

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Burgess Witt ¹ W54

Elizabeth Witt

f105NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/25/11: rev'd 7/29/23

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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Original Claim

Declaration in order to be placed on the Pension List under the act of 18th of March 1818
State of Tennessee County of McMinn: SS

On this 18th day of October 1825 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County of McMinn Burgess Witt resident in said County aged Sixty years who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st May 1820 that the said Burgess Witt enlisted for the term of Eighteen months on the __ day of __ in the year 1781 in the State of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain William Lytle in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Archibald Lytle in the line of the State of North Carolina on the new Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in the said Corps until May the 4th 1782, when he was discharged from the service in the Town of Charleston in the State of South Carolina. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the roll of any State except North Carolina and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension (viz.) that he has heretofore at all times had the means of subsistence. That he has now become poor and has to subsist upon the private charity of his friends who are now also becoming very poor.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons 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 viz. one milch [sic, milk] cow, worth \$8.

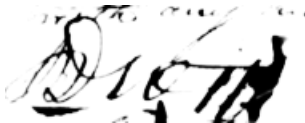
I have two children living with me the eldest a daughter named Polly aged sixteen years, the younger a son named Burgess aged fourteen years.

That since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property. I had on the 18th day of March 1818 one brown mare² in the summer following. That my

¹ BLWt31738-160-55

occupation is farming which owing to my infirmity I am no longer able to carry on with any kind of profit.

S/ B. Witt



Sworn to and declared and on this 18th day of October 1825.

S/ Samuel M Gantt, Clerk

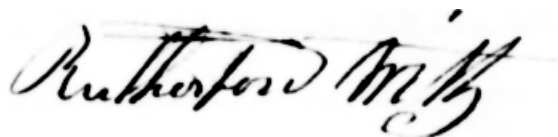
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State of Tennessee McMinn County} On this 30th day of November 1833 Personally appeared before me Samuel Kelly a Justice of the Peace in and for said County came Rutherford Witt a citizen of said County who after being first duly sworn according to law deposed and saith that he will be sixty years old next April as he has been informed by his parents. That he lived in Guilford County North Carolina at the time of the revolutionary war that he does not recollect the year but he well recollects the revolutionary war and that sometime during the said war his brother Burgess Witt left home to serve an eighteen months tour in said war as deponent was informed at that time by the said Burgess and his father's family. That the said Burgess after an absence of eighteen months or more as deponent believes returned to his father's and the report in the family was that he had served an eighteen month tour in the Army under Captain William Little [sic, William Lytle] and he never heard the truth of the said Burgess having been a soldier of the Revolution and serving as aforesaid doubted by any of his father's family or in the neighborhood where they lived. That in the year 1823 deponent went with the said Burgess to West Tennessee to the said Captain William Little's to make some inquiry about the land that he expected to get for his service as a soldier of the revolution. That the said Captain Little knew the said Burgess and Deponent heard said Little say that the said Burgess had served an eighteen month tour under him, said little appeared glad to see the said Burgess and deponent heard the said little and Burgess talk over the [indecipherable word] of the Revolution that transpired while they were together. Deponent has no record of the ages of his father's family but from what he always heard his parents say the said Burgess is at this time about 72 years of age. That said Burgess father's name was Hesakiah [sic, Hezekiah] Witt and that there was none of his uncles named Burgess nor he never heard of any man by the name of Burgess Witt except the man named Burgess and a son of his and a son of mine by that name who are now both young man. Deponent further states that the said Burgess Witt 1st above mentioned is the same Burgess Witt who was a pensioner on the Pension Roll of the agency of East Tennessee and is now suspended that Deponent has been with him at Knoxville at divers times when he drew his money said deponent further states that the said Captain William Little died several years ago as he is informed and believes deponent thinks that it might parably [sic, probably?] have been Rockingham County North Carolina he lived at the time of the Revolutionary war but he thinks Guilford County was not divided till after that time. And further the deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ Rutherford Witt

² In a document dated October 19, 1826, the veteran gave testimony that he disposed of the mayor and 1818 to procure subsistence for his family. This document appears on page 50 of this file.



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Also personally appeared before me at the place and on the day and year first aforesaid came Ares Witt³ who after being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he will be seventy-four years of age on the 1st day of January next. That he was living in Guilford or Rockingham County North Carolina during the Revolutionary [war]. He thinks it was Guilford and that Rockingham was not taken off till after that time. He don't recollect the year but he well recollects that during the revolutionary war and after General Gates [Horatio Gates] was defeated⁴ that Burgess Witt left home in company with his father to serve an eighteen months tour of duty in the regular service. That his father went with him for the purpose of getting him off. That he went in the room and stead of one ___ Crunk as deponent was informed and believes that his father failed in his expectation and returned without the said Burgess. Deponent further saith that shortly after the said Burgess joined the Army this deponent went to Salisbury where the said Burgess was and saw him doing duty as a soldier under the command of the regular officers he don't recollect their names it was [one or more indecipherable words] before he joined Captain Little's company deponent recollects that said Burgess returned home after an absence of 18 months or more that he brought with him an Honorable discharge which he carried in a little leatherback tied around his neck. Deponent understood that said discharge was lost long since. Deponent states that he knows of his own knowledge that said Burgess was a regular soldier and served as such at the time he saw him as above stated and believes that he served out his full time having seen his discharge frequently and always understood from his father's family that said Burgess and the neighbors that he served out his full time. Deponent is a brother to the said Burgess. Deponent further says that he has no record of the ages of his father's family but from what his parents told him about their ages said Burgess is about 72 years of age. That the said Burgess is the same man that was a pensioner on the Pension roll of the agency of East Tennessee but is now suspended. That said Burgess father's name was Hesakiah Witt [Hezekiah Witt] and that he had no uncle by the name of Burgess and that deponent never heard of a man by the name of Burgess Witt except the above named Burgess and his son and Rutherford Witt's son who are both young man at this time and further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year 1st above written before me.

