

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Burnley (Brownlee, Burley) W12385      Mary Burnley      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 Jan 2018.

Virginia

Augusta County, to Wit,

This day [18 Apr 1818] James Burnley, of the County aforesaid, personally appeared before me, John Brown, Judge of the Chancery District Court holden at Staunton in the County & state aforesaid, and being sworn, saith, That in the Spring of the year 1777, he enlisted, as a private, for Three years, in Cap. Hawkins' [Moses Hawkins BLWt1449-300] Company, 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia regiment on Continental establishment; Cap. Hawkins having been killed in the battle of German-Town [Germantown 4 Oct 1777], this affiant was placed under Cap. Overton [John Overton BLWt1615-300], of the same regiment, where he continued until the term of his enlistment expired, upon which, he reenlisted, for during the war, in the same company & regt. & continued therein until the year 1781, when he was discharged, in consequence of his wounds, by Doctr. Gilman Physician at Albemarle old Barracks in Virginia. This Affiant faithfully served his country during the time he was in its service; – was at the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], White Marsh [Whitemarsh PA, 5 Dec 1777], White plains [28 Oct 1776] & Mud Island Fort [Siege of Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, 10 Oct - 15 Nov 1777], & in several skirmishes, & received many & some very severe, wounds. At the time this affiant left the Army, he got a regular discharge, which he gave to one of the Delegates of the Virginia Assembly, from the County of Fluvanna, (where this affiant then resided) with a view to obtain a pension from the state of Virginia; – From some cause or other, not known to this affiant, this application did not succeed, nor can he tell what has become of his discharge, never having seen it since; – He is also ignorant whether the gentleman to whom he entrusted it, is yet living, or if living, where he resides, having been informed that he has, long since, removed from the said County of Fluvanna. This Affiant also saith, That by his industry & great exertions, he has been enabled to acquire a little real property in the Town of Waynesborough [sic: Waynesboro] in the said County of Augusta, which furnishes him with a home, – but old age & infirmities, together with the effects proceeding from his wounds, have nearly disqualified him from further labour, – and his property is not of such a description as to aid him in the maintenance of himself & family, without exposing it to sale, & thereby depriving himself of a home; – He has never been allowed a pension by the Laws of the United States nor from any other source; – His circumstances are reduced, and he stands in need of the aid of his country for support.

This is to Certify that James Burnley Received a wound in Mud Island fort that the phisians thought would have proved fatal; and to my own knowledge were so disabled as not to be capable of Walking without assists and I believe him to have been a good soldier and worthy of your worships attention August 20<sup>th</sup> 1792 I am your Worships most obt S't/ David Mullins

State of Virginia

Augusta County to wit

on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record for said County in which proceedings are had according to the course of the common Law with jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount having the power of fine and imprisonment and having all its proceedings duly registered) James Burnlay aged about seventy years resident in the said County, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows that he enlisted with Captain Moses Hawkins in Fluvanna Va. that he marched under the said Captain to Middlebrook in New Jersey from thence to the White plains and was engaged in the battle of Brandywine in the fourteenth Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Lewis [Charles Lewis VAS901], and was afterwards engaged at the seige of Mud Island from whence he went to Valley forge where the army

wintered he afterwards fought in the battle of Monmouth and was discharged by the Dr General [Surgeon General] as being incapable of service. he is now so infirm from age that he is able to do but very little he has already made a declaration under the Act of Congress passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818, the date of which declaration he does not recollect his pension certificate is dated the seventh day of January 1819. he further swears that he was a Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818, and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed. he further deposeth that the only members of his family are himself and his wife who is about fifty years old in bad health and not able to do any work. he rents a small house with a little Lot containing less than a quarter of an acre his circumstances are so destitute as to require the assistance of his Country for a support — Schedule of the Estate of the said James Burnley necessary cloathing and Bedding excepted.

2 Beds & furniture

1 set Knives & forks 1 d[itt]o Spoons 4 Chairs 1 spade

1 Mattock

Shovel & Tongs 1 Pot Rack 3 Pots

1 Oven

1 Frying

1 Flesh fork \$56.00

Rent due against the same property/ \$60.00 James hisXmark Burnley

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Burnley, or Brumley, James. The file also includes a copy of Burnley’s 1818 federal pension application.]

Augusta County to wit

this day Thomas Campbell came before me a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid and made Oath that James Brumley now of said County did In List in the Contanantal service for three years & that he the said Thomas Campbell was in Gen’l. Scotts [Charles Scott BLWt2055-850] Brigade with him the said James Brumley nearly the whole three years.

Given under my hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Feb’y 1822 Lewis Wayland

NOTES:

On 2 March 1855 John Wayt of Staunton stated that while a merchant in Waynesboro he had sold necessities to James Brownlee and also collected his pension, and that Brownlee was sometimes called James Burnley and sometimes General James Burley.

On 23 March 1855 Mary Burnley, about 67, applied for bounty land stating that as Mary Eve she was married by Rev. Josiah Cole in Augusta County on 28 Jan 1825 to James Burnley, who died on 13 March 1836.