

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Blackburn S42619

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio,

Personally appeared before the subscriber Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio James Blackburn who being duly sworn states that he enlisted in the continental army in July seventeen hundred and seventy six under Captain Haines and was attached to the regiment commanded by Col. [blank] who commanded a regiment, under General Bell [sic: Reazin Beall], who commanded a brigade of the flying camp. That he continued in the above service near five months, at which time his tour of service expired. The said James Blackburn further states that he was draughted as stated in the letter of the Honorable Timothy Pickering hereto attached, to which he refers, as also to the discharge contained on the same. He further states, that in the fall of the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine, that he was elected a Lieutenant of the company which was stationed frequently on the frontier and appointed to range the country as a guard against the Indian tribes, that he continued in this service until the peace of 1783 sometime before which, he was elected a captain. This company was of the militia. the said James Blackburn further states that while engaged in the public armory, he received thirty dollars per month. His circumstances are extremely reduced, and applies to his government for assistance, of whose assistance he is greatly in need. He is now near sixty six years old. [signed] James Blackburn

War Office March 27 1778

Sir, The Bearer James Blackburn, a soldier draughted in Virginia for the continental service, for the year is, he says, by trade a gunsmith and is desirous of serving out his time at the business. You will receive him into the public shop, and if you find him capable of working to advantage, retain him during the year for which he is draughted. If he is not sufficiently acquainted with the gunsmith business, yet he may be with that of a simple blacksmith, & in the latter case you may retain him if you want him. Let the board know whether after trial you retain him or not.

Y'r. h'ble Servant

Tim Pickering jun'r.

By order of ye board

Major [Charles] Lukens.

The within mentioned James Blackburn has faithfully served in the Continental Armoury near this place from the Date of this letter to the 22^d day of this Instant, and is Hereby Discharged

Given at Carlisle this 24th day of February 1779. Chas. Lukens Major

Whom it may Concern

Col. Flowers [Benjamin Flower's] Reg't Art'y. &c

Pleas held at Lebanon in the County of Warren in the State of Ohio on the seventh day of August in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred & twenty Before the Honorable Joshua Collett Esquire President Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas for the Seventh Circuit & Ignatius Brown, Jacob D Lowe & Matthias Corwin Associate Judges

Be it remembered that on the 24th day of August in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred & twenty personally appeared in open Court, (being a court of Record instituted pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio) having unlimited concurrent original Jurisdiction in civil & criminal cases) James Blackburn aged sixty eight years, resident in said County of Warren & Seventh Circuit who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the revolutionary war as follows viz, Enlisted some time about the Spring of 1776 in the Company commanded by Capt. Hinds in the Corps called the flying camp Commanded by General Bell. At the time of his Enlistment he resided in the State of Virginia, but Enlisted in the Maryland line & served in the said

Company & line for the space of five or six months when he was discharged at Phyladelphia In the following year he was drafted at Romney in the State of [West] Virginia to serve one year to fill up the broken Regiments at which time he received a bounty of twenty dollars if correctly recollectd. That he was marched to York town Pa. where he was ordered by the board of war to repair to Carlisle to Join Col Flowers Corps of Artillery Artificers as will more fully appear by a letter from Col T. Pickering (who presided) on which his discharge was written which he supposes is now on file in the War office. That he continued to serve in said Corps, for the full term for which he engaged when he was discharged by Major Lukins. That he originally declared to these facts some time in May 1818 & has received a pension certificate (numbered 1903) 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.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Cow & calf | \$16.00 |
| 7 Sheep | 14.00 |
| 2 Hogs | 4.00 |
| 1 Ten gallon kettle | 3.00 |
| 1 17 Gallon kettle much broken | 3.25 |
| 1 Pot | 2.00 |
| 1 Tea kettle | 2.00 |
| 1 Old oven & pot | 1.50 |
| 1 Gun | 12.00 |
| Cupboard ware | 5.00 |
| 2 Old tubs | 2.00 |
| ½ Doz chairs | 4.00 |
| 2 Pot Trammels | 2.00 |
| 1 Axe & two Spinning wheels | <u>6.60</u> |
| | \$77.25 |

A claim to a tract of land of about eighty four acres for which I have no title, the legal title having passed out of Judge Symmes the patentee to one John Vance after my purchase by a mortgage on which there is yet due about five hundred dollars. There is also in this County a bill in Chancery, the object of which is to sell said land, to pay said Mortgage & any ballance that may accrue to be applied to the payment of a Judgment of about two thousand dollars against me as the security of or for my son William on a contract for some goods, after which my said son died & the goods being improperly managed by the Administrator, that of assets accrued my claim to the land under these circumstances can be only for the time I yet can occupy the premises which may perhaps be one year, I consider of no value the occupancy may be worth \$40.00

