

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Busby W2995

Elizabeth Busby f89VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/22/06 rev'd 1/7/15 & 3/21/18 & 9/9/21

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'undeciphered' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 71]

District of Kentucky, SS

On this 25th day of May 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court for Fayette County for the said district, personally appeared James Busby aged Sixty years, resident in Fayette County in said district, who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said James Busby enlisted in the year 1776 in the state of Virginia and County of Goochland in the company commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Morrison of the 14th Regiment of the regulars commanded by Col. Davis for three years and that he served to the End of said term and; that he continued to serve in Col. Armond's [Tuffin Charles Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie] Legion of horse or in the service of the United States until the year of 1783 when he was discharged from the service in the State of Pennsylvania and Town of Little York, that he was in the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Monmouth [June 28, 1778], Cowpens [January 17, 1781], Gilford [March 15, 1781] and the siege of York [October 19, 17 81] and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid

S/ Benj. Johnson, Circuit Judge

[p 7]

State of Kentucky, Fayette Circuit: June Term 1820

Be it remembered that on the 10th day of July 1820 James Busby made an affidavit in open court, and produced a schedule of his property amounting to ninety-one dollars agreeably to an act of Congress passed the first day of May 1820 concerning Pensioners, which is ordered to be entered of record in the words & figures following, to wit:

"District of Kentucky, Fayette Circuit. On this Tenth day of July 1820 personally appeared in open court, being a Court of record for the said District and Circuit of Fayette County, James Busby, aged Sixty-four years resident in Fayette County in said District, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: that he served in Captain Lee Brown's [sic, Jerome Le Brun de Bellecour] troop of Horse in Genl. Armstrong's [sic, Armand's] Legion of Cavalry of the Virginia Continental line, or independent Corps, and that the date of his original Declaration is on the 25th day of May 1818, and that the number of his petition certificate is 5202. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not, since

that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war," passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. One horse worth \$50. One cow and calf worth \$12. Five head of Hogs five dollars. One cupboard \$10. One table \$4. One shovel, plow & hoe \$3. One kettle & two ovens \$4. Several Dishes & plates worth \$3 = \$91.

S/ James Busby, X his mark

That he has Eight children living with him, to wit: Cynthia, 25 years old, Patsy 23 years old, Gabriela (a daughter) 16 years old, Sophia 14 years old, George Ann 12 years old, Polly 6 years old, James 8 years old and Sarah Jane 4 years old. That said James Busby is a farmer by occupation, and has to rent Land to support his large family (chiefly females). That he labors under great infirmities from old age and wounds received in the revolutionary War, for which he never received any invalid Pension and that the disability from said wounds seems to increase by old age.

Sworn to and declared on the 10th day of July 1820 before me.

S/ W. Warren, Circuit Judge

[p 4]

State of Kentucky, Bourbon County

On this the second day of March 1835 personally appeared in open Court at the Court House in Paris, Bourbon County & State of Kentucky James Busby a resident of said County & State aged Eighty years old on the second day of May who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed the seventh day of June 1832 – that he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 under Captain LaBrhen [sic, Jerome Le Brun de Bellecour], of the third Troop and Legion of Pulaski who was killed at Savannah who was succeeded by Colonel Cowach [?]¹ and Colonel Cowach was killed at the charge near Moncks Corner in South Carolina. The command then devolved on Major Lilleral [?] until the arrival of Col. Armand who retained the commander of the Legion until their Discharge.

That his enlistment was during the war[;] the period in service was from June 1780 until November 28, 1783 when he was discharged at Little York Pennsylvania. That Cowach & Armand were the commanders of the Legion during his enlistment and that Genl. Gates [Horatio Gates] was Commander in Chief of the Southern Troops until after the Battle of Campden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] when the command was given to Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] [in] 1780. That Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], Morgan [Daniel Morgan] & Washington [William Washington] were in the Army.

That he enlisted in the Legion in South Carolina while on his way to his place of residence in Goochland County Virginia.

That the first Battle he was in (of any importance) was at Camden in S. Carolina where Gates was defeated and DeKalb killed. The second Battle was with a few of the Legion under

1 According to Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Two: 1780*, (N. p.: Blue House Tavern Press, Booklocker.com, Inc. 2004) (hereinafter cited as O'Kelley, *Slaughter 2*), p. 139-144, the commander of the remnants of Pulaski's Legion at Moncks Corner was Major Chevalier Pierre-Francois Vernier who was killed on April 14, 1780 by troops under the command of Banastre Tarleton. O'Kelley does not list any officer by the name of Cowach (or anything close to it) as having participated in that battle. C. Leon Harris notes: "Colonel Cowach is almost certainly Col. Michael Kowats, who was killed at the Old Race Track near Charleston (not Moncks Corner) on 11 May 1779."

Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]. The next Battle he was in was the Cowpens No. Carolina [sic, South Carolina, Battle of the Cowpens, January 17, 1781] where Genl Morgan had the command. Here he was first wounded in the Neck by a Sword from a British horsemen while he was in a charge under Col Washington. The next Battle was Guilford Court House N. Carolina [March 15, 1781] where he was wounded the second time by a Ball in the thigh which confined him for 8 weeks to the Hospital which prevented him from Joining his Troop until they arrived in Virginia while the Troop were in pursuit of Cornwallis from N. Carolina to York in Virginia where he surrendered [Cornwallis surrendered October 19, 1781]. After this he marched from York Va to Little York Pa where he was discharged on the 28 Nov. 1783 by Colonel Armand & his discharge was signed by Genl Washington & is now on file in the War office.

Sworn & subscribed to the Day & year aforesaid.

S/James Busby, X his mark

Att:

S/ Tho. P. Smith

And the Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary Soldier and served as he states.

S/ Clark Dennis

S/ Joseph J. Amos

S/ William Barton

I, Thomas P. Smith, Clerk of the Court of Bourbon do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of this Court in the matter of the application of James Busby for a Pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal of office this second day of March AD 1835

S/ Tho. P. Smith, Clerk

[Thomas C Cropper, a clergyman, and William Parker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 39]

State of Kentucky Bourbon County Sct.

Be it known that on this 21st day of November 1834 personally appeared before me Robert Scrogin a Justice of the peace in and for said County William Abney² aged 78 years the 12th day of August next who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration (to wit) That he entered the Army of the United States as a private Trooper in Col. Armand's Corps of Horse in the month of January 1782 and that at that time James Busby was a private Trooper in Capt. Le Brown's [sic, Jerome Le Brun de Bellecour's]Company belonging to said Legion of horse commanded by Col. Armand, and that said Busby continued in the said service until the close of the war and was discharged with this affiant at Little York in the State of Pennsylvania on the 28th day of November 1783 and that the said James Busby is now present before this affiant at Paris in Bourbon County Kentucky.

S/ William Abney, X his mark

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I William Busby of the County of Bourbon & State of Kentucky now in my 81st year since the 2nd day of May last duty pose & swear that I enlisted in the year 1776 into the company of Capt. Tarleton Pane [Tarleton Payne] that I was living in Goochland County Virginia at the time of my enlistment, that I enlisted on the 17 day of March of that year. That when we were marched to

