

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

Pension Application of John Buskirk S32148

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana }
Monroe County } SS.

On this 10th day of October AD. 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the honourable Amory Kinny president judge, and Abram Buskirk [son of the applicant] and Stephen P. Sealls, associate judges, of the Circuit Court of Monroe county, aforesaid, the same being a court of Record, now sitting, John Buskirk seventy five years of age; 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 7th AD. 1832. – That he entered the service of the United States, under the following officers, and served as herein stated.

His first service was against Dunmore [Royal Governor John Murray, Lord Dunmore], in Virginia, as this applicant believes in 1775 at all events, it was when said Dunmore, robbed the magazine at Williamsburg [21 Apr 1775]; he was out only about one week, under Captain Jonathan Clark, brother of him, who was afterwards Gen'l. Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark] – he was discharged after the said short service by his Captain without any writing

In 1777 he entered the service, as a substitute, in place of a man whose name he does not remember – he recollects that he was quite a youth, and his father prevailed on this applicant to take his place. He believes the name was Kofenhower; he was a german: It was in Shenandoah county county, formerly [until 1778] called Dunmore County as this declarant believes, but changed owing to the conduct of said Dunmore. The term was for three months. His Colonel's name was Netherton [John Netherton, pension application W5416], but he does not remember the name of his Captain with whom he set out owing to the fact that he is old and his memory frail, and also to the fact that when the regiment to which he belonged had marched to Monockasy creek [sic: Monocacy River], 7 miles from Frederick's town [Frederick MD], almost the whole regiment mutinied, and when Col. Netherton found he could not restore order, he marched the whole body back to Fredericktown [present Winchester VA]; and when it was found the great mass, both officers & soldiers, would return home, a certain brave fellow, by the name of Abram Byrd [Abraham Byrd], a lieutenant in the regiment "beat up" for volunteers to go on with him to join the army. He was joined by this applicant and seven others, to wit; Josiah Allen, an orderly sergeant, David Golliday [David Galladay], James Marny – the names of the others not recollected. Lieutenant Byrd was the bearer of a letter respecting his little corps to Gen'l. Washington from a Col. Bettis. They arrived at the main army near White Marsh; and by an order, (as this applicant supposes from the commander in chief [i.e. Washington],) Byrds corps of 8 men besides himself including this applicant, were placed on the right [a place of honor] of the 8th regiment of the Virginia line, called, sometimes the German Regiment, formerly commanded by Col. (afterwards General) Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]), then commanded by Col. Bomon [sic: Abraham Bowman]. The said Byrd and his eight men, continued to march on the right of the said regiment until they were discharged. This tour commenced the latter part of August, and closed in three months, the time for which they were called out. This applicant received a discharge, signed by brigadier general [Charles] Scott, as did also his comrades. The discharge, he wore out carrying it in his pocket, and he has not seen it for forty years. The discharge shewed that he had honourably performed his duty. He was engaged in some scouting parties when he was in this service, but was in no general engagement. The army was lying at White marsh when he left it, to return home.

In July 1780 he was called out, and entered the service of the United States, under Col. George R. Clarke, for about three months. He entered the service as an ensign, in that portion of the western

country, now composing Kentucky, while he lived at the mouth of Floyds fork – a branch of Salt River, a tributary of the Ohio, running in below Louisville (say 20 miles). He was soon elected a Lieutenant, and held that command during the campaign, his Captain was Parminas Briscoe; his Major was called Bulger, or Bulzer, he thinks the former. Sandford Edwards, his adjutant. They were marched to the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville], and continued up the river, to the mouth of Licking, and aided in constructing the first huts that were built at the place now called Cincinnati. They had one little skirmish with the Indians, near the mouth of Kentucky river, when they lost four men, killed: also another skirmish at Mad river, which it was thought proper to dignify by the name of a battle: Here they lost 8 men, (amongst whom was a brother of the present senator in Congress, the Honourable Felix Grundy,) and 27 wounded. He does not know the number of Indians that fell. Here the main body of the troops halted – a little Scout went to Wills Town. The troops were dismissed at the mouth of Licking, by Col Clarke, without written discharges, with orders to march home in small detachments. this applicant does not know the precise time that he was out on this tour, but he thinks he was out, lacking a few days, of the time for which he was called out, but it was considered by our officers that our service was equivalent to our tour of three months.

