

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jacob Bush W24685      Margaret Bush      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Mar 2013.

State of Virginia      } SS  
Lewis County towit    }

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the Court of the County of Lewis now sitting. Jacob Bush resident of the said County and State of Virginia, aged Seventy Six Years, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. In the Spring of the Year 1778 (but does not recollect the precise time) he volunteered in Capt. Samuel Pringle's company of Indian Spies he joined the company of Capt. Pringle at the Buckhannon Fort then in the County of Monongalia in the state of Virginia [at present Red Rock in Upshur County WV] and continued in the service as an Indian Spy under Capt. Pringle until in the Fall of 1779 when he was discharged, while under Capt. Pringle he was engaged in Spying from the Buckhannon Fort then in the County of Monongalia Virginia now in the County of Lewis Virginia [sic] to the head waters of the West fork and little Kanawha Rivers then in the said County of Monongalia Virginia but now in Lewis County Virginia and frequently witnessed the massacres of the Indians and was required to persue the Savages to the Ohio River, his Lieutenants name he (thinks) was Westfall [see endnote] he thinks Capt. Pringle's company belonged to Col Zachariah Morgans [sic: Zackquil Morgan's] Rigemint of Militia in Monongalia County Virginia, he thinks Capt. Pringle gave him a discharge but can not be confident. If he did it is lost, he was in the service under Capt. Pringle as an Indian Spy about eighteen months, when he entered the service under Capt. Pringle he resided on the Buckhannon River then in Monongalia County Virginia. In the Year 1781 in the month of April or May according to his present recollection but cannot be confident as a substitute for his brother John Bush, at the Buckhannon Fort then in the County of Monongalia Virginia but now in the County of Lewis Virginia. he joined Capt. George Jackson's Company of Militia. William White was Lieutenant under Capt. Jackson the Ensigns name he has forgotten, he was marched shortly afterwards from the said Buckhannon Fort to the Fort near the mouth of Elk creek [Nutter Fork] now called Clarksburg the seat of Justice for the County of Harrison Virginia but at that time in the said County of Monongalia Virginia, he continued at the last mentioned place a short time and was marched from thence to MorganTown the seat of Justice for Monongalia County Virginia and there joined Col. Zachariah Morgan's Regiment, and in a short time thereafter was marched from thence to a place on the Monongahalia [sic: Monongahela] River called the "New Store" [now Elizabeth PA] abut fifteen miles above Pittsburg and there joined General Rodger Clarkes [sic: George Rogers Clark's] Army. was continued at the "New Store" some considerable time in preparing boats and getting flour for the Campaign, from the "New Store" descended the River to Pittsburgh and there the whole Army got into flat bottom boats and went on down the Ohio River to its Falls now Louisville, that in descending the River he was frequently required to act as a hunter, the hunting party he thinks was Commanded by a Col. Green his baptismal name is not recollected [see endnote], that one day while engaged as a hunter he discovered two deer on the north side of the Ohio River (the hunters were advised not to hunt on that side of the River for fear they might be molested by the Indians) being in a small boat at the time with some others, he wished to land in order to kill the Deer, the others in the boat advised him not to attempt it, however he was landed and killed both Deer, and took them on board, in the evening when we were joined by Genl Clarke, the circumstances of killing the Deer was made known to Genl. Clarke and Declarant presented Genl. Clarke an ham of one of the Deer who received it with expressions of kindness and treated Declarant with "whiskey". That he with Genl. Clarkes Army arrived at the Falls of the Ohio

