smith of Virg'a [probably pension application S6114]

I recollect that the above named William Burke enlisted as a private in Captain Peter B. Bruin's Company late in the year 1776 or early in 1777 to serve during the Revolutionary War, (in which Company I at that time served as Ensign) I also recollect that he was in service at Valley Forge in the month of April 1778 at which time I left the 11th Virginia Regiment to which Bruin's Company belong'd returned to Virginia

where after remaining some time I went into one of the Virginia State Regiments in which I served as a Captain and Major until late in April 1781 when I retired as a Supernumerary Officer. In the month of March preceding I left the American Army under the command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] preparing to pursue the British Troops under the command of Lord Cornwallis who were retreating from Guilford Court House after the general engagement which took place there (I think on the 15th of March) between the hostile armies, and I well recollect seeing the said William Burk in service with the Troops under General Greens command as a private in Colo Lees Legion both before & after the action at Guilford Court House. Certified the 28th day of March 1818 by

Cha. Magill [Charles Magill, pension application W5336]

Virginia, At a Court held for the Corporation of Winchester the 30th day of June 1820.
Corporation of Winchester Ss.

On the 30th day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for said Corporation, William Burk aged sixty three years, resident in the said Corporation of Winchester, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the revolutionary War, in the company commanded by Capt. Brian Bruin in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Daniel Morgan in the Virginia line, from which he was transferred to the legion of Cavalry commanded by Lieut. Colo Henry Lee, and that he hath received a certificate for a pension which is not numbered, but which is signed by J. C. Calhoun Secretary of War, and is dated the 20th day of May 1818. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, viz:

One Table, One Chair, and some Benches, a few earthen cups, plates and dishes, one Chest, three or four knives and forks, a pail, a skillet, except necessary clothing and bedding.

William hisXmark Burk

I have no occupation being subject to fits, and utterly incapable of any kind of labour, nor have I any family residing with me, excepting my wife, who is also sixty three years of age, and able to do but very little work – indeed all her time is employed in taking care of me.

William hisXmark Burk

NOTE: A document in the file states that Burk died on 23 Jan 1826. The file includes a power of attorney dated 7 Aug 1828 supposedly assigned to Col. Joseph Martin by Margaret Kremer, wife of Peter Kremer, the daughter and only heir of William Burk, for the purpose of obtaining bounty land. The power of attorney was certified by Conrad Kremer and Lemuel Bent. A letter dated 29 July 1854 alleges that no such Joseph Martin ever lived in Frederick County, that Kremer did not know of the application or receive the bounty land, and that such an application should have been made in the name of Burk's widow, who was still living in 1828.