

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of May Burton W4141

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Virginia } SS

County of Green [sic: Greene] }

On this fifteenth day of January 1846 personally appeared before the Court of the County of Green, Benjamin Burton a resident of the County of Madison and State of Virginia, aged sixty-one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, as administrator of Sarah Burton, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836; That she was the widow of May Burton, who was a Captain in the revolutionary war. He says that he heard his Father Captain May Burton say that he served two tours as Captain in the militia, but he is unable to say what was the length of the tours, and if he was engaged in any battles he dose not recollect of hearing his Father speak of them. He states that he has heard him speak of going to the Barracks in the County of Albemarl as Captain of a Company, to guard prisners, to the Barracks [Burgoyne's army captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and brought to Albemarle Barracks in Jan 1779, then transferred to Winchester Barracks in Feb 1781], he is unable to state what years he was in the servises as Captain of the militia or the length of time he was at the Barracks, but he distinctly recollects of hearing him speak of performing the servises as he has stated, but refers to the evidence that will be sent to establish the length of the tours and the length of time he searved at the Barracks and the years that it was performed

He further declares that Sarah Burton was married to the aforsaid May Burton in seventeen hundred and seventy-six but he is unable to state the Month or the day of the month: that May Burton died on the 13th day of may eighteen hundred and twenty-nine and that she remained a widow until her death which took place on the fourteenth day of September eighteen hundred and forty-two which will more fully appear by refference to the proof herinto annexed. He refers to the family record which he states that is in his Father's hand wright to more fully to establish their marriage, which shows the Lucy Burton was born April 28th 1778. the names of the children that are living, are, Fanny Buckner, Benjamin Burton, Hannah Bradford, Judith Weeb, Martha Craig and Mary Mariah Eddins. He states that what he has stated in relation to the marriage is from the information of others; and the reason that he has not applied for the pension during his Mothers life time he did not know that she was entitle to it. He further states that he has heard his Father, Capt May Burton, say that he resided in the County of Orange Virginia when he entered the servis of the revolutionary war and that he lived there until his death. The County of Orange was divided and the County of Green was taken off [in 1838], which put my Mother in the County of Green and she died in that County

[signed] Benjamin Burton

[The following are from certified copies:]

Virginia to wit

At a court held for Orange County on Thursday the 28 of Aug't 1777 Rob't. Miller [Robert Miller] appointed 2^d. Lieut. and May Burton Jr. Ensign in Capt. Whites [Jeremiah White's] Comp'y.

At a court held for Orange County on Thursday the 25th of Sepr 1777 May Burton Jun'r. and James Head as Ensign took the oaths for the same according to law.

At a court held for Orange County on Thursday the 28th of May 1778 Benj'a Head [Benjamin Head] appointed Capt. in the room of Jere. White who has resigned, Rob't. Miller 1st Le't., May Burton Jr. 2^d. Lieut. and Richard White [pension application S6371] Ensign in s'd. comp'y.

At a court held for Orange County on Thursday the 25th of June 1778 Benj'a Head as Capt, Rob't.

Miller 1st Lieut., May Burton Jr 2^d. Lieut. and Rich'd. White Ensign took the oath prescribed by law

At a court held for Orange County on Thursday the 27th of May 1779 Rob't. Miller appointed Capt in the room of Benj'n Head, May Burton Jr first Lieut and Rich'd White second Lieut.

At a court held for Orange County, on Thursday the 25th of May 1780 May Burton Jun'r. Capt. Rich'd. White first Lieut., Wm. Burton [William Burton] 2^d. d[itt]o, Martin Johnson Ensign. May Burton & Martin Johnson sworn to their com. [commissions?], also Rich'd White.

