Pension Application of William Burnett R540
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee | S
County of Rhea       |

on the 6th Day of September 1841 personly aperd before the Justices of the County Court for the county
and State afoursaid William Burnett Aged 77 years olde whoe being first Duly sworn acording to Law
Doth on his oath Mack the folowing Declaration in ordour to obtain the benefitts of the acte of Congress
pased June the 7 1832
That he enterd the serves of the united stats under the folowing namd officers and served as hear in after
stated
That he Run away from his Master as he was a bound boy and vollinteerd under Captain Henry Walker
Leutenant Thomas Arnold other other commisiond officers names not Recolected ordly sergant John
Black the next Day Rondevousd at Prince Edward Courthouse state of virginia and stayd thare several
Days and from thare Marched in to the state of North Carolina to head quarters on the same Day after his
areval thare he saw his Masters Wagon and team which had been prest he told Captain Walker that he
was aqunted with that teame as it was his olde Masters team which he used to Drive he was amediatly
Taken from the Ranks and put under James Cahoon a Wagon Master and as the teame of his olde Master
to whome he was bound was thate he was ordered by the said Cahoon to Drive said teame which he Did
During the Balance of his Servises or nearly so his Loading was provision for the army or principle so he
Dose not now Recolect whether he Ever was out of the Stats of virginia and North Carolina or not But
thinks his Servises was confind to them two stats or nearly so he Recolects of haling a Load of provisions
to the Mouth of queens creek where Thare was a number of soldiers stationd recolects pasing by with
the wagon a Mountain cald Kings Mountain as thay tolde him thinks it was where the Battle had been
fought thare [Battle of Kings Mountain SC, 7 Oct 1780]. allso Recolects of seeing Genral Washington
twese on the Roade with his Life garde with him and will never forget while he Retains his Memry the
polite bow that the genral made to the pore Wagoners as he past them. he all so Recolects haring at one
time when he came to camps with a Load of provision heard of a circumstance that shocked him
Mightly that was as thay Informd him his above captain whitch was Walker and several other officers
was walking together Down the Dich that surrounded thare Incampment and Captain Walking hapend to
Raise his head above the Dich and the torys fired on him and killed him. [See endnote.] and Remembers
that one Day while Resting he heard a noys Like the clashing of Arms in an olde fielde and he Left his
wagon and Run to see and saw the British and Americans fight thay ware all horsmen and that he was so
scard that he caught holt of a pene [pine?] and trembled so that he shook the bush Mightly he Instently
Rememberd his Wagon and the Wagon Master and Run to the Wagon for fear the wagon Master wold
come and whip him – and that one [one or two illegible words] he went to steal som sweet potaters and
while Ingaged in graveling them he Looked on the fence and saw three men with a peace of white paper
on thare hats in front he Instantly knew them to be torys and Run and Dropped his potaters at the fence
that he might be Able to goe the faster the torys followed him and Run him in to the American Lines and
thay ware taken prisners by the Americans and the next Day was Hung for being traters to the american
cause he cannot Recolect the names of Many of the places That he was at During his term of serves as he
was kept very close to his team and knew but Little elce only what Related to them he harly ever knew
when he stated whare he was going till he arrived at the place of Loding and when he Recieved his
Loading he knew not whare he had to tack it as the wagon Master Did not alow the wagoners to question
him and it seldom hapend that the wagon guards knew more than the Wagoners – If[?] he stated before
the 24 of July in to the servis he was not quite fifteen years olde as that is his birth Day [24 Jul 1764] and
when he found the serves of the united states not to be going to a frollick he often wisht his term of servis out and tok but Little notis of any thing else but the time as it seamd sloy to pas on When his term of time was nearly out he and some other wagoners ware orderd Back to prince Edward Cort house and was thare Discharged after Remaineng in the servis eighteen months he was no scholar and had a bad chance to know much a bout places even through which he traveled – after he Arrived at home and had stayed thare he thinks three or four Days thare was a call for men to guard some prisers he agane volenteerd under James Arnold Captain other officers not Recolected and went in to the neighbourhood of Prince Edward Cort house and while garding the Prisners an officer Road up on a panting horse with a cockt hat on and orderd the guards to form a squar with the prisners in the inside and then the news of the Sorender of Lord Corn Walles [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] was Read and Remembers that the officer threw his cockt hat up in the are and almos Every American present Don the same and the words America is ours seamd to allmost Rende the are such was the joy at that time the prisners war orderd to Frence Edward Cort house and thare he was Decharege but Received no written Descharge after Remaning a bout one week in the servis — a Statement shewing the terms of servis of William Burnett of Rhea County [The statement is in the form of a table that adds nothing to the statement and is therefore not transcribed here.]

Whare and in What year ware you bornd
Answer  I was Bornd in prine Edward County and State of virgenna betwixt the Cut Banks of the Apermatock River and Walkes Church in the year 1764 acording to the Best Infermation I can get on the Subject

have you any Record of your age and If so whare is it
Answer  I have no Record of My age

Whare ware you Liveing when cald in to servis  whare have you Lived Sence the Revolutionary Ware and whare Doe you now Live
Answer  in Prince Edward County and state of virgennua and my home was thare till after peace was made then Remove to Henry County and state aforesaid there Removed in to Wyth [sic: Wythe] County and State of vergenna and Left thare in 1808 and Removed to garett [sic: Garrard] County State of Kentucky  Left Kentucky in 1815 and came to Tennesse and have Lived in several Countys in East Tennesse and now Live in Rhea County Tennesse

How ware you cald in to Serves  ware you Drafted  Ded you volenteer or ware you a substitute and If a substitute for whome
Answer  I Run a way from my Master and volenterrd

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your Neghbourhood and whoe can testify as to

answer  I saw Genral Wayn [sic: Anthony Wayne] at Deffrent times and saw genral washing twise and I saw Magar Holt as to Regalars and Continantels I Ded not know anything about them nor whether the officers I saw ware of them or not I was a waggonner and not Much amongs the trups nor Dose he now Recollect the number of any Redgement If he ever Did and for genral ciercumstances he Refers you to the forepart of his Declaration

Ded you ever Receve a Deschare from the serves and If so by whome was it feven and what has become of it
Answer  I Ded Receve one Decharge in Writing from Cahooth the wagon Master with some other names to it but whoes I am not certain now and I gave it to Kett Hollen in Prince Edward County to Draw my pay on and have never seed Money nor Discharge since it was Rumerd that he Lost it

Ded you ever Receve a comesion
Answer  no I was a private a waggoner

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your Neghbourhood and whoe can testify as to
your Carrecter for variasity and thare Beliefe of your Servisis as a Soldier of the Revolution
answer Joseph Chastain and Micajah Clark
and further saith that he has no Documentery Evedence nor Dose he know of any persean Liveng whoes
testimoney he can procure whoe can testafy as to his servisis and further Stats that the Reason he has not
aplyd for a pention hear to fore  he has been told that a wagonner cold not obtain a pention
he hear by Relinquishes every clame whatever to a pention or anuity except the presant and Declars that
his name is not on the pention Roal of the agency of any state what ever
William hisXmark Burnett

NOTES:
Records of Prince Edward County contributed by Alfred J. Morrison and published in the April
1913 issue of Virginia Magazine of History include a reference in 1779 to Captain Henry Walker as
deceased.