S/ Ares Witt, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Monroe County} Personally appeared before me Joseph Marshall one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County came John Scrimshear⁵ who after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he was 81 years of age last December. That he lived in North Carolina during the Revolutionary War that he was at Ashley Hill in the winter of 1782 that General Greene [Nathanael Greene] had his head quarters there at that time Colonel Archibald Little Regiment was there that he frequently saw a soldier then by the name of

³ Sic, [Earis \(Eris, Aires, Ares\) Witt W623](#)

⁴ Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780

⁵ Sic, [John Scrimshear R9274](#)

Burgess Witt who he understood belonged to Captain William Little's Company in Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment that he became particularly acquainted with the said Witt in 1816 and has been intimately acquainted with him ever since and that he believes him to be the same man that he saw at Ashley Hill as above mentioned. That he is the same Burgess Witt who was on the Pension roll of the agency of East Tennessee but is now suspended said Witt is the same and that I solve when a soldier at Ashley Hill to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of November 1833

S/ John Schrimshear, X his mark

[p 8: On February 3, 1844 in Monraw [sic, Monroe] County Tennessee, Elizabeth Witt, 70, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Burgess Witt [sic], a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$96 per annum; that she married him on the 14th day of December 1793; that her husband died the 16th day of December 1843; and that she was not married to him prior to the time of his rendering service in the revolution. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 19: On May 28, 1855, the widow applied for bounty land entitlement as the widow of a Revolutionary war soldier; she states in this application that she was married to Burgess Witt in South Carolina by a justice of the peace named Hooper; that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Mayo; and that she is still a widow. She signed this document with her mark.

[Note: other facts in the file per summary letter:

"Burgess Witt died December 16, 1843.

"This soldier married in Spartanburg District, South Carolina, September 26 or 28, 1793, Elizabeth Mayo, and both were residents of Randolph County, North Carolina at that time.

"As the widow of Burgess Witt, Elizabeth Witt was allowed pension on her application executed February 3, 1844, at which time she stated she was 70 years of age and was living in Monroe County, Tennessee.

"The names of the following children of Burgess and Elizabeth Witt were given: Valentine who was the 3rd child and in 1844 was 44 years of age and living in Monroe County, Tennessee; Hezekiah who in 1868 was living in Monroe County, Tennessee aged 65 years; Polly who was 16 years of age in 1825; Burgess who was 14 years of age in 1825 and was living in Monroe County, Tennessee, in 1868.

"In 1868 Hezekiah and Burgess Witt, as noted above, stated that their mother, Elizabeth Witt, died October 23, 1863, and that they were the only children surviving, but own oath of allegiance to the United States was signed (by mark) by the widow, Elizabeth Witt, in 1866. In this year her age was given as 88 years and her residence was Monroe County, Tennessee, and it was stated that she lived on the pike road from Madisonville, Tennessee to Murphy, in North Carolina, 25 miles from Madisonville.

"The widow had a brother, Valentine Mayo, who was born August 10, 1767, and who married December 15, 1789, Martha (maiden name not given) who was born April 3, 1775, and they were living in Monroe County, Tennessee, in 1844.

"Valentine and Martha Mayo had the following children:

Blackmore H Mayo born September 27, 1793

Robert A. Mayo born March 28, 1796

Yancey P Mayo born November 11, 1798

George W [?] Mayo born April 25, 1801

Valentine Mayo, Junior born August 17, 1803

Moses Mayo born June 7, 1806

James Mayo born October 4, 1808

Martha Washington Mayo born September 22nd, 1812.

"The following family died or also appears in the file: B. H. Mayo and Grisly Kelso was married on Thursday evening in the year of our Lord Christ 1818, July 9th.

"The soldier, Burgess Witt, had brothers, Ares Witt who was born January 1, 1760, and Rutherford Witt who was born in April, 1774, and was living in McMinn County, Tennessee, in 1833. In 1834 Colonel John Kelly was referred to as the brother-in-law of the soldier, Burgess Witt."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 18th, 1825, for 18 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848 and ending June 30th, 1848.]

[Note: The widow survived the American Civil War and applied for the reinstatement of her pension benefit after the termination of that war. A substantial portion of the documents in this file relate to her attempt to have her pension reinstated.]