

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

Pension Application of Robert Busby S30904

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Adair County SS

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the Adair County Court in open Court being a Court of record Robert Busby being a resident of the said County of Adair and State aforesaid Robert Busby 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the army of the United States in October 1776 being enrolled by his father in Hanover County Virginia with Capt Dandride [sic: Dandridge] and Maj'r. Wm. Spotswood [William Spotswood] who were officers in the regular service but whether of the virginia or Continental line he does not know he being only 17 years of age the July preceeding; they Dandridge and Spotswood were engaged in the recruiting service he was retained with them to aid in enlistments to guard their baggage and papers & to perform the duties of a Bowman to them for that purpose he drew uniform arms (sword & pistols) rations & pay as a private soldier attended to them in the above capacity in all their travels in the recruiting service in the north & south & in taking in their recruits to head quarters; being from time to time enrolled by said Dandridge & Spotswood as he understood to enable him to draw rations & pay but as they were not actually attached to the army he does not know to what regiment or line they belonged. he remained with those officers being permitted only once to visit his home or parents but once and that for a few days, all the time until some time after the taking of Stony Point [in NY, 16 Jul 1779] Bomans were ordered to fall into the ranks and this applicant was accordingly given up by Capt. Dandridge to Captain Caffrey or Caffree of the light Dragoons of Washingtons [Lt. Col. William Washington's] legion of horse Major Richard Watts Commanded his battalion he cannot recollect the date but knows that he served in that line being marched to the south and engaged with the British at Georgetown South Carolina being Commanded by Colo. Washington [see endnote]. He states that he served and was in the same time regiment & company of horse at the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] and shortly after the battle of the Cowpens he was informed that his term of service had expired for which he had been previously enrolled or engaged by his father or himself in the service (for of the nature of his previous engagement in the service from his then youthful and uninformed situation and his present age and deficiency of memory he cannot give a satisfactory account) he then enlisted for and during the term of three years or during the war as a light Dragoon in Washingtons legion under the same Captain Cafferry this was early in the year 1781 was marched to ward Guilford but was not in that action [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] owing to having been sent out to guard a foraging party he continued & served in the same legion and was in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] and was from thence marched to Virginia and was in the service and assisted in the Seige of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and Capture of Cornwallis and the British army. The legion of horse being then dispersed and those who from their enlistments had the longest term to serve were ordered to guard the prisoners. He states that he was ordered to Winchester Virginia to guard the prisoners where he remained in service guarding the prisoners until some time in the Spring of 1782 The guard was reduced in number and so far as there was the means of paying off the soldiers they were paid and discharged and who they could not pay were discharged on parole to be called in & paid when funds could be procured. He states that he was of this last number and was parolled by Col Hunter but was never after called for or paid nor has he ever rec'd. his bounty land promised him when he enlisted

he states that he was born in July 1759 entered the service in Hanover or Goochland Counties (he is not certain being situated near the line) in Virginia in October 1776 and was as above described constantly in

the service (with the exception of about one week when he was permitted to visit his father until March or Ap'l. 1782 when he was discharged in the manner above described.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state

Robert hisXmark Busby

State of Kentucky } SS

Adair County }

This day came Robert Busby before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1833 he made his declaration in the worshipful County Court of Adair County for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 to which Declaration he offers this as an amendment he furthur states that by way of explanation of his first tour charged in his original declaration that he regularly enlisted as a private soldier he was then Just entering his 17<sup>th</sup> year and he was enlisted by the consent of his father and he states most positively that he served in that enlistment from October 1776 untill after the battle of the Cowpens in January 1781 he states that the visit he made to see his parents mentioned in his original Declaration did not stop his service in that enlistment it was a priviledge granted him by his officers as was usual in the army and he now states that under that enlistment he served as a private malitiaman more than four years his term of service then having expired as he was informed he without leaving the army or removing from the place after he was informed by his officers that the time of his enlistment had expired he immediately enlisted under Capt Caffery for three years or during the war as stated in his original Declaration and served as therein stated he states that at the time he made his original Declaration he did not know of any person, who could prove his service he having moved to Kentucky remote from his native Country nor does he now know certainly that he can prove his services but understands that Ledford Payne [pension application S1242] Jordin George [Jordan George S1202] S Prewitt [Solomon Prewitt (Prewett, Pruitt) W1315] & J Scott [John Scott W3046] can prove his service and if they can be procured he will do so and attach the same hereto. he furthur states that all the aforesaid services was done and performed by him during the war of the revolution in an embodied Corps called into service by competant authority that he was either in the field or in garrison, and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit and for which service he claims a pension

1 Where and in what year were you Born

Answer I was born in Hanover County State of virginia in the month of July in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine agreeable to the information of my Parents which I believe to be true

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

Answer I have none nor never had any

3<sup>d</sup> where you living when called into service where have you lived and where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer I lived in Hanover County state of virginia when I entered the service during the time I was in service my father moved to goochland County virginia his house I considered my home a few years after the close of the war I moved to and settled in Amelia County virga where I lived several years I then moved to Bedford County vig'a. where I lived untill the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen when I moved to Kentucky Adair County where I now live

4. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volenteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer I enlisted each time the first time I enlisted I cannot positively state the length of time as the business was arranged by my father but so it is I served under that enlistment from the month of October one thousand seven hundred and seventy six untill the early part of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one my time then being out as I was informed I then again enlisted for

three years or during the war and faithfully served as stated in this and my original Declaration until the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty two

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 was mostly while in service under the command of Colo William Washington I was attached to Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene's division most of the time But was often as before stated out on recruiting parties still I believe I belonged to Gen'l. Greene's division I do not at this time recollect any particular militia regiments as I belonged to the dragoons and did not mix with the militia and the general circumstances of my service I have stated in the body of my Declaration

6. did you ever receive a discharge from the service if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answer the first time my service expired I was informed of the same I was in service and immediately enlisted for three years or during the war as before stated and I took no discharge When I was discharged the second and last time Colo. Hunter gave me a Certificate of Parole or furlow which I have long since lost as I believe by the burning of my fathers house where I had left it so I have no documentary evidence of service

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution  
Answer I am acquainted with the Rev'd. Chasteen H. Trabue, Capt Benjamin Bell merchant of Columbia Doct Nathan Garther and many others and all of whom I believe would speak well of my character for veracity & their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution

Subscribed and sworn to before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County afs'd this fifteenth Day of November 1833

Robert hisXmark Busby

NOTE: It is unlikely that William Washington's Legion was engaged at Georgetown SC. Except for Washington and Greene, none of the officers named by Busby could be identified. From the pension applications of Payne, George, Prewitt, and Scott it appears unlikely that they had direct knowledge of Busby's service.