I James Meadows [pension application S8895], a resident of the County of Rockenham [sic: Rockingham] Virginia but now in the County of Madison Virginia aged Ninity years, state that I was a soldier of the revolutionary war)for which I draw eighty dollars(in Captain Burleys Company and Col [Francis] Taylor's ridgment, and was stationed at the Albemarl Barracks Virginia I there became acquainted with Mr Burton, whose Christian name I believe was William and it is my impression he was Ajutant to the ridgment. I know that he was an officer actively employed The Company that he was attached to was the first Company in the ridgment and Captain Burley's [sic: Garland Burnley's] was the second which made the Companies adjoining each other, I well recollec the description of the person of Mr Burton, that he was a tall slender man resembling very mutch Benjamin Burton who resides in the County of Madison Virginia. I believe it was in the month of June that I was sent to the Barracks after the prisners were taken ther and I remained until the prisners were removed to Winchester Virginia. Mr Burton was at the Barracks when I arived there, and I understood that he came there with the prisners. From my great age and loss of memory I am unable to state the date when I went to the Barracks or the time I left, but I suppose the records will show when the Barracks ware established or when the Hessens [sic: Hessians] and Brittish prisners ware taken there I know it was the summer after the Barrecks was established that I wint there as stated above, and I know Mr Burton was there when I got there, and he might have been a Captain before my arrival but it is my impression that he acted as Ajutant after I got there as stated above and he remained as long as I did which was at least two years. I went to Winchester with the prisners where I was discharged I did not go to the Barracks with Capt Burley I was enlisted in the County of Rockenham Virginia by a Mr Walker which County is adjoining the County of Albemarl, and was attached to Captain Burleys Company, where I became acquainted with James Childs [sic: James Chiles, pension application S8200] and he was a mess mate of mine I am unable to write my name never learning how to write but I can read

Given under my hand this 22^d of June 1846

James hisXmark Meadow

I Certify that I was acquainted with Wm. Burton and with Capt. May Burton, the description given by James Meadows in the foregoing affidavit of the person of Wm. Burton answers to the person of Capt. May Burton but not to Wm. Burton the latter being a man of low satue [stature] rather below the ordinary size of men and the former being a tall spare man over six feet high. I am therefore of the opinion that Mr. Meadows is mistaken as to the first name of Mr. Burton whom he speaks of in his affidavit as being at the Albemarle Barrack.

Burwell Melone, J. P.

I Richard White of Greene County State of Virginia aged ninety three years Deposeth and says that he was raised in the neighbourhood with Capt. May Burton and that he mustered with him and acted as Lieutenant in the same Company and that they were both qualified to there commissions at the same time at Orange Court House and that was during the ware of the Revolution, but did not serve in the same company in the revolution with Capt. May Burton but knows that the said Burton was in the Revolution

[signed 17 Nov 1847] Rich'd White

NOTES:

The following certified that they had known May Burton as a Captain at Albemarle Barracks: James Chiles (pension application S8200), 27 Jan 1846; Isham Lane (S13705), 29 July 1847; George Morris

(W27804), 27 April 1852. On 29 April 1852 Joseph Williams stated that he had heard his father, who died about 16 years before, say that he had served under Burton. On 13 Jan 1846 in Greene County Salley M. Cason, 77, stated that her brother, Belfield Cave, had served as Lieutenant in the company of May Burton. At the same time and place Edward Cason, 79, stated that May Burton had served in 1781 in the regiment of Col. Sampson Mathews, and that his (Cason's) stepfather had been a sergeant in Burton's company until he was taken to repair saddles in the light cavalry.

The file includes a record of the marriage in Orange County on 29 Sep 1776 between May Burton and Sarah Head, both of St. Thomas's Parish. A document in the file states that the following were living on 13 May 1829 when May Burton died: Lucy Collins, Fanny Buckner, Benjamin Burton, Hannah Bradford, Judith Webb, Sarah Payne, Margaret Douglass, Martha Craig, and Mary M. Eddins. It further states that Lucy Collins and Margaret Douglass died before their mother, who died on 28 Sep 1842. The family record neatly written on a blank page of a Bible dated 1789 is transcribed below.

The Ages of May & Sarah Burton's Children (Viz)

Lucy Burton was born	28 th April	1778
Fanny Burton	6 th February	1780
Elizabeth Burton	17 th June	1781
Benjamin Burton	22 th June	1784
Hannah Burton	30 th June	1786
Judith Burton	9 th September	1788
Sarah Burton	9 th May	1790
Peggy Burton	13 th February	1792
Martha Burton	31 st May	1794
Harriot Burton	27 th February	1797
Mary Muriah Burton	8 th October	1798

The Ages of James & Sarah Heads Children

Lucy Ann Head was born 27th March 1816