In 1781 he served as much as three weeks in actual service, against the Indians, under Captain [Reain] Virgin, & Pigmon [possibly Jesse Pigman]. He states that he was forted in the summer of 1780 but not under any general call, and he is advised that he cannot claim for this service. He states that he thinks he is safe in saying that he was in actual service 6 months – besides the last mentioned service. He states that he was born in Frederick county in the state of Maryland in the year 1757. He has no record of his age, except one made by himself.

He was living in Dunmore county, Virginia when he was first called into service, (now Shenandoah) He has lived in Hampshire county Va. In Fayette County Pennsylvania, in Kentucky, and since they year 1822 in Indiana.

How he was called into service will appear in the preceding declaration.

He states that he lives in Green county, and came to the court of that county last week to consult counsel about applying for his pension (there being no resident attorney in that county) and his witness not being there, but living in the County of Monroe, where this affiant is well known, he was advised to apply here in s'd. County of Monroe, which adjoins Green County, and the Court held by the same president judge. He states that he has long been a resident of this state, and has been always acknowledged as one of the revolutionary soldiers. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever, to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state in the Union.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid [signed] John Buskirk

Also, comes before the court Isaac Van Buskirk [pension application S17165], and states that he is brother to said John Buskirk – that the original name was Van Buskirk but that his brothers have dropped the “Van” and write their names “Buskirk.” He states that he knew of the performance of the first three months tour in the said declaration set forth, by by his brother – as therein stated. He says he did not live with his brother during the remains of his services as he has set them forth, but he believes his brother’s statement in relation thereto. [signed] Isaac Van Buskirk

State of Indiana }

Monroe County } On this seventh day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County in said State John Buskirk a resident of Greene County in said state of Indiana (said County of Greene adjoining this) aged seventy seven years the 26th day of September next who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is the identical John Buskirk who made the foregoing Declaration and to which this is attached as amendatory in the Monroe Circuit Court of said State. That

the reason why he did not then and therewith procure the certificate of a Clergyman and as the War Department prescribed there was not at that time any clergyman convenient who was well acquainted with him. that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. (to wit)

For one week I served as a Volunteer private soldier in the Militia of the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain Jonathan Clark in a Regiment the Colonel commanding which was Colonel Mulenburgh. He was not perhaps at & during their march regularly commissioned, but by common consent had charge & command. Subsequently he raised [sic] the German Regiment No. 8. I can not from my old age and loss of memory state further as to the circumstances of this tour.

2^d. For three months I served as a private soldier in the Militia of the state of Virginia As before stated in my Declaration I entered the service as a substitute for (as my best recollection is) a man by the name of Kofenhour But not long after the commencement of my tour a mutiny taking place, and the principal part of the men & officers about to return home, I volunteered with a few others and marched to and joined Gen'l. Washington & were placed in & upon the right of the 8th Va. Regiment then commanded by Colo. Bowman, having formerly been by Col. Mulenburgh, afterwards General.

3^d. Tour For two months and one week I served as a Volunteer in the Militia of the State of Virginia in that portion of the Western Country now Kentucky. I entered the service as an Ensign and shortly after was elected Lieutenant. My Captain's name was Parmenas Briscoe; under Col George Rogers Clark. Not being able to prove by a Commission or otherwise without a great deal of trouble that I was such Officer, and probably none could be found alive who served with me, & being in good circumstances as to property I only claim for this tour pay as a private. In my said Declaration I stated that I served "about three months in this tour. My officers agreed to discharge me and give me credit for a three months tour of duty, and my impression still is, that I lacked only a few days, but to be perfectly safe I have thrown off three weeks, making this tour two months and one week. I no doubt served longer.

