

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Butler S49198

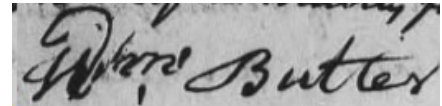
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Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Statement of William Butler, residing in Crawford county State of Pennsylvania, who applies for a pension from the United States in pursuance of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed the 18th day of March 1818

Said William Butler saith, that in the year 1775 he enlisted for twenty two months in Captain Henry Christ's company, in a regiment commanded by Colonel [Samuel Miles] in the Penna. line on the Continental establishment. The said William Butler continued in the United States service until the expiration of the aforesaid twenty two months, and reenlisted for three years or during the war in Captain Marshall's company, in the Second Penna. regiment commanded by Colonel Walter Stewart, on the Continental establishment, and remained in the service of the United States until the army was disbanded at the close of the war, and received an honorable discharge, which discharge he gave to a person to have his account settled, and the said discharge never afterwards came into his hands. The said William Butler was frequently drafted or transferred into different companies & regiments, having served in the artillery commanded by Colonel Thomas Proctor and Colonel [Charles] Harrison. The said William Butler was in the battles of Flat Bush on Long Island [Flatbush; Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug 1776], White Plains [28 Oct 1776], Trenton where the Hessians were captured [26 Dec 1776], Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], at Mud Island [siege of Fort Mifflin, 10 Oct - 15 Nov 1777] & Red Bank [22 Oct 1777] on the Delaware, Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], at the Storming of Stoney Point [Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779], at York Town when Gen'l. Cornwallis surrendered [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] after which he was marched into South Carolina and served there under General Anthony Wayne during the time he remained there

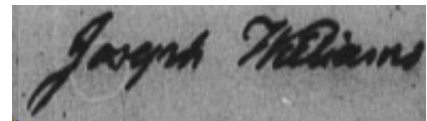
The said William Butler hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension that may heretofore have been allowed to him by the laws of the United States, and further saith, that from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his country for support



Crawford County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Ss

Personally appeared before me Jesse Moore, President of the Sixth Judicial District of Penna. Joseph Williams [pension application S40702], and having been duly sworn as the law directs, did depose and say, that in the year 1781 he became acquainted with William Butler at Newton in Buck County, Penna. who was then a soldier in Colonel Thomas Proctor's Regt of Artillery in the Penna. line on the Continental establishment, in which regiment this deponent was then a soldier. This deponent further states, that he served with the said William Butler at the taking of Gen'l. Cornwallis at York Town in Virginia, and afterwards marched with him into South Carolina where they both served in the same regiment until Peace was proclaimed, and arrived in Philadelphia about the same time the said William Butler did in August 1783, where they were both discharged. This deponent states that the whole time he served with, and was acquainted with William Butler in the army of the United States during the revolutionary war, was between two and three years; and that during this time he knew the said William Butler to be a brave and deserving soldier

Sworn & subscribed before me the fourth day of March 1819.



Crawford County

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Ss.

On this 10th day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record in and for the said County of Crawford in pursuance of an act of Assem'y of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania establishing it as such William Butler aged seventy seven years in July next, resident in said County and Commonwealth who being duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows. That in the year 1776 he enlisted for twenty two months in Captain Christie's company in in the second Penna. regiment on the continental establishment commanded by Col. Samuel Miles & served in sd Company during this full term of his enlistment, at the expiration of which term he again enlisted in said Company and regiment for three years or during the war and continued to serve the united states faithfully until the year 1782 or 1783 when he received an honourable discharge in Philadelphia at the close of the war, and after his return from Georgia & South Carolina. The said William Butler received a pension from the United States in pursuance of the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818: his application therefor dated the 28th day of April 1818; and the certificate of the Hon. Secretary of war, placing him on the pension list is dated the 28th day of April 1819, which certificate is numbered 9908. 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.

Schedule of property belonging to William Butler

Two hundred acres of land in Sadsbury township on which I reside. It is wet and swampy and very unfit for raising grain. About fourteen acres of it is in cultivation. Two Mares one of them 18 years old, the other 12. Two Cows and a heifer. Two Sheep. Five head of Hogs, old and young. One plough and horse gears. Household furniture not exceeding the value of Five dollars (excepting bedding). One Steer two years old, one yearling Calf.

I receive a pension from the State of Pennsylvania of forty dollars per annum granted to me for my revolutionary services.

I am and have been by occupation a farmer, but from my age and infirmities, and from two wounds received in battle during the revolutionary war I am rendered almost totally unable to pursue my occupation or to earn a livelihood by labour. I have living with me a wife and three daughters the oldest seventeen years of age, but never has been in the possession of her mental faculties and never has been able to do any thing of worth; she has been, and I am fully convinced will continue to be a charge to me during her own or my natural life. One of my daughters is aged thirteen, and the other eleven.

The debