

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Butler W338

Agnes

f24NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/19/10

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State of Tennessee Rhea County: Sct.

On this 7th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions, being a Court of Record, now sitting for the County of Rhea aforesaid at the Court House in Washington James Butler, a residence Citizen of the County of Ray in the State of Tennessee aforesaid, aged about eighty-four 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 7th 1832. –

That he entered the service of the United States in the State of North Carolina in the County of Rutherford under Captain John Caruth, with James Ferguson,¹ who is now alive and residing in Rhea County Tennessee; neither the month nor year is recollected in which declarant entered the service, because of his age, the great length of time which has elapsed and of his being wholly illiterate – but he believes it was in the year 1777. Declarant fault in the battle of Ramsours Mills. He was also in the skirmish fought with the Indians & Tories at William Mills on Green River in Rutherford County North Carolina. After remaining for some time with Captain Caruth, Declarant joined Captain Music in Rutherford County North Carolina under whose command he remained some time. He served as well as he now remembers twelve months in North Carolina under Captains Caruth & Music. Declarant has no recollection of what went with [sic, happened to] Captain Caruth, but he believes he was promoted in the service, and remained in it during the War. Captain Music was accidentally killed by one of his own man, named James McDaniel in a scout after the Indians. He remembers General McDowell, Colonel Grimes and Colonel Hampton. Declarant quit the State of North Carolina after serving twelve months as herein before stated – and repaired immediately to the State of South Carolina and entered the service as a volunteer under General Frances Marion on Santee River in company with Joshua Owens and an individual called Major Parsons, whose given name is not recollected and both of whom volunteered at the same time with Declarant. Declarant has no documentary evidence in support of his claim or service. He does not recollect the period in which he left the volunteer service under Marion, but he thinks it was about fourteen months before the evacuation of Charleston by the British Troops under Lord Rawdon. Whilst in the volunteer service under Marion, declarant states he was one of the party under Marion who destroyed the boats on the Santee River immediately preceding the defeat of General Gates at Rugeley's Mills, in which engagement if declarant's memory serves him truly the Baron DeKalb was slain – Declarant has a distinct recollection of Major James [? the name is written over and unclear] and of his joining

¹ [James Furgason \(Ferguson\) S1816](#)

Marion on the Santee River – He also recollects Captain McColtry [sic, ?] and Captain Moizon. Declarant was in the skirmishes of Black Mingo and on Pedee [River] – Declarant has also a distinct recollection of Sergeant McDonald and heard the Officers and soldiers often speaking of his bravery and good conduct – Declarant also recollects Colonel Haynes & the place of his execution – and also remembers the grief of his son, both of which produced much talk in Camp. – He also recollects General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], who commanded in a different part of the State from Marion, but recollects of seeing him several times, and remembers well that the talk in Camp was that Sumter & Marion would save South Carolina and finally overthrow the British Colonel Tarleton – Declarant was with Marion at Colonel Alston's in Waccamaw neck and remembers of a boy coming to give him information of the collection of the Tories –

Declarant served with General Marion, twelve months –

He was born in Culpepper County Virginia, and he thinks sometime in the year 1749 –

He has no record of his age – he once had, but it was taken by his brother-in-law to Natchez.

He was residing in Rutherford County North Carolina when he first joined the service.

He resided in North & South Carolina for some time after the close of the war, from whence he removed to the Territory South of the river Ohio – which is now the State of Tennessee, and in which he now resides –

He joined the service as a volunteer. –

He has stated the names of the officers and the general circumstances of his service in the foregoing declaration. He can neither read nor write, and from his great age has now forgotten many names that he once well knew and many incidents of the Revolution, in which he was a patriotic if not a distinguished actor.

He is known to James Ferguson and Thomas J Campbell of Rhea County who he believes will testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution – he can also add the name of Colonel George Gillespie, who would likewise so testify, but his absence prevents him from procuring his testimony –

He received a discharge from Peter Horry – and also one from Captain Caruth – both of which have been lost. –

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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Berry, Clerk

S/ James Butler, X his mark

I James Ferguson residing in the County of Rhea and State of Tennessee do certify that I am well acquainted with James Butler who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration; that I believe him to be eighty-four years of age – and I know he was actually in the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina as stated in the foregoing declaration, that I saw him serve and was in the service with him.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Ferguson, X his mark

[James Ferguson & Thomas J Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Rhea County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County James Butler who being duly sworn depose and saith by way

of amendment to his declaration made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he entered the service of the United States as he has before stated he thinks in the spring of the year 1777 in the County of Rutherford North Carolina under the command of Captain John Caruth as he has stated in his declaration he thinks he served a much longer that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he may be mistaken that he is certain that he did not serve less than six months under the command of Captain Caruth and was discharged by his Captain which discharge has been since lost or mislaid for the particulars he refers to his declaration.

He thinks sometime in the year 1778 he volunteered in Rutherford County North Carolina under the command of Captain Music he served under the command of Captain Music he also thinks much longer but by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he may be mistaken – but is certain that he did not serve less than six months he was dismissed by his Lieutenant Macky after the death of his Captain. And for other particulars of this tour he refers to his declaration. He got no discharge.

Sometime he thinks in the year ___ he volunteered on Santee River in South Carolina under the command of General Francis Marion as before stated. He was under the immediate command of Captain Snipes. He remained under the command of Marion without ever returning home or leaving the service or changing his Officers until he had been in service he thinks much longer but by reason of old age and the loss of memory as before stated, he may be mistaken but knows that he did not serve less than nine months under the command of Captain Snipes and was regularly dismissed by his Captain but got no discharge.

Immediately after his term of service had expired with Captain Snipes without returning home he volunteered under the command of Captain William Fishbourn and was under the command of General Marion remained under the command of Captain Fish born and General Marion until the time mentioned in his declaration when he left Marion when he was regularly discharged by his officers which discharge has been lost or mislaid he was discharged from this tour after having been in service he thinks much longer but by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he may be mistaken but is certain that it was not less than three months and for the other particulars of his service under General Marion he refers to his declaration. He knows that he served six months under Captain Caruth and six months under Captain Music and nine months under Captain Snipes and three months under Captain Fishbourn making in all two years he believes that he served much longer but is certain that he served two years as above stated.

He also states that he is the identical James Butler that made the declaration to which this is attached as an amendment.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this December 20th 1833.

S/ A. David [Azariah David] JP

S/ James Butler, X his mark

[On February 10, 1852 in Meigs County Tennessee, Mrs. Phoebe Ford, 67, filed a claim stating that she is the daughter and heir at law of James Butler, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that her father died January 12, 1836 leaving a widow, affiant's mother, Mrs. Agnes Butler; that her parents married in 1785 or about two years after the war; that she was the oldest child of her parents; that her parents were married about a year before she was born; that she has no record of the marriage of her parents; that her mother died March one, 1846 having never applied for the pension due her as the widow of her father; and that she is filing this

as a claim for the pension due her mother during her life time.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]