

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Burns W9757      Mary Burns      f53SC

Transcribed and Annotated by R. Neil Vance

[Original spelling and punctuation retained]

*[Revised and supplemented 6/29/16 & 3/2/19 by Will Graves as indicated in italics]*

[p 7]

State of South Carolina

York District

On this the sixteenth Day of October in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before William. D. Martin Judge of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas Samuel Burns, a resident of York District in the State of South Carolina, aged about seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

1<sup>st</sup> Was born in York County, in the state of Pennsylvania, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four.

2<sup>nd</sup> He has a record of his age, in his Father's Bible which is now is his possession.

3. Was living in York District in the State of South Carolina when called into the service, has lived there ever since & now lives at the same place

4<sup>th</sup> He went as a volunteer.

5 He was under Lieutenant Col Moffat [John Moffett] and in the regiment under Col. William Bratten [William Bratton]. He went with the army, under Capt. Byers [probably William Byers] to Savannah River, he drove a waggon an[d] Team to Augusta on that river -- he was then ordered and hauled a waggon load of salt, some days journey up the Savannah River

He then returned to his residence, this service he performed the Year before Charleston was taken by the British [that is, the service was in 1779].

In the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty he served as a trooper in a troop of Cavalry, whose business it was to awe & keep in subjection the Tories in York district and the neighbouring districts, he continued in this service from about the first of June, until the middle of September in the Year 1780-- he was in the service about two years but not continually, because part of the time he was confined with a wound which he received in York District South Carolina, it was a rifle ball which struck him in the body just above the hip and passed through -- the wound was dangerous it caused him much pain & trouble.<sup>1</sup>

6. He never received a discharge from service

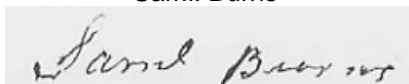
7. He names Henry Ray {Henry Rea}<sup>2</sup> a neighbour who testifies that his character for veracity is good and who knows that he was in the Revolution, they having served together he also names Andrew Floyd<sup>3</sup> and the Reverend George Wilkie [&] Robert Smith.

Sworn to and subscribed Oct. 16, 1832

in open court

A. Mc Whorter

Saml. Burns



*[George Wilkie, a clergyman, and Henry Rea gave the standard supporting affidavit.]*

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<sup>1</sup> James Potter Collins *Autobiography of a Revolutionary War Soldier*, 1989 reprint, Ayer Co. Publishers, p. 40, describes an engagement while under Moffett in which one Burns was wounded by "a ball passing through the hind tree of his saddle, entered his hip and lodged against the bone, just below the hip joint". Collins goes on to say that the ball was removed and that Burns returned to duty after a few weeks. Collins pension application is R2173.

<sup>2</sup> Probably [Henry Rea W9246](#).

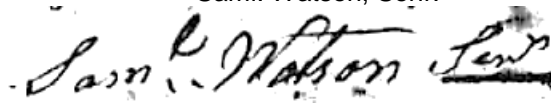
<sup>3</sup> Probably [Andrew Floyd S21757](#).

[p 42]

State of Missouri September 18<sup>th</sup> 1832

Whereas I Saml Watson<sup>4</sup> have been requested by Saml Burns of South Carolina York District to Certify upon Oath what I know of Said Burns carecter [character] concerning his Fedelity to the United States at the time of the revolutionary war in his own State. I do Certify that he Said Burns took an active part in the defense of his Country and he was with me in two Engagements against our Common Enemy and in one of the Engagements he was Wounded and that I myself assisted in careing [carrying] him from his own State into North Carolina as there was no safety in his own state unless to take protection and sware [swear] Alegience to his Magesty King George --- as to the Time I will not be certain as there were Several Years the British had possession of the state and the length of time since and old age and lack of memory forbid me to be posetive.

Saml. Watson, Senr.



