

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Burch R788 Elizabeth Burch NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 July 2014.

State of Indiana Monroe County } SS

On this 3rd day of November 1843 personally appeared before me Aquilla Rogers Judge of the Probate Court of Monroe County Indiana William Berch resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty years the 10th of May next 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated "That he was a volunteer in Captain Jesse Franklins Company of Cavalry under a call for soldiers by competent authority. That the declarant served with an imbodyed corps that he was in the field and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit. That he lived at the time he volunteered about twenty miles from Rockford the county seat of Surry County North Carolina. He declares he has forgotten the names and rank of the officers generally he believes one compay in the army while he was in service was commanded by one Captain Underwood and he believes one Richard Toliver was Insign [sic: Ensign] of the company he was in and was killed in a Skirmish. He believes it was in the month of February he joined the army the day and year he has forgotten nor does he recollect at what time he left the army. That he served but one engagement (one tour only) That it was not for more than [one or two illegible words] that he with said Capt. Franklin's company joined General Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army near Guilford Court House North Carolina That he marched through the country to [present] Stokes County to Guilford County thence near Hillsborough was generally scouting on the border of Genl. Greens army was in the army and in service as a soldier before and after the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]. that the company to which he belonged was generally making excursions through the country and spieing the enemy. The declarant has never before applied for a pension and has no documentary evidence to exhibit in his favor. He declares he has no army discharge and if he ever received one he does not recollect 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

William hisXmark Berch

State of Indiana } SS.

Monroe County } I Aquilla Rogers Judge of the Probate Court of Monroe County Indiana a court of Record do hereby certify that the following Interrogatories was propounded to William Birch before named in a declaration for a pension under act of Congress June 7 1832. and the following answer to the several questions were given viz.

question 1. Where and in what year were you born

answer On Haw River North Carolina the County not recollected

question 2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it.

Answer I have a copy of it in my house written by one Thomas Barnes an Irishman

question 3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer On Fish [sic: Fisher] River Surry County North Carolina Since the war I lived in Stokes County mooved from Surry and from Stokes County North Carolina to Monroe County Indiana

question 4. How were you called into service were you draughted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whome

answer There was a call for Malitia and I volunteered

question 5 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 and the general circumstances of

your service
 Answer I recollect the names of Col. Micajah Lewis who was killed [sic: Major Micajah Lewis of the Surry County NC Militia, killed 26 Feb 1781] and Col. John Armstrong; the former he thinks was of the militia and the latter of the main or regular army [sic: probably Maj. John Armstrong, 3rd NC Reg.] and those here before named and knows of no circumstance of more note than before stated nor knows of nothing of importance as testimony
 question 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whome was it given and what has become of it
 answer I never received a discharge as I recollect of question
 7. State the names of persons to whome you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to our character for veracity and their belief of your Services as a Soldier of the Revolution
 Answer. William Edwards Samuel Stone and all the neighbors
 William hisXmark Berch

State of Indiana } SS.
 Monroe County } On this 3rd day of November 1843 personally appeared before me the undersigned Aquilla Rogers Judge of the Probate Court of the County and State aforesaid William Berch of said County and State who being duly Sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served the periods mentioned below and in the following grade. For the year ____ he served as a private in a company of cavalry as before set forth the term of ____ thinks he was sent from the army a short time before the expiration of his engagement with horses some distance to where there was food for them on disposing of the horses according to orders he was at liberty to go home and for such service I claim a pension
 William hisXmark Berch

NOTES:

On 3 Nov 1843 William Burch was said to be a member of the Baptist Church. On 26 Feb 1844 his sister, Delila Edwards, said to be at least 75, made a supporting statement.

On 5 Feb 1853 in Green County IN Elizabeth Berch, 66, applied for a pension stating that as Elizabeth Ritter she married William Berch on 2 Apr 1812 in Surry County NC, and that he died 17 Sep 1848. She stated that they and their children left Surry County in the fall of 1823 and arrived in Monroe County a few days before Christmas of that year. She stated that they had seven children, all still living, and that her late husband also had seven children, all sons, by his first wife.

With her application is a family record certified by Henry Burch (as he signed), 26, as being from William Burch's family Bible. Henry Burch stated that the oldest entries were for William Burch and his siblings. The family records, written on blank pages of a New Testament dated 1770, is transcribed below. The entries on the first page are extremely faint.

[first page]

William Burch son to William and Mary Burch was born May the 10th in the year of our Lord [year illegible]

Elizabeth Burch Daughter to William and Mary Burch was born April [illegible] in the year of our lord 1761

[illegible] Burch Daughter to William and Mary Burch was born February the 9th[?] in the year [illegible] 1768

[illegible] Burch Daughter to William and Mary Burch was born May [illegible] in the year of our lord 1770

[illegible] Burch Daughter to William and Mary Burch was born October [illegible] in the year of our [rest illegible] Mary Burch departed this life [illegible] day of September in the year of our Lord 1773

John Burch Son to William [illegible] his wife was [rest illegible]
[second page]

The ages of William and Elizabeth Burches Child[ren]

Mary Burch was born February the 4th 1813

George Burch was born on the 7th of February 1815

Nancy Burch was Born May the 27th 1817

Lazarus Burch was Born the 6th of June 1819

[third page]

Sally Burch was Born the 2 day of June 1821

Levi Burch was Born September the 18th 1824

Henry Burch was Born october the 18th 1826

[fourth page]

William Burch was born in the year of our Lord 1764 may the 10th