

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Laird Burns S3091

f24SC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/4/06

rev'd 5/25/10 & 8/17/14 & 3/2/19

[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 3]

State of Tennessee, Roane County

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court it being the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions for Roane County it also being a court of Record Laird Burns a resident of the County & State aforesaid—aged 76 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832: That he volunteered into the service of his Country in S. C., County \_\_\_ in the year 1775 under Captain Brown [Joseph Brown] and was attached to the brigade commanded by Gen. Richardson [sic, then Col. Richard Richardson] in Col. Winn's [John Winn's] Regiment of militia and took the field against the famous Tory Gen. Cunningham [sic, then Capt. Patrick Cunningham] & defeated him at Reedy River [December 22, 1775]<sup>1</sup> and remained there about until January 1776, when he returned home and remained until the 2<sup>nd</sup> [of] March 1776 when he again set out in the service of his country in various engagements, but none of importance nor did he serve long at any one time until the year 1779 when he again volunteered under Capt. Walker [probably, Philip Walker] in the Regiment commanded by Col. Lacy [sic, Edward Lacey] [and] marched on to a place in South Carolina called Coosahatchy [sic, Coosawhatchie] where we had an engagement [May 3, 1779]<sup>2</sup> with the Tories[.] [I]n this engagement Col. Lawrence [sic, John Laurens] was wounded [.] [F]rom [there] we marched to Charleston SC where applicant was mustered out of service [.] [T]his was in the year 1780[.] [I]n June applicant again entered the service of his country as a volunteer under Gen. Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in Capt. Gabley's [James Gally?]<sup>3</sup> company in SC[.] [W]e marched on to Catawba River where we defeated a body of Tories under Capt. Hooke [sic, Christian Huck, Battle of Huck's Defeat, July 12, 1780]<sup>4</sup>[.] [F]rom thence we marched on to a Fort at the Rocky Mount where we had an engagement [July 30, 1780]<sup>5</sup> & Col. Neal [sic, Andrew Neel] fell. Col. Hawthorne [Lt. Col. James Hawthorn] took command & we retreated to Land's Ford on the Catawba River. From thence we marched to the Hanging Rock where we had an engagement

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_cane\\_brake.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_cane_brake.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_coosawhatchie.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_coosawhatchie.html)

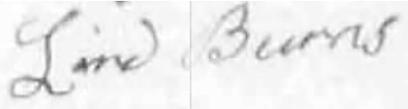
<sup>3</sup> In his claim against SC made shortly after war's close, he stated he was listed on Capt. Benjamin Garrison's pay bill during this time. Garrison is most likely the officer to whom he is referring to as Capt. Gably or Gabley. See below

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_williamsons\\_plantation.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_rocky\\_mount.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html)

[August 6, 1780]<sup>6</sup> with the Enemy [.] [W]e retreated back to the Indians Land and from thence we marched to a ferry just below Camden where we defeated a body of Tories under Capt. Thompson [Robert Thomson] [.] [F]rom thence we marched to Graves' Ford on Catawba River & from thence to Fishing Creek where Col. Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] & his Troop defeated us [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780]<sup>7</sup> [.] [T]his was in August 1780[.] [A]fter the battle we collected together & marched on in Col. Lacey's regiment to the Cowpens where we joined Col. Williams [Col. James Williams][.] [F]rom thence we marched to Kings Mountain. Cunningham [John Cunningham] then [was our] Capt. at which place we defeated Col. Ferguson [.] [T]his was in October 1780[. October 7, 1780]<sup>8</sup> [A]pplicant was sent to the hospital where he remained three or four weeks paying attention to those who were wounded [.] [F]rom thence we marched to Granby Fort with Col. Bratton [William Bratton] & took said Fort [May 14, 1781]<sup>9</sup> from the Enemy. From thence we marched on to Sumter's pond where we again joined Gen. Sumter's Brigade where this applicant was again mustered with a great many others. That he has never received a written discharge but faithfully served his country six or seven years but makes application for no more than to [sic, two] years & six months about which he was engaged & had but little respite. After his discharge from the service of the United States he resided in the South province now State of South Carolina & in the county of Chester. He remained there until the year of 1794[.] [H]e then went to McLinn Burg [sic, Mecklenburg] county North Carolina & remained there until the year of 1814[.] [H]e then went to Blount County Tennessee & remained there until 1826[.] [H]e then went to Monroe County Tennessee [&] remained there until 1828 then moved to roan [sic, Roane] County Tennessee where he now resides. He states the following persons who is [sic, are] well acquainted with him who can certify as to his character for veracity & truth to wit: Elijah Mitchell, Daniel Wester, Stephen Mitchell, William Wester & Edward McDuffy. He has no written Testimony or documentary evidence whereby he can prove his service nor is there any person living whose testimony he can procure whereby he can prove his service [.] [H]e has no written record of his age. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Laird Burns



Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid

S/ H S Purvis, DC

[Elijah Mitchell, a clergyman, John Perry and John Goodman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11]

State of Tennessee Roane County: Amended Declaration of Laird Burns

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for Roane County &c Laird Burns who being duly sworn deposed & saith that in October 1775, he volunteered in Captain Brown's Company as stated in his original declaration and served as there

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hanging\\_rock.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_fishing\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_fort\\_granby\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html)

stated until sometime in January 1776, making to his best recollection four months; he was engaged on various occasions but none of importance until March 1779 when he again volunteered under Captain Walker, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lacey and marched and served as stated in his Original Declaration until the first of August when he was disbanded at Charleston SC he believes according to the best of his recollection he served five months at this time. He was mustered out of service this time as well as that the first time he was not engaged in actual warfare again until the year 1780, in June he again entered into service, under Captain Gably and was attached to General Sumter's Regiment as stated in his original [declaration] and served as there stated until May 1781 as well as he recollects, which was it eleven months to the best of his recollection, that he was regularly engaged one year and eight months in the three tours mentioned which is all he claims a pension for, although he was almost constantly engaged during the most of the War, but in such short tours, at any one time, that he cannot by reason of his age recollect them distinctly enough to make application for them <sup>or state</sup> more minutely than they are stated in his original [declaration] which accompanies this amendment. One year and eight months is all that he claims a pension for.

S/ Laird Burns

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 19th of April 1833

S/ William Galbraith, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for 1 year and 8 months service as a private in the Revolution.]

---

South Carolina Audited Accounts <sup>10</sup> relating to Laird Burns	AA7		
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 932			
Transcribed by Will Graves		3/2/19	
State of South Carolina to Laird Burns			
for Duty Done under the Com'd [command] of General Sumter	Days	£	S P
July 1780 as horseman under Capt. Thomson			
at 20/ [20 Shillings] per day			
in Capt. Robert Thompson's Pay Bill 40 Days	40	40.0.0	
September			
1780 as horseman under Capt. Cunningham			
less 20/ at 20 Shillings per day			
in Capt. Jno. Cunningham's Pay Bill 49 Days	50	50.0.0	
	20/		
April 1781 as horseman under Capt. Garrison [Benjamin Garrison]			
at 20 Shillings per Day			
in Capt. Garrison's Pay Bill 30 Days	30	30.0.0	
July 1781 as horseman under Capt. Garrison			
at 20 Shillings per Day			
in Capt. Garrison's Pay Bill 15 days	15	<u>15.0.0</u>	

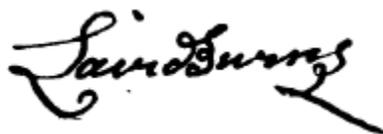
<sup>10</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

		£135.0.0
	less	<u>1.0.0</u>
		£134.0.0
August 1780	Lost at Sumter's Defeat a horse, saddle & bridle appraised to	40.0.0
	to one Rifle Gun appraised to	25.0.0
	To one saddle pressed by Col. Hill's Lt. Dragoons appraised to	<u>10.0.0</u>
	Total	<u>210.0.0</u>
	Stg. [Sterling]	£30.0.0

[p 4]

Received the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1785 full Satisfaction for the within Account in Indent No. 286 Book K for £29.17.1 ½ Sterling

S/ Laird Burns



[p 7]

Sir

I Send you the probets [probates?] Concerning my Publick Bill that Remain:d [remained] uncertifide [uncertified] in your office When I was Down the 26 July Last You Will Oblidg [oblige] a frend [friend] of Liberty if you—Will trye [try] the bill by the probets and Settle it—Acordingly [accordingly] as We fled Sepratly [separately]<sup>11</sup> when I Sustained thes [these] Loses it is Deficult [difficult] for Aney [any] officer to know the Certainty of them so it Depends on the Stranth [strength] of my othe [oath] Before Sqr. [Esquire] Walker and your Judgment to Recover[?] it to me this from<sup>Sir</sup> your Ever Wishful frend & Humble Sarvent [servant] &c

August 28<sup>th</sup> 1784

Chas.ton, rec'd [received] 5 October

S/ Laird Burns

<sup>11</sup> Presumably a reference to the retreat from Sumter's Defeat at Fishing Creek on August 18, 1780