

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Burton S6609

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

North Carolina        }

Rockingham County }

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Superior Court of N. Carolina now holding the Superior Court for the County of Rockingham State of North Carolina Robert Burton a resident of Rockingham County N. Carolina aged sixty eight years the 18<sup>th</sup> of October last who being first duly sworn in open Court according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7 day of June 1832 That he entered the service of the United States as a soldier in the revolutionary war under the following named officers & served as heren after set forth. That on or about the first of January 1781 he was drafted as a militia man in the County of Campbell state of Virginia and immediately thereafter went in to the service under one Captain Thomas McReynolds of Campbell County Virginia in the regiment commanded by Thomas Mereweather [sic: Thomas Meriwether] attached to Gen'l. Mulenburg's [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] brigade that he was marched from Campbell County to Petersburg Cabbin Point [sic: Cabin Point on James River in Surry County] & from thence to Babbs old field near the Town of Norfolk, from thence to Edmunds Hill & from thence to the Eastern part of North Carolina to Blackwater Creek from whence we were marched back to Babb's old field From this point we were marched twelve miles toward the Town of Petersburg where we was stationed for two weeks at the expiration of which he was marched to Prince George Court House where he was discharged and delivered over his arms & Camp Equipage to the authorities appointed to receive and take care of them. That at this time he received a written discharge signed by his Captain McReynolds which he has long since lost. That the time of his discharge was at the expiration of his three months service though the precise date thereof he cannot now recollect. That during this campaign a while at Edmunds Hill the American troops were frequently annoyed by the British forces who at that time had possession of a fortification, called long bridge Fort [probably near Great Bridge], situate on a creek called Long Creek six or seven miles from Norfolk on one occasion our troops were drawn out & formed in battle line presenting but a small part of our force in view of the enemy with a hope that they might be induced to leave their entrenchment. The force they disposed of was Col. Boyer's [sic: Bowyer's] rifle regiment who for several hours kept up a fire directed upon the fort and many cannon shot were discharged at them by the enemy. The musketry to which he was attached constituted the main force & were held in reserve & were not brought into action as the enemy refused to advance from their entrenchments – he has no knowledge who commanded the enemy or what amount of troops were stationed in said fortification. The American forces engaged in this affair & those to which he belonged in the entire campaign were under the command of Gen. Mulenburg. That before he left the army he heard of the battle of Guilford in N. Carolina [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] he reached home some time in the month of April 1781.

In the following month (May 1781) he was again drafted into the militia service in the said County of Campbell for another tour of three months service, under Captain Alexander Cummins of Campbell County in the regiment commanded by Col John Holcombe of Prince Edward County state of Virginia attached to the Brigade Commanded by Gen'l. Robert Lawson. That he was marched from Campbell County through Charlotte & a corner of Prince Edward crossing the Appamotox [sic: Appomattox] River at Rutledges Bridge, from thence to Cartersville on James River about forty miles above Richmond where we crossed the river & after marching some few miles, news of the enemy being near in considerable numbers when we were ordered to retreat and recross the river about twelve miles above Cartersville at a place called the Pointy fork [sic: Point of Fork at confluence of Rivanna and James Rivers] the morning

after [probably on 6 Jun] the enemy showed themselves on the opposite side of the river & when they fired a three pounder across the river which struck and killed the horse of a Lieutenant the name of the officer he does not recollect – at the time it was supposed the shot was particularly aimed and intended for our Gen'l. Lawson who was in full view to the enemy. From thence our retreat was continued to a place called Dunnevents Springs in Prince Edward County. Then Gen'l. Lawson to whose force he belonged encamped, while the other part of the army composed of a brigade of eighteen months enlisted men (the name of their gen'l. or commanding officer he cannot recollect [Gen. Baron von Steuben]) marched on as he understood to Halifax County in Virginia. That he remained encamped at the place about six days when we were again marched to Cartersville , crossing the river marched near Williamsburg where we remained until near the expiration of our service when about two hundred of us were detached under the command of Major John DeClomon [sic: Jean Baptiste de Lomagne BLWt1003-400] to guard certain mills the name he cannot recollect situate [illegible word] near Williamsburg. That he remained there eight days when we were relieved by a fresh detachment and marched back to headquarters where he remained until the expiration of his term when he was discharged in writing by his Captain the said Alex Cumings, that he has lost his discharge, & cannot now produce the same

That he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of anyone now living by whom he could prove the same or any part thereof

In answer to the interrogatories of the court he states he was born in the County of Amelia State of Virginia from which at the age of nine[?] years he removed to Campbell County Virginia [formed from Bedford County in 1781] where he resided at the time he entered into the service as herein before stated that he continued to reside there at the close of the war that he now lives in Rockingham County North Carolina. He states that he was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1764 that he has no record of his age but is enabled to refer to the time of his birth as it has been told him by his parents.

Being required to state who of his neighbors will testify to his character for veracity and their belief in his having been a soldier of the revolution he states that William Donnell & Robert Martin and others of his neighbors will testify to the same

he relinquishes all claim to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

[signed] Robert Burton