

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Blufford [Bluford] W25252

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Baltimore City Court

June Term 1837

Be it remembered that on this twenty second day of September eighteen hundred and thirty seven personally appeared in open Court now sitting, for Baltimore City aforesaid Sarah Blufford of Baltimore County in the State aforesaid [sic]. and in order to obtain the benefit of the third Section of act of Congress passed the 4th July 1836 Entitled "An Act granting half pay to widows or orphans where their husbands or Fathers have died of wounds received in the military service of the united states, in certain cases, and for other purposes"

And being duly sworn according to law declareth and saith that She is now aged about 79 years That she is the widow of William Blufford, dec'd. late of Baltimore County aforesaid who was a regular soldier of the Revolution and who in the years 1780 & 1781 served as a regular Continental Waggon Master in the Service of the United States under David Poe who was a deputy Quarter Master General for Baltimore in the Service of the United States; That she was married to said William Blufford in the year 1780, while he was in said Service; That she has heard him say he enlisted for 5 years and continued in the Service untill after the taking of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] That he died in the year 1800 and that she has not married again since his death as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed

Sarah herXmark Blufford

[William Hissey, pension application R4929, stated that "he was personally acquainted with William Blufford who was a continental Waggon Master in the Service of the United States in the War of the Revolution; that he knew him in the said service from the Spring of the year 1780 until after the taking of Cornwallis in October 1781."]

Baltimore Decem'r 9, 1837

J. L. Edwards Esqr

Com'r of Pensions

Sir As to my marriage with William Blufford, I recollect perfectly that it took place Aug 14 1780; and the ceremony was performed by the Rev'd Mr. West, of the St Pauls Protestant Episcopal church. That, our match was a runaway one; and we went to the Parsons house in Baltimore very early in the morning; that he was called from bed, and came down with only his Gown & Wig, on, and thus performed the Ceremony of marriage between William Blufford & me. Search has been made in the Records of s'd. St Pauls Church but, the Records of that date & for many years thereabouts are lost. I trust however, that the proof herewith submitted will be satisfactory.

As to the fact of my husbands being regularly in the army I have no doubt; as he came on to Baltimore with the Virginia troops as they were going to the north and I have heard him say he was at the Battle of Brandywine, where a bullet went through his coat and he had a very narrow escape from being taken prisoner.

After our marriage my husband continued in the service and did not leave it for at least seven months after our marriage. Proof of his being in the service after our marriage is already before you.

Respectfully your ob't Servant

Sarah Blufford herXmark

I have heard my husband say He enlisted in Virginia; and I think he said He served five years and enlisted in the Virginia line

State of Maryland
City of Baltimore S.S.

On this 2nd day of April eighteen hundred and thirty eight Before me the Subscriber on of the Justices of the Peace in and for the City aforesaid Personally appeared Sarah Blufford, a resident of Baltimore County in the State aforesaid aged about 80 years, and known to me as entitled to credit, and being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath declare, that she is the widow of William Blufford, a soldier of the Revolution, to whom she was married on the 14 day of August 1780; and their first child Rachel was born July 25 1781 – That they were married by Parson West of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at Baltimore, and that on application for a certificate of said marriage, it is found that the Church Records of that date, are lost. That the enclosed is the Family Record of the births of their children, and is correct and true as thereon stated. That her Husband the said William Blufford, was in the Service of the United States at and after the time of her marriage – And that she does believe he was a regularly enlisted Soldier of the Virginia line, before he came on through Baltimore to the north, about the year 1776 or 77 after which, as stated by him, He was at the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] & others, not so well remembered by her, after which battles he returned with the army towards the south; and at Baltimore we were married; and he was transfered to the Waggon Department; She believe he served under Gen's [Charles] Lee & Hancock and has no doubt his name will be found on Record with the Virginia line.* The foregoing, is according to the best of her recollection and knowledge, after the most mature reflection. That she is now in the eighty first year of her age and trusts that the kindness of her country will afford her support, for her few remaining days; and she respectfully claims the benefits of the 3rd Section of the Pension law of July 4 1836 Sarah herXmark Blufford

*she believes he enlisted for & served five years

[On 7 Aug 1838 Sarah Bluford, about 81, made a similar declaration, adding the following: "That on the next day after their marriage, her said husband Wm Bluford went away in the said service, and was absent five months and seven days."]

NOTE:

Bleuford's name may have been William Buford, "Bluford" being a common misspelling of Buford.

On 5 Oct 1838 Sarah Bluford amended her claim as follows: "And, although she did believe her said husband's employment as a Waggon Maser, under David Poe, would identify him as in the service after the time of their marriage; or, that his services in the Virginia line certainly embraced the period of their marriage, yet having recently ascertained her error, she now declares that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place [on the date previously stated]." On 29 Apr 1843 Sarah Blufford's age was said to be about 89 years, and on 21 Sep 1848 it was said to be 93 years.

The family record is transcribed below:

[page damaged] Rachel Bleuford Born July 25th 1781 Wednesday Morning at 10.0 [two or three illegible letters]

Elizabeth Bleuford Born March 9th 1783 on Sunday about 100 [two illegible letters]

Ann Hutchon Bleuford born January 26th 1785 on Thursday [illegible] O'Clock in the Morning

Priscilla Bleuford born January 7th 1786 and departed this life 1st [?] of November 1789

Elizabeth Bleuford Departed this life June 30th 1786

H[?] Bleuford Born January 7th 1789 and Departed this [page torn] April 30th 1793

George Washington Bleuford Born October 6th 1790

Hancock Lee Bleuford born June 2nd 1792 and Departed this life September [?, page torn]

Hariot and Henry Bleuford born October 26th 1794

Jonathan Bleuford Born November 17th 1796

[page torn; typed summary says "Mary"] Bleuford born March [?] 1799

William Bleuford Son of John [unclear; typed summary says "Zimmerman (?) and Ann Bleuford was"]
Born January 29th 1791
Heser[?] Bleuford Daughter of Ann Bleuford was born February
William Bleuford departed[?] this life the 6th of [illegible] in his 36 years
Maria Bleuford ws born the 24 of Octobier 180[?]