

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Burnett R540

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS

County of Rhea }

on the 6th Day of September 1841 personally apered 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 Lieutenant 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 witch 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 Cahoooh to Drive said teame witch 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 whare Thare was a nomber 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 Mightely that was as thay Informd him his above captain witch was Walker and several other officers was walking together Down the Dich that surounded thare Incampment and Captain Walking hapend to Raise his head above the Dich and the torys fired on him and kiled 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 Abile to goe the faster the torys folowed 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 arived at the place of Loding and when he Received 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 frolick he often wisht his term of servis out and tok but Little notis of any thing else but the time as it seamd sloly 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 Arived at home and had stayed thare he thinks three or four Days thare was a call for men to guard some prisners 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 allmos 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 Prence Edward Cort house and thare he was Decharge 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 Revelutionary Ware and whare Doe you now Live

Answer in Prince Edward County and state of virgenua 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 Tenesse and have Lived in several Countys in East Tenesse and now Live in Rhea County Tenesse

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 some of the Regalers [regular officers] whoe ware with the trups whare you served such Continantel and Militia Redgments as you can Recolect and the genral circumstances of your servises

answer I saw Genral Wayn [sic: Anthony Wayne] at Deffrent times and saw genral washing twice 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 Recolect the number of any Redgement If he ever Did and for genral ciicumstances he Refers you to the forepart of his Declaration

Ded you ever Receive a Deschare from the serves and If so by whome was it feven and what has become of it

Answer I Ded Receive one Decharge in Writing from Cahooch 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 Receive a comesion

Answer no I was a private a wagoner

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

your Carrecter for varasity 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 Docamentery 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.