² [William Abney W1202](#)

the Army our company was attached to 6th Regiment of the Virginia Line under the command of Col. Ball (If I recollect Burgess Ball). That we were inspected by General Washington himself near Middlebrook New Jersey and there sworn in, the 1st engagement was at the surprise of the Hessians at Trenton on the morning of the 26th of December 1776. Our company crossed the Delaware in the Jersey with General Washington on the night previous and after taking the Hessians we marched with our Regiment back to Philadelphia and marched from thence to Morristown – where all the Virginia line who were there were inoculated for the smallpox. The 1st Engagement we were in after we left Morristown was at Brandywine [September 11, 1777] my company was still commanded by Capt. T. Paine the Regiment by Col. Ball & the Brigade by General Scott [Charles Scott]. During the action Col. Ball was sent to defend Shads ford which we did until the Army was ordered to retreat. General Washington spoke in the highest terms publicly of our Regiment & sent Col. Knox afterward Gen. Knox to reinforce us. The next action was at Germantown [October 4, 1777] where we were again unsuccessful we went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. In 1778 I was in Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] still under the command of Capt. Tarleton Pane. In the Winter of 1779 we were marched to South Carolina under the command of General Scott and was taken prisoner under General Lincoln [May 12, 1780], which took place in May. I then deserted shortly after from the British and on my way to Virginia fell in with Armand's Corps and enlisted in Capt. Le Brown [sic, Jerome Le Brun de Bellecour's] Corps for the balance of the war. This shows the reason why I had no discharge from the Virginia line because I was taken prisoner. That I was discharged in Little York Pennsylvania the 3rd day of November 1783 by the command of General Washington whose name & seal was both attached to the discharge – during the war I was twice wounded & twice taken prisoner, the wounds are such that any surgeon can testify our musket & sword wounds and many of my friends can testify that I have had since they have 1st known me which is more than fifty years and must have been done in the war of the Revolution & if Dr. Prescott, Dr. Warfield (Pratter Warfield), Dr. Morris of Armand Legion are now living, they can testify & if Dr. Morris of Armand's Legion is now living to this day can testify to the wound from a sword on the back of my neck which while I live will be entirely satisfactory to my friends, that my Blood was freely spilt and nearly with the loss of my head. And further that what I have before testified to as to the time & service in Armand's Corps & again testify to the officers Armand was commander of the Legion, Shafner [George Schaffner] the major raised in Lancaster Pennsylvania, Lebert [Claudius de Bert] Capt. of the 1st Troop, Bedkines [sic, Henry Bedkin] Capt. 2nd Troop, Fontavier Lieut. Ruffin Ensign officers belonging to Lebert Company, Head Lieut. – Kilten Ensign to Bedkin's Troop – 3rd troop Capt. Le brown [sic, Jerome Le Brun de Bellecour], Lieut. Decatier Ensign Murdoch, Grenadier Capt. Sharp, Pennett Lieut. 2nd Lieut. Smith Shafner Ensign nephew of the major. Rangers Le Barron Capt. – Riddle if I recollect was his Lieut. – Infantry Capt. Bress his officers I don't recollect – Quar. Master McDougal Waggon Master Bockett – If on the previous statement sent to the department it is stated that my discharge was on the 28th of November that must be a mistake in the writer & I want to change to 3rd of November 1783 – done in the courthouse in open court this 3rd of June 1835.

S James Busby, X his mark/

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This is to certify that James Busby a private Dragoon in the First Partisan Legion under my Command, has served faithfully and bravely to this Day, is hereby discharged from the service of the United States, in Pursuance of Orders received from the Commander in Chief, bearing Date the third instant.

I further certify that James Busby a private Dragoon having been enlisted in the State of Virginia is intituled [entitled] by the Resolution of Congress, of the 13th February, 1779, to the

Benefits that have been, or hereafter shall be, granted by the said State to the Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the said Line.

Given under my Hand and Seal at York Town, this 15th day of November, 1783

Armand Marquis de la Rouerie Brigadier General

[Charles Armand Tuffin, Marquis de la Rouerie]

Entered in the Books of the Legion

Attest

S/ Godfried Swartz

Adjutant of the Legion

[see below for an image of this document]

[p 11: On February 7, 1843 in Bourbon County Kentucky, Elizabeth Busby, 68, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James Busby a soldier of the Revolutionary War and a pensioner of the United States for his service in said war; that she married him on the 4th day of March 1790 in Albemarle County Virginia; that her husband died July 20, 1838; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 14: Copy of a marriage bond dated March 4th, 1790 issued in Albemarle County to James Busby and Roger Shackelford for the marriage of James Busby to Elizabeth Shackelford, spinster.]