4th Tour For three weeks I served as a private and Volunteer Soldier in the Militia of the State of Virginia (the territory where I then lived disputed) Part of the time under Captain Virgin and part under Captain Pigman; Being detached in a detachment of a Captain's command only. Which of said Captains took command first and how long each served I have forgotten.

5th Tour For One Week I served as a private and volunteer soldier in the Militia of Pennsylvania the territory being then disputed where I lived under a Captain whose name he has forgotten. At the time of his entering the service of these two last named tours the place where he lived was claimed by Pennsylvania and Virginia both and disputed between them. In this tour in the Militia of Pennsylvania I was in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Hays. I mentioned this tour to the writer of my said foregoing Declaration, but he forgot I presume to insert it & I forgot to remind him of it we being much hurried to get our business done at that time.

6th Tour For two weeks I served as a volunteer in the Militia of Virginia as a private soldier in small detachments of organized troops in short excursions under Officers whose names I forgotten, which did not occur to my mind at the time of making said Declaration

For all which being altogether seven months for such service I claim a pension.

In all said tours and services I was in a regularly embodied corps and actively serving. I was drafted for twelve months at another time but my brother Isaac Buskirk took my place therefore I ask nothing for this time of his service he being now allowed a pension for this and other tours of service. The reason why he did not make his Declaration in Greene County where he lives is in part stated in said Declaration. There was no resident Attorney in Greene County. He could only see Attorneys or persons capable of drawing his Declaration at term time none residing in his county That his Witnesses resided in Monroe County where he having a number of relatives and spending much of his time he is as well known as in Greene. He has no family of his own. His land lies in Greene and he spends his time

principally with his son in that county though as before stated he is well known here, especially to those who have testified in his behalf

The following interrogatories being put to me the following are my answers faithfully made.
Interro 1st Where and in what year were you born? Answer I was born in Frederick County in the State of Maryland in the year 1757.

2^d Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Answer. I have it as I copied it from my father's old Dutch Bible and have no doubt of its correctness now in my possession.

3^d Where were you living when called into into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? Answer I think the County where I lived when called into service in my first tour was Dunmore It afterwards became Shenandoah in the State of Virginia. I lived in said County of Shenandoah at the time of entering the service in said second tour of 3 months. At the time of entering for said 2 months & one week in Kentucky County Virginia. At the time of entering the service in said tours numbered 4th, & 5th one being for 3 weeks & the other for one week I lived in Fayette County then claimed by both Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The two weeks services last mentioned were rendered whilst I lived in Kentucky then organized into Jefferson County as I think. Since the Revolutionary War he has lived in Virginia or Pennsylvania or said territory claimed by both, then in Kentucky about thirty four years, & then in Indiana about 12 years, where he now lives.

Answer to 4th Interrogatory. I was called into service in my first said tour against Dunmore as a Volunteer, in my next tour under Colonel Netherton as a substitute and afterwards as before stated upon the mutiny taking place become a volunteer, and was a volunteer in all said succeeding tours

Answer to 5th Interrogatory. I can not recollect the names of any other Officers

6th Interrogatory. Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Answer. I received only one discharge that was from General Scott aforesaid which I have long ago worn out and lost.

Answer to 7th Interrogatory. I am well known to David Durn[?] & Henry Jackson Esq'rs Thomas Harvey, John Johnston Esq'r Luke Vaughn & others in his own neighbourhood and who could testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

I am also known to Jonathan Legg George H Johnston Esq'r. My Brother Isaac V Buskirk & others in Monroe County who can testify to the same.

One reason why there may have been omissions in my foregoing declaration. I had then & have now partly lost my hearing, and did not perhaps communicate and hear as well as I might otherwise have done. I recollect that it was with difficulty I understood him when he read my declaration. I am a good reader & have carefully now read over the foregoing Declaration and this Affidavit.

[signed] John Buskirk

NOTES:

A letter in the file dated 6 Nov 1834 states that John Buskirk's first pension certificate was erroneously issued under the name "Aaron Buskirk." This pension certificate remains in the National Archives and Records Administration in a separate folder for the nonexistent Aaron Buskirk with the file number Ctf 26833.

A letter dated 11 Dec 1844 states that John Buskirk had died.