[The file contains certifications from L. Rogers, Justice of the Peace, and Michael Noyes, County Clerk, in Pike County, Missouri]

[p44]

State of South Carolina  
York District

Personally appeared

Samuel Burns whose declaration is hereto attached before me and made oath that by reason of the loss of memory from old age he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For three months served as a private in a militia company commanded by Capt. Neel under General Williamson against the Cherokee Indians in 1778 marched into their country on the head of the Savannah river burnt six of their towns and destroyed their corn. For thirty days I served as a waggoner to a party of Whigs under Maj. Frances Ross [Francis or Frank Ross] on their march to Georgia to join Gen. Ash [John Ashe] in 1779<sup>5</sup> and at the Savannah I was sent to Col. Hammond [prob. LeRoy Hammond] for salt and hauled it to Whitehall on Long Cain Creek now Abbeville District. For three months viz. from in June 1780 until September following served as a private in a militia company commanded by Capt. Moffatt under Gen Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] and was at Hook's [Christian Huck] defeat in this District.<sup>6</sup> In September 1780 I was wounded and was confined with my wounds until the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. following. For three months in 1781 I served as a private in a company commanded by Capt. Byers and marched to Edisto and for such service I claim a pension. I have no documentary evidence of my service nor can I now provide[?], otherwise other than by the affidavit of Saml. Watson herewith sent.

Sworn to before me  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 1833  
J.M. Ross

Saml Burns

*[p 4: On March 27, 1845 in York District South Carolina, Mary Burns, aged about 83 years, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Samuel Burns a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him July 26, 1781; that her husband died December 1, 1837 and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]*

*[p 17: On July 11, 1853 in York District South Carolina Amos Burns gave testimony that he has the record of his Father's marriage to his mother Mary Lasly showing their marriage together with the births of*

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<sup>4</sup> [Samuel Watson S17187](#).

<sup>5</sup> Probably February 1779, just prior to Ashe's defeat at Briar Creek March 3, 1779.

<sup>6</sup> July 12, 1780. Also called Williamson's Plantation or Brattonville.

their children in his father's own handwriting; that a copy of the record is attached to his affidavit as follows:

S/ Amos Burns



Samuel Burns and Mary Lessley<sup>7</sup> were married July 26, 1781  
Samuel Burns is 30 years of age on September 17, 1784  
Zabdiel Burns<sup>8</sup> was born June 28, 1782 about 10 of the clock at night  
William Watson Burns was born November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1783 about one of the clock at night  
Margaret Burns<sup>9</sup> was born November 22, 1785 between break of day and sunrise  
Anne Burns was born 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1788 near an hour before sunset  
George Burns was born April 1790 about 2 hours after dark  
Martha Burns Born January 19<sup>th</sup> 1792 near 12 o'clock at night  
Samuel Burns was born January 15<sup>th</sup> 1794 almost day<sup>10</sup>  
John Burns and Mary Burns born March 29<sup>th</sup> 1796  
Grace Burns born October 1798  
Joab Addi Burns & Cyrus Iddo Burns born September 29<sup>th</sup> 1800 two or three hours after  
Amos Burns was born October 27, 1802  
Jediah Burns was born July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805 2 hours before sundown  
Samuel Burns Senior was born September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1754 [last digit unclear]

[p 49: Finding by the York District clerk of court on June 22, 1854 that Samuel Burns Senior, a revolutionary war pensioner, departed this life in York District South Carolina on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 1837 leaving his wife Mary a widow; that Mary died in York District South Carolina February 2, 1848 leaving the following children issue of her marriage to Samuel Burns: Margaret Dawson, George Burns, Samuel Burns Junior, Cyrus Burns, John Burns, Mary Burns & Amos Burns.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>11</sup> relating to Samuel Burns  
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 935

AA25

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/3/19

[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' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 2]

<sup>7</sup> Another copy of this record appears to list her name as "Mary Sesly"

<sup>8</sup> Another copy of this record appears to list his name as "Habdiel Burns"

<sup>9</sup> Another copy of this record appears to list her name as "Margret Burns"

<sup>10</sup> Another copy of this record ends with this entry

<sup>11</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

Book I [could be "F"]  
Bi, 147

Mr. Samuel Burns his Account of Sundries for Militia use in 1782.

Amounting to £18.3.6 ¾ Sterling

Ex<sup>d</sup>. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]

J. M<sup>c</sup>. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 3]

South Carolina Dr. to Samuel Burns

26 Days Wagon Hire at £4 £104

1782

20 days Service at 20/[20 shillings] (Captain Meek) 20.0.0

for Bushels Corn (porridge) at 16-3 per bushel 3.5.0

[old South Carolina] Currency £1 27.5.0

Sterling £18.3.6 ¾

N. B. The charges above are included in Pay Bills which are attested

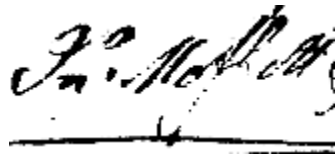
State of South Carolina

Camdon [Camden] Destreat [District]} to the Commissioner of the Treasury

Gentlemen Please to grant him to Samuel Watson my Indents that is due to me from the treasury and this shall be your Discharge from me. This 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1785

