

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

Pension Application of William Burch W27940

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

County of Surry [NC]

On this 12th day of February 1828 personally appeared in open Court, William Burch resident in said County aged Seventy years who being duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18 March 1818 and the first of May 1820 – that he the said William Burch enlisted for the Term of Two years in the latter end of February in the year 1776 in the County of Albemarle in the State of Virginia in the Company at that time commanded by Capt Thomas Walker who resigned and was succeeded by Capt William Henderson in the regiment commanded by Col. George Matthews [George Mathews] in the Line of the State of Virginia on the northern continental Establishment. that he continued to serve in said Corps until April 1777 when he was detached under the command of Col [Daniel] Morgan and marched to Saratoga under the immediate command of his Captain William Henderson – he was in the Battles preceding [Battle of Freeman’s Farm, 19 Sep 1777; Bemis Heights, 7 Oct 1777] and at the Capture of Gen Burgoyne [17 Oct 1777] when they returned – he was discharged at the Valley Forge in the latter end of February 1778 when his discharge was signed by Col. William Russell commander of Genl. Muhlenburgs [sic: Peter Muhlenberg’s] Brigade. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present. that his name is not on the Roll of the Regular Army in any state except the State of Virginia. (alho he served Eight or Nine months in the Militia and was at the Capture of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]) and that the following are the reasons for his not making application earlier for a pension – he did apply about six years since but understood there was some defect in the Declaration. I was possessed of more property and enable to get along myself until the failure of a person indebted to and a lameness which compelled me to go on crutches a long time reduced me to poverty –

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820 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. That since the 18 March 1818 the following changes have taken place in my property – on hand a Judg’t. against Jno. McMicle for 26\$ & 16 cents.

Tract of Land lying on Mitchells River containing 200 acres he sold July the 20th 1818 to John Frost received in return a Bond for eight Hundred Dollars with interest from date. Seven Hundred and forty two Dollars of that bond is unpaid and John Frost has been entirely sold out by the Sheriff at the time the contract was made Frost was in possession of large property: he is now insolvent – and the interest of the bond was what I lived upon – he has in possession a small tract of 50 acres of land worth about Thirty Dollars to which however he has no Legal Title

Executions are now in the Sheriffs hands against this declarant to the amount of fifty six Dollars in favor of Wm P Waugh for Costs and principal which will take all the property he has in the world exclusive of the Bonds of Frost which are worth nothing. he has no family. all are dead. and he is entirely alone. he has been affected with the Rheumatism for about six or seven years and went upon Crutches for twelve months – he is blind in one eye – he is now able to get about but very feeble – the Sheriff has taken the Judgment against McMickle in part pay of the execution in his Land in favor of Wm P Waugh. This declarant has the following exclusive of his bed & furniture –

2 Hogs	a desk	a Dutch oven & skillet
4 plates	Table	3 Chairs
4 knives & forks	Chest	[signed] William Burch

NOTES:

On 28 Aug 1865 Rebecca Burch, 69, of Randolph County IN, applied for a pension stating that as Rebecca Keys in the summer of 1829 in the part of Surry County that became Yadkin County she married William Burch, who died on 10 June 1835 in Surry County. She stated that they had two children: William Burch, Jr., deceased, and Elizabeth Burch, 29, wife of Edgar E. S. Brown. Benjamin P. Keys and Durant Smith certified her statement. In a letter dated 13 Dec 1881, Daniel H. Keyes, 48, of Winchester in Randolph County, stated that Rebecca Burch was his aunt. On 28 Oct 1881 Elizabeth Brown, 47, of Harvey County KS, stated that she was poor and had a large family, and that her mother, Rebecca Burch, was 88 and living with her. She also stated that at the time of their marriage both her parents were living at Rockford NC, that her mother was then about 34 and had not previously been married, and her father was about 66 and had lost a wife and only child. She also stated that William Burch was a native of North Carolina and had lived there at least several years before his enlistment.

Among many other documents in the file is a letter dated 15 Sep 1866 from Stephen Holson of Republic in Yadkin County to "Respected Friend & Nephew Daniel Keys." The following is an excerpt: "we have a very trying time here in regard of eatables the poor class is all most on starvation I suppose that one half of the people is now aliving on rosten ears all most in tirely money is very scarce and every thing very high and the credit cistom all most intirely Done there for but little trading going on a great Deel of steeling and murdering and fiting agoing on so that our courts are crouded full with them so that sivel suits can not be tried and has to be laid over I would like to move some wher to some place where the people ware more united and living more in love and unity and not so much in contintion there is a very Great Emigration to the west from her this countary this year and ther would be a great many more would if money matters would admit of it I have went a very great Deal of hard ship since the war begun and appears like I am goind down hill I am some 40 or 50 pounds liter than I used to be this war has made a very heavy Debt against me which I am a scuffleing very hard to work out again I hope there will be some way to git along with out braking me up I have buin[?] so hard put to my shifts is the reason why I did not attend to thy request no sooner my family is near in common health give my respects to thy Father and all inquiring friends and relations I have lived here in my native land untill I have all most become a stranger in it but few of my old associates to be sean here now, in love I remain"