James Blackburn

My trade is that of a gun Smith, which I have for many years been unable to pursue in consequence of my advanced age & bodily infirmity, which indeed renders me unable to do anything of consequence toward contributing toward the support of a sickly & helpless family. I have a wife (Martha) & two children living with me. my wife is fifty five years of age – has long been troubled with the dropsy, abile to do but little. James Blackburn son 19 years of age, no trade now on his death bed (in the opinion of Physicians & all others) with consumption Rebecca Blackburn daughter aged 16 years laboring under a consumption of which disease two of our Children have died in about one year.

James Blackburn

[Blackburn's pension was suspended because it was thought he owned too much property.]

The State of Ohio }
 Warren County }

On this 29th day of May 1823 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of Record for the County of Warren one of the Counties composing the Seventh Circuit of the court of Common Pleas in the State of Ohio) James Blackburn a resident of said County of Warren aged seventy years the 12th of November last, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare as follows in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of the 18th March 1818, the 1st May 1820 and the first March 1823. That he the said James Blackburn enlisted for the Term of six months some time in the year 1776 in the State of Maryland in the company commanded by Captain Andrew Hines (the number of the Regiment not recollected) in the Brigad commanded by Gen'l. ___ Bell commonly called the "Flying Camp" in the line of the State of Maryland on the Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the Corps until (time not recollected) when he was discharged from said service in Philadelphia in the state of Pennsylvania and afterwards viz. about the year 1777 or 78 he was drafted at Romney in the State of Virginia for one year to fill up the Broken Regiments of the Continental establishment (as this Deponent then understood). That he was sent by the direction of Colo. Hight of Va. to report himself to a board of war then at Little York in the State of Pennsylvania at which time Timothy Pickering presided to the best of his knowledge. That he was sent from York to Carlisle in Pa. with a letter from T. Pickering to Major Lukins of the latter place to receive this Deponent into the Continental Corps of Artillery Artificers commanded by Colo. ___ Flowers. At the end of the year he was discharged by the said Lukins which discharge was written on the back of the original Letter sent by the said Timothy Pickering which Letter and discharge were sent by this Deponent to the war office of the United States with his original application for a Pension under the act of the 18th March 1818.

[Oath similar to that in the 1820 application follows.]

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Heifer worth | \$3.00 | brot up | \$11.70 |
| 3 Sheep @ 125 | 3.73 | ½ doz old chairs | 1.50 |
| 1 Kettle | 1.25 | 1 Old Pot Trammel | .50 |
| 1 Large Kettle (broken) | 1.00 | 1 pr Tongs | .75 |
| 1 Pot | .70 | 1 old Axe | .50 |
| 1 Old Tea Kettle | .75 | 1 [illegible word] in D F Heeder[?] | 20.00 |
| Cupboard ware | .75 | 1 " " A Koogle | <u>8.50</u> |
| 1 Old Table | <u>.50</u> | Totals | 43.45 |
| carried | 11.70 | James Blackburn | |

That the following changes have been made in my property since the exhibition of my first Schedule viz.

| Articles } | Names of Persons to whom sold } | Time of sale } | Amt. of money or other property in return } |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 Cow } | D & J. Pr. Harlingen[?] | Spring of 1821 } | \$10 payt of Physician |
| 1 Gun } | McMahon | Spring of 1821 } | \$12 In [?] which was paid Doty I Van Hustin gen for Medical aid. |

11 Sheep with some increase of the Flock have been killed by the dogs or died

1 Calf killed for the use of my Family

2 Hogs do do

1 Table worn out and broken

1 Wheel do do

1 do given my only Daughter

My Land has passed from me by an action of Ejectment and Judgment of the court To avoid an apparent contradiction it may be proper to state that property of almost every discription (except provisions) can

be bought for half the money it would have commanded in the circulating medium of 1820 in this part of the Country.

My occupation was that of a Gun Smith which I am now entirely unable to pursue.

After a long and tedious Illness my wife died since my last application for a continuance of the Pension. I have a Daughter Rebecca about 17 years of age who yet lives with me though very unhealthy Sworn in open Court May 29th 1823

James Blackburn

[A supporting statement was signed by 15 of Blackburn's neighbors. A document dated 17 Nov 1823 indicates that Blackburn had been reinstated on the pension roll.]