Test. per me S/ Jno. Moffett,<sup>12</sup> JP

S/ Saml. Burns



[p 4]

Received \_\_\_ full satisfaction for this Account in an Indent No. 147 Book J By Virtue of an Order

S/ Samuel Watson

*rec<sup>d</sup> of Samuel Watson*

[p 6]

State of South Carolina York District} Personally came Mary Burns and made oath in due form of law that she is the widow of Samuel Burns who was a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States on the South Carolina Roll at the rate of Thirty Dollars per annum, that she was married to the said Samuel Burns on the \_\_\_ day of August 1781 – and that the said Samuel Burns died on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 1837.

She further states that since the death of her husband the aforesaid Samuel Burns, viz. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1845 she filed her declaration, applying to the General Government for a pension under the Act of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1838, that said application has been rejected in consequence of there being no record of her husband's services, in the Comptroller General's Office.

<sup>12</sup> Colonel of the militia during the Revolutionary War

She further states that at the time her husband was enrolled on the Pension list he furnished a satisfactory evidence of three months service in 1778 under Captain Neal, General Williamson, Three months in 1780 under Captain Moffett, General Sumter and three months in 1781 under Captain Byers and that he was wounded in September 1780 which confined him until December following.

Sworn to and subscribed the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1846 before me  
S/ Samuel G Brown, Magistrate S/ Mary Burns, X her mark

To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives of State of South Carolina

The petition of Mary Burns respectfully Sheweth unto your honorable bodies that she is the widow of Samuel Burns who was a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States on the South Carolina Roll at the rate of Thirty Dollars per annum that she was married to the said Samuel Burns on the \_\_ day of August 1781, and that said Samuel Burns died on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 1837, that since his death she has filed her declaration, making application to the United States for a pension which application has (for the reasons above-stated) been rejected.

She therefore prays your Honorable bodies that she may be enrolled on the Pension list of the State of South Carolina and your petitioner will ever pray &c.

S/ Mary Burns, X her mark

[p 8]

Pension office  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 1845

Sir.

The declaration of Mary Burns, widow of Samuel Burns, applying for a pension under the Act of 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1838, has been examined and filed.

Claimant's husband allege that he served 3 months in 1778 under Captain Neal, General Williamson, 3 months in 1780 under Captain Moffett General Sumter 3 months in 1781 under Captain Byers, and that he was wounded in September 1780 which confined him until December following. He alleged also that he was a Waggoner for some time. This service should be verified by the records of the Comptroller General's Office at Columbia.

No evidence whatever of the date of the marriage has been produced. The date of that event should be established by record or documentary evidence public or private, if obtainable, as proof of this grade does not exist, the testimony of respectable and intelligent individuals who knew them as husband and wife prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1794, may be received, provided they can state such associated facts as will furnish good evidence of the accuracy of their recollection.

I am, very respectfully  
your obedient Servant

S/ J. L. Edwards [Pension Commissioner of the US]

J. A. Brown Esqr.  
Yorkville South Carolina

[p 11]

The committee on the Military and Pensions to which was referred the petition of Mary Burns widow of Samuel Burns a revolutionary pensioner of the United States, begs leave to Report that the Committee has had the same under consideration, and recommends that the petitioner be

placed on the Pension Roll of this State at the rate of \$30 per annum, commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1846.

Respectfully submitted  
S/ John Buchanan, Chairman

[p 13]

The Committee on Pensions to whom was referred the Report of the Committee of the Senate on the Military & Pensions, on the Petition of Mary Burns, praying to be placed on the Pension Roll beg leave to report.

That they have had the same under consideration & recommend that this House concur in said report.

S/ G. W. Williams, Chairman

[p 16]

To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Amos Burns Administrator of Mary Burns deceased -- Sheweth that delete said Mary Burns, late of York District was a pensioner of this State at the rate of thirty dollars per annum – that she departed this life on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1849, not having received any portion of her pension accruing after 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1847. Your Petitioner therefore prays that the arrears of said Pension amounting to twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents be paid to him and as in duty bound, your Petitioner will ever pray &c

S/ Amos B [paper damaged and signature cut off]



[his full signature appears on p 17 attesting to the truth of the date of death of Mary Burns



. His petition was granted.]