River [at present Louisville KY] according to his present belief in August 1781 and continued there some time, while there near the Bear Grass Fort [Beargrass Fort about 3 mi E of Louisville] five Officers were killed three of whom he thinks were Captains [see endnote]. when the news arrived at the Falls, about thirty men were ordered to proceed to the place where the officers had been killed in order to destroy the Indians who had committed the outrage he was one of the men ordered to perform this service, this party with two friendly Indians who acted as guides proceeded to the place where the officers were killed found the Dead bodies; got on the trail of the Indians who had committed the act and pursued it to where it crossed the Ohio River about five miles above the Falls; the party then give the pursuit and went back to the Dead bodies and carried them to the Falls where they were buried. He with many others became sick after being at the Falls sometime with the fever and ague, and when the Army was discharge which he thinks was sometime in the Fall of 1781 he was unable to return home he continued sick nearly the whole of the following winter, and some time the next spring reached home but the precise time he is unable to state however he is confident he was gone on this last mentioned service upwards of one Year making his whole service during the revolutionary war about two Years and six months. he thinks he received a discharge from this last mentioned service but does recollect [sic] by whom it was signed as it has been lost. he resided at this said Buckhannon fort when he substituted for his brother in Capt. Jackson's Company. He has no documentary evidence, but supposes he can prove his services by David W. Sleeth [pension application S6111], Alexander West [W6450], and William Powers [S18164] of Lewis County Virginia. To the 1<sup>st</sup> Interrogatory required by the War Department to be propounded He answers That he was born in the Year 1756 in the County of Hampshire Virginia as he was informed by his father.

To the 2<sup>d</sup>. Interrogatory He answers, That he has no record of his age.

To the 3<sup>d</sup>. Interrogatory He answers that he has already stated where he lived when called into the service, since the Revolution he has resided on the West fork River in the bounds of the County of Lewis Virginia and living there at this time.

To the 4<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory He states that he has already shown how he was called into the service.

To the 5<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory He refers to what he has before set forth in his Declaration

To the 6<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory He states that he has already stated that he believes he received two discharges which have been lost.

To the 7<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory He states that his is known to John Talbott a Clergyman & George Burston[?] in his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a solder of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state. Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and Year aforesaid.

Jacob hisB(mark Bush

Virginia }  
Lewis County } Towit

Alexander West a man of unquestionable veracity personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and made oath that in May 1781 he with Jacob Bush of Lewis County joined Capt George Jackson Company, and knows that said Bush was marched and joined Gen'l. Clarks army and with it descended the Ohio River to its Falls and was there discharged, said Bush got sick at the Falls & when the Army was discharged was unable to return home, he thinks said Bush did not get home until some time in the Spring or early part of the Summer of 1782.

Alexander hisXmark West

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832.

John McWhorter J.P.

Virginia } S.S.  
Lewis County }

David W. Sleeth a man of veracity and truth personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and made oath that he recollects that Jacob Bush of Lewis County served as an Indian Spy under Capt. Samuel Pringle for a considerable time from his knowledge of said Bush's services under Capt. Pringle he supposes that he must have served under said Pringle about 18 months is confident he was in said service upwards of a year. He also recollects that in the Spring of 1781 said Bush substituted for his brother John Bush in Capt. George Jackson's company and was marched from the Buckhannan Fort, and as it was understood joined Genl Clarks Army near Pittsburg and descended the Ohio River to its Fall's he recollects that said Bush did not return from said service until in the Spring or early part of the Summer of 1782, he has known said Bush for many years ever since about the year 1776 he has always been esteemed a man of veracity and truth

[signed] David W Sleeth

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1832. Sam'l Z Jones P.P.

NOTES:

Monongalia County, now in West Virginia, was formed in 1776 from the Western District of Augusta County VA.

According to J. T. McAllister's *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*, there was a Capt. Samuel Pringle of the Augusta County Militia, which often sent troops to the frontier forts. McAllister states that Jacob Westfall was recommended for a Lieutenancy in the Augusta County Militia on 19 Sep 1780 under Capt. Benjamin Wilson, who served on the frontier in Tygart Valley, Monongalia County. This is thought to be the Jacob Westfall who filed pension application W9159, although it does not mention Capt. Pringle or service in the frontier forts. A Jacob Westfall is said to have erected a fort just south of present Beverly WV in 1774. Andrew Lackey (S30533) also refers to a Lt. Westfall in a company of Indian spies in Monongalia County in 1779 commanded by Capt. Ralph Stewart of Augusta County. Isaac McHenry (R6732) refers to a Lt. George Westfall serving with a company of Indian spies in Monongalia County in 1780 commanded by Capt. Alexander Maxwell of Augusta County.

