

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Butler W3384

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Mecklenburg County } Sct

On this 18th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Richd H. Walker, Saml Simmons, Saml Daly & Robert Moore the Court of Mecklenburg County aforesaid now siting Joseph Butler a resident of said County of Mecklenburg and State of Virginia aged seventy five 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 enlisted as a private soldier in the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated. In the month of June in the year 1780 he was drafted and detailed to march to the South under the command of Col Lucas (his Christian name not now recollected, but he believes it was William [see note below]) Capt. Richard Swepson [or Swepston], Lieutenant John Clay, and Ensign Laughflin Fannin [Laughlin Fannin]: he marched to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina, and there joined the troops under the command of General [Edward] Stevens, and near Camden in South Carolina joined the troops under the command of General [Horatio] Gates, and near Camden in South Carolina they fought a battle with the british army [16 Aug 1780] in which he was engaged, and after the defeat of General Gates army they again rendezvoused at Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina, and from thence marched into Caswell County, and from there to Guilford Court house in the state aforesaid, and was there discharged and returned home in the month of October in the same year - that the period of time embraced in this his first tour was four months. that he was in the field during the whole time, and that for the period during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

In the month of August in the year 1781 he was again drafted as a private and detailed to march to the lower part of Virginia under the command of Col Lewis Burwell & Capt Thompson Fowlkes. he marched to Hog Island on James River and there crossed the said River and marched to Williamsburg in Virginia, and from thence he marched into Gloucester County in Virginia and was then stationed under the command of General Weder [sic: George Weedon] at the time that Corn Wallace surrendered at York Town [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. he received a discharge from the service in Gloucester and returned home the last of October in the same year. that the period which he served in his second tour was two months. that he was in the field during the whole time and that for the period during which the service was performed he was not engaged in any civil pursuit. he has no documentary evidence of his ever having entered the service or of his having been discharged from the same. he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

[signed] Joseph Butler Sen

The affidavit of James McCarter taken in the County of Mecklenburg and State of Virginia on the 18 day of November 1833 who being of lawful age, and duly sworn on the holy evangelists saith that in the year 1780 he marched in the army to the south that Joseph Butler served in the same tour of duty that he has examined the declarations of the said Joseph Butler which are hereto annexed that the said declarations are strictly true as far as relates to the tour to the south - he has no knowledge of his tour to the lower part of Virginia, this affiant not having served in that tour

[signed] James McCarter

Mecklenburg County Sct:

This day Burwell Coleman came before me Joseph B. Clausel a justice of the peace for the said County and made oath that in the month of August 1781 he marched in the army of the Untied States to the lower part of Virginia that Joseph Butler marched with him and that the said Joseph Butler was stationed in Gloucester County Virginia when Corn Wallace surrendered at York Town, and that they were discharged the last of October in the same year and returned

home. Given under my hand the 18th day of November 1833. I do also certify that Burwell Coleman is a man of credibility.
Jos. Clausel J. P.

1st Question by the Court. where & in what ~~year~~ County were you born

Answer - In the County of Caroline State of Virginia & was born in the year 1758.

Quest 2^d have you any record of your age & if so where is it

Answer - I have not

3^d where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, & where do you now live

Answer - I lived in the County of Mecklenbg when I enlisted & I have lived in the same County ever since the Revolutionary War

4th How were you called into service?

Answer - I was drafted.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect

Answer - General Steven commanded the regiment in which I served I believe it was the 4th Col Lucas was Col of the regiment. Col. Porterfield commanded the Regular troops near Camden at Gates defeat. he was wounded in the night and died the next day [see note below]. Capt. Parker and others whose names I have forgotten.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it

Answer - I never received any documentary evidence of my discharge, but had a verbal permission to leave the service.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier in the Revolution

Answer - Hutchens Burton, James McCarter, Burwell Colman, James Ewing, Hezekian Puryear & Giles Puryear, with many others

NOTES:

William Lucas was Lieutenant Colonel in the Mecklenburg County Militia in 1777 - 78. Butler evidently meant Col. James Lucas, who commanded the regiment that included the Mecklenburg County Militia in the Virginia Brigade of Gen. Edward Stevens during the Camden campaign.

James McCarter did not mention being in the Camden tour in his own pension application (S7216). Butler's tour to Camden was also certified by Hutchens Burton (R1516).

Col. Charles Porterfield, who commanded the State Garrison Troops of Virginia, was wounded in the left leg in the pre-dawn skirmish before the main Battle of Camden, and he died several days later.

On 16 Oct 1846 Frances Butler, 79, applied for a pension stating that she "was married to the said Joseph Butler by Parson Cameron of the Episcopal Church at the residence of her father (John Oliver) [in Mecklenburg County] on the 16th day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty three, and she remembers distinctly the names of three persons who were present and witnessed the marriage ceremony, to wit Col Simpson, Capt Wells, and Miss Susan Coleman all of whom have long since departed this life...." She stated that Joseph Butler died on 3 Aug 1843. On 24 Mar 1855 on an application for bounty land it was stated that her age was 89, that she was married on 26 June 1788 by one Camel [Campbell?], and that her husband died 3 Aug 1843. The latter application was witnessed by Armstead Butler.