[p 16: in 1839 in Bourbon County, Kentucky , Robert Buzby [sic] testified that he is the brother of James Buzby, deceased who shortly after March 4th, 1790 introduced the affiant to his wife, Elizabeth Buzby who is the identical person making application for a pension.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia cavalry for 2 years. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

James Busby's Claim

It is proved by his affidavit & by David Carlisle that he enlisted for the War & served to the 28th November 178? [last digit unclear] when he was discharged he being a Corporal – he has received 100 acres – now claims as a Corporal for the War, [undeciphered word] the 100 acres.

A warrant of 100 acres issued to James Busby for 3 year service as a private of the Continental line upon Certificate of the Executive dated May 9th 1786 no other military Land Warrant appears to have issued for the services of said Busby.

Land Office

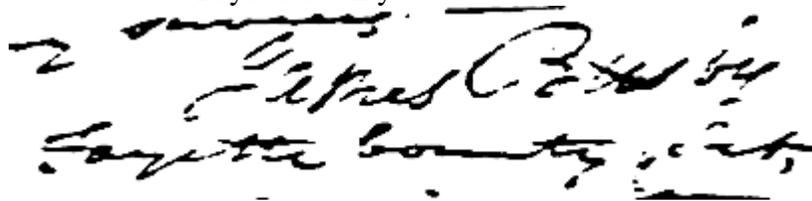
30 January 1822

[undeciphered signature]

I James Busby of the County of Fayette & State of Kentucky, do on oath declare that I in March 1776 in Goochland County in the State of Virginia my native State & County, enlisted as a private Soldier to serve three years in Captain Tarlton Payne's Company belonging to the 14th Virginia Continental Regiment – That I was marched from thence to the main Army in New Jersey & was in the following battles, Brandywine – Germantown & Monmouth, that I continued to serve at the North until I was sent to the Southward with a part of the Army under the Command of General Scott & was taken a prisoner at the surrender of Charleston South

Carolina. – That my three years having expired, I made my escape from the British & fell in with Armand's Legion of Horse, about ninety miles from Charleston and enlisted as a private in the said Legion to serve during the war into Captain Le Brown's Company in the said Legion. – That I served in the said Troop as a private until sometime in June 1783 when I was made a corporal in the said Troop & served as a Corporal until November the 28th 1783 when I was honorably discharged at Little York in the State of Pennsylvania by General Washington. – That as soon I was discharged I returned to my native County Goochland. – That in the year 1786 I sent the said discharge to the Register's Office in Richmond by one William Thompson for my land Warrants. Thompson went to Richmond & on his return informed me that he [words too faint to discern] the warrants to be issued and sent to the Office of Colonel Richard C Anderson the Surveyor in the State of Kentucky – that in the year 1792 I removed to Kentucky and went to the office of the Surveyor for my warrants & have never been able to find them or hear of them, but I have never sold or disavowed of my right to them: – as I was a prisoner at the time my first enlistment of three years expired I did not get a discharge from that enlistment. – I now draw a pension from the United States for my revolutionary services.

S/ James Busby
Fayette County



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Busby" followed by "Fayette County, Va." on a separate line. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat stylized.

[p 4 is the affidavit of Bazel Carlisle³ “a Soldier in Captain Le. Brown's Troop belonging to Colonel Armand's Legion in the Revolutionary War” and was acquainted with James Busby in said service and that Busby was a Corporal therein. Unfortunately the image of the affidavit as posted online is of very poor quality and largely illegible.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bazel Carlisle". The handwriting is cursive and somewhat stylized.

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³ Sic, [Basil Carlile VAS581](#)