Jacob Westfall's pension application (W9159) provides a good account of George Rogers Clark's expedition to the Falls of Ohio. I could find no record of a Col. Green or Greene under Gen. George Rogers Clark.

Capt Abraham Tipton [pension application R18512] and Capt John Chapman [R13115] were killed by Indians at Beargrass Creek on 2 Sep 1781.

Bush's pension certificate was for \$80 per year for two years of service, payable up to the date of his death on 27 Nov 1832. It was sent by the Pension Office to Gideon D. Camden, who was apparently Bush's agent. Camden as well as David W. Sleeth and Samuel Z. Jones, were implicated as agents in a large number of fraudulent pension applications, as explained in my appendix to Sleeth's pension application (S6111). Beginning in the summer of 1834 US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton investigated numerous pension applicants from Lewis and many other counties of present West Virginia, but Bush's case was not investigated, probably because he had died. His widow, Margaret Bush, collected his pension up to the date of his death, but she was denied a widow's pension during her lifetime.

On 29 Mar 1843 Margaret Bush, 87, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Jacob Bush in 1779 by Parson Mitchell in Augusta County where they both lived 50 to 60 miles from the county seat. This document gives her surname before marriage as Snar, but other documents appear to show the name as Snarr, Snow, or Snan. On 20 May 1845 Margaret Bush filed another declaration, this time stating that the marriage occurred in the fall of 1782 on the South Branch of Potomac River in present Pendleton County WV. She believed her husband died 28 Nov 1832, and this date was certified on 8 July 1845 and again on 8 Sep 1845 by Susan Sleeth. A court document, however, gives the date of death as 27 Nov 1832.

On 3 May 1843 and also on 26 May 1845 another Margaret Bush of Gilmer County, widow of an Adam Bush, stated that she had known Jacob and Margaret Bush before they were married. On 27 April 1843 Adam Flesher (pension application S18403), age 79, certified the marriage of Jacob and Margaret Bush. On 2 Sep 1845 Flesher stated that Jacob and Margaret Bush moved to Lewis County in 1785 with their two children, Peter Bush and Susan Bush and had other children thereafter. (Flesher's statement was made before James M. Camp, another suspect in the pension frauds.) On 30 June 1845 George Butcher stated that Peter Bush, the oldest child of Jacob and Margaret Bush, was about 62.

The widow's application for a pension was denied for several reasons, including the following as stated in on 8 Sep 1845 a letter from her agent, Mat Edmiston, to the Pension Commissioner, J. S. Edwards: "You say it does not appear that Mr. Jacob Bush was a pensioner Now that a certificate was sent him there is no doubt on earth, because the money was drawn on it. It may be that he was styled an 'Indian Spy' or 'Volunteer' or something of that kind. But he was inscribed on the pension list in the last of the year 1832 or in the beginning of the year 1833." The significance of this objection is that Washington G. Singleton, the US District Attorney noted above, had convinced Edwards that the service of Indian spies and volunteers on the frontier was ineligible under the pension act of 1832, even though the act clearly specifies Indian spies and volunteers, and even though pensions had previously been granted for such service, including the one to Jacob Bush. For additional discussion see the appendix to Sleeth's pension application (S6111).

On 9 Sep 1851 Allen Simpson assigned power of attorney to obtain any pension that may have been due the heirs of Margaret Bush, deceased. A court document certified that Margaret Bush died on 28 July 1847 at her home on Horn Creek in Gilmer County leaving the following children: Henry Bush, Peter Bush, Jacob Bush, John Bush, George Bush, Elizabeth Stump, Margaret Stump, Barbary Fisher, and Susanah Simpson. Her son Michael Bush had died before her, leaving his wife Mary Bush and son Adam Bush. The heirs of Margaret Bush received a pension certificate dated 14 Nov 1851.