

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Reuben Butler W4909                      Ann L. Butler                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 May 2015.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). Some of the online images are illegible.]

Essex county to wit:

This day Ann L. Butler personally appeared before me a justice of the peace of said County and made oath that Reuben Butler was an officer of the Virginia Continental line in the war of the Revolution – and that John S. Butler, Thomas P. B. Butler, Henry T. Butler, William S. Butler, Ann S. Satterwite, Lucy R. Harris and Francis Lewis, Meriweather Lewis, Robert Lewis, Ann S. Lewis, Benjamin Lewis and Waring Lewis children of Catharine Lewis decd are the sole heirs of the said Reuben Butler – and that said Reuben Butler to the best of her knowledge and belief died intestate. witness my hand and seal this 13<sup>th</sup>

The affidavit of Stephen Ball [pension application S17834] of the County of Essex & State of Virginia aged eighty four years. This affiant being duly sworn according to law states upon his oath that he was well acquainted with Reuben Butler of the county of King William and state of Virginia, that he saw said Butler at the siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], that he well recollects that he had command of a company but in what regiment he cannot now say – and further this affiant saith not. Sworn to and subscribed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1835.



Virg'a. Augusta County to wit

Smith Thompson [S38438] a respectable citizen of said County and Town of Stanton [sic: Staunton] personally came before the subscriber a justice of the peace in & for the County and who the subscriber believes to be a truthful man and made oath that he is now in his 87<sup>th</sup> year and that he was a regular soldier enlisted in Col. Wm. Grayson's [William Grayson's] reg't. in the War of the Revolution and that he was well acquainted with Reuben Butler who was a Captain in the same Reg't. This affiant saw said Captain Reuben Butler at the seige of York in Va. in command and believes he was in service till the end of the War. This aff't. has understood that s'd. Officer was from King Wm. County Virg'a. – and further he saith not.                      Given under my hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 1835.

John C. Sowers

County of Henrico to wit

Carter Croxton [S9250] who states that he is a citizen of Essex County aged 74 years, and that he was a Soldier of the Revolution, and that he knew Cap. Reuben Butler of King Wm. Co. before he entered the [illegible] of the Revolution, and that he also saw him in service, and was with him at the siege of York in Virg'a. The s'd Butler was then an officer in command. Aff't has seen him since the war. He has been dead many years & his fam'y. lives in King William County.

Signed by aff't. this 29<sup>th</sup> Aug't 1835                      [signed] Carter Croxton [undeciphered abbreviation]

The evidence in this case is not satisfactory to prove a service of three years/ Rejected  
DC [Gov. David Campbell]

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ King William County – “Butler, Robert.”]

To the Senate and House of Delegates of the Virginia Assembly [23 Jan 1836]

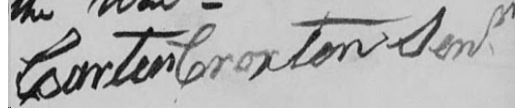
Your petitioners John S. Butler Thomas P B Butler – Henry J Butler, Wm. S. Butler, Ann S Satterwhite Lucy R. Harris & Frances Lewis, Meriweather Lewis, Robert Lewis, Ann S. Lewis – Benj’n. Lewis and Waring Lewis being the only heirs of Reuben Butler dec’d. late of King William County Respectfully represent that said Reuben Butler was coms’d. [commissioned] a Lieutenant in the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment in the War of the Revolution and was promoted to a Captaincy and had command in the Reg’t. Commanded by Col. Wm. Grayson. His services as a Lieutenant commened early in 1777 and in the capacity of Captain served till the end of the war. Your memorialists taking themselves to be entitled to Land bounty for the War presented their claim to His Excellency Governor Tazwell [sic: Littleton Waller Tazewell] in the course of the last year but for some cause unknown to them the same was rejected. They therefore now respectfully ask that the amount of Land bounty usually granted to a Captain for the War, may be allowed, & that the Register of the land office may be authorised by law to issue warrants to the heirs of said officer for the same and they will ever pray  
Thos. Hord agent & atto. in fact for the above heirs of Cap Reuben Butler

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

State of Virginia }  
Hanover County } To wit – On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 1837 personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for the said County, Ann L. Butler, a resident of the County of Essex, and at this time in the county aforsaid and state of Virginia aged 79 years on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February next who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836. That she is the widow of Reuben Butler, who was an Officer (as she believes a Captain) in the Virginia Continental Line in the War of the Revolution. That he entered the said service from the County of King William in the State aforsaid and was in service in the northern states, but at this time she cannot state the particulars of his service, altho’ she recollects of hearing him speak of his services in said war. She thinks he was attached to Col’n. Grayson’s regiment. That is her impression at this time. She further states that shortly after her marriage with said Reuben Butler he was engaged in said service in the eastern part of the state of Virginia at the time that Cornwallis invaded virginia [spring 1781]. She states that during the absence of her said husband a call was made for a general turn out of troops from Virginia in order to march towards the Sea board, and that many troops passed her residence from the upper part of the state – and she well remembers that a company of West Augusta troops called at her house, and behaved very rudely – her husband being absent then in service. She further declares that she was married to the said Reuben Butler on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 1780 in the County of Caroline in the State of Virginia, that her husband, the aforsaid Reuben Butler died in the month of January 1829 – the precise day not recollected. And that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. [signed] Ann L Butler

State of Virg’a. } The affidavit of Carter Croxton taken this  
Essex County - Towit } 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1837 before me a justice of the peace in and for the said county to be used in the application of Mrs. Ann L. Butler for a pension. He the said Carter Croxton being duly sworn according to law, saith that he is now in his 77<sup>th</sup> year of age and that whilst he was in service in the War of the Revolution and whilst at the Siege of York in Virg’a. he then saw Reuben Butler who was then and there in Command as a Captain. The said Butler continued there in said capacity until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. That said officer was from the County of K’g. William in Virg’a. After the close of s’d. war s’d. Butler returned to K’g. Wm. Co. and died some

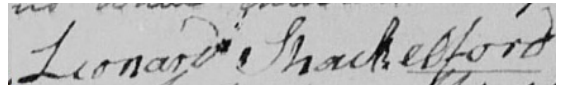
years since. He became a Major in the Militia after the War.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard Shackleford".

State of Virginia – King and Queen County To wit

Leonard Shackleford [Leonard Shackelford, S6085] a citizen of said County, who I believe to be a man of truth, this day [17 Jun 1837] personally came before me, a justice of the peace in and for said county & state, and being first duly sworn according to law deposeth – That he is upwards of 77 years of age – that he was well acquainted with Reuben Butler late of King William County Virg'a. and that he was the identical man who was an officer in the Regular Army (Virginia Line) in the War of the Revolution.

Affiant states that when he went in the service to the north he found said Reuben Butler there in service. He saw him several times in said northern service & remembers particularly seeing him at Middlebrook in Jersey and at White Marsh Camp in Pensylvania [Whitemarsh PA] engaged in service as an Officer. He further states that he remained in the said northern service two years and that said Butler was there during all that time – and when affiant came home to Virg'a. he left said Butler in said service. He had served as Lieutenant, but when affiant left s'd. northern service said Butler certainly ranked as Captain & affiant thinks had command as such. Of these facts this affiant is positive. He cannot state precisely when said Butler came from the north but from the circumstance of not seeing or hearing of his returning from the service until after the close of said War this affiant has always believed and entertained the impression that he came on to Virg'a. to the Seige of York when the main Army came on He has repeatedly heard him say that he was at the Seige of York in Virg'a. & in command there – and has never doubted that such was the fact. He is positive that said Butler did not return home for any length of time till after the service ended. He was born & raised in said County of King William and very often came on visits to affiant's father's house. Affiant was well acquainted with him before the commencement of said War and was well acquainted & intimate with him after the War – and further he saith not

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard Shackleford".

This is to certify that I Samuel J. Winston a resident of Hanover County Virg'a. aged 72 years and upwards was well acquainted with Reuben Butler late of K'g. William County Virg'a. & that he was an officer (I believe a Lt.) in the Regular Army from Virg'a. He the said Butler was seen by myself in service as an Officer at the siege of York in Virg'a. in 1781. I was in said service myself & was at the said sieige. His widow is still living. Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam. J. Winston".

[Stephen Ball and Smith Thompson each also certified that they saw Reuben Butler at the Siege of Yorktown.]

NOTES:

On 13 Dec 1850 Lucy R. Harris of Hanover County VA stated that her father, Reuben Butler, was born in King William County, and her mother was born in Essex County.

The federal pension file includes a family record transcribed as follows:  
Reuben Butler was borned January 27<sup>th</sup> 1750 On Sunday

Ann Lisle Butler was borned February 24<sup>th</sup> 1758 Thursday  
Reuben Butler was married to Ann his wife Jan'y. 27<sup>th</sup> 1780.  
Samuel Warring Butler was born'd on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup> 1780.  
Martha Butler was born'd March 6<sup>th</sup> 1782 and died 2<sup>nd</sup> of Sept'r. 1782  
Ann Smith Butler born's Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1783  
Thomas Person Blunt Butler was borned Wednesday Nov'r. 1<sup>st</sup> 1792  
Henry Todd Butler was borned Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> 1794  
Catharine Butler was borned Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1796  
William Butler borned 26<sup>th</sup> of March 1799