

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to John Burriss VAS2806  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

I Sarrah Burriss a resident of Madison County in the state of Virginia do testify and declare according to my belief that I am the only heir by will of my late husband John Burriss, that said John Burriss entered the service in Culpeper County in the year 1777 or 1778 and served in the Illinois Regiment – and that he served to the end of the war.

I make the foregoing statement on information received in frequent conversation with my said husband – he died in the County of Madison on the 26<sup>th</sup> day Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1824 Given under my hand this 15 day of December 1834.  
Sarah herXmark Buriss

Report upon the claim of the heir of John Burriss, a soldier of the State line, for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor/ Sir, John Burriss, or Burroughs, was a Soldier or Corporal (he appears in the Payrolls as both) in Captain Mark Thomas' [R18446] Company of Infantry, in the Illinois Regiment.

There are but few payrolls of Capt. Thomas' Company, which have been preserv'd. John Burriss' name, as a private, in on a Payroll of this Company, from November 12, 1779 to Nov'r 30<sup>th</sup> 1781, and he is there noted as having been discharg'd Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 1781. In the Muster Roll for the same period he is nam'd as Corporal. Another Payroll, extending from December 1<sup>st</sup> 1781 to December 21, 1781, has upon it the name of John Burriss a private. These Payrolls & muster Rolls seem to have been rather carelessly made [one or two undeciphered words]. The first Payroll gives the commencement of the service [one or two undeciphered words] pay [two undeciphered words] receiv'd. The muster Roll, for the same period gives, or professes to give, the time of enlistment. the Second Payroll gives also the time of enlistment and fixes it two years after the date given in the Muster Roll. (see the muster Roll & Payrolls of Capt. Thomas' Company, in Vol 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois papers.) It is probable, that nothing more was meant than to specify the time of commencement of pay then allow'd; notwithstanding the difference aforesaid in the muster Rolls & payrolls.

It appears (which is perhaps further proof of the carelessness with which these Rolls were preserv'd) that, although John Burriss is said in the muster Roll, & first Payroll, to have been discharg'd October 26, 1781, he was nevertheless a soldier in Captain Thomas' Company, and in service, in the month of December 1781, as the last Payroll Shews.

Captain Thomas' Company was in 1781 under the command of Col. George Slaughter [W8729], but did not belong to the Corps call'd Slaughters Corps, and was a Regular Company of the Illinois Regt. before the incorporation of Slaughters Corps into that Regiment. my reason for thinking so is, that a memorandum on one of the Army documents, which is on file in the 1<sup>st</sup> auditors office, states that Slaughters Corps was discharg'd in the fall of 1781; and the Payrolls above refer'd to prove that Capt. Thomas' Company was in service, at least, to December 21, 1781. This Company was incorporated with it; and continued in service after that Corps was disbanded in the fall of 1781; and serv'd to the end of the war. Captain Thomas receiv'd bounty land for a service of 8 years. The privates in the Illinois Regt. enlisted for the war, or for 3 years, or for 3 years of during the war.

A certificate issued, April 8<sup>th</sup> [two or more words missing at bottom of image] name of John Burroughs Corporal of Infantry of the State line, for £58.15. the bal. of his full pay, for a service prior to Jany 1<sup>st</sup> 1782. (See Army Register of the State line.)

I have heretofore reported this claim good, for a service to the end of the war, as private. (See doct no. 32. Journal H. of Delegates. Session 1832-33.) In making that report, I was govern'd by presumptive evidence, and by liberal & equitable consideration, as well as by positive proof. It now appears, that John

Burriss, or Burroughs, was a Corporal. If he enlisted & serv'd for 3 years, his heir is entitled to 200 acres of land. If he enlisted & serv'd for the war (or perhaps if his service for the war was prevented by the act of the government, discharging him a short time before the termination of hostilities) his heir would be entitled to 400 acres of land.

No proof has been fil'd by the Petitioner

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c/ May 11, 1835

NOTE: The file includes a typed transcription of the oath of allegiance signed by John Burrass in Culpeper County on 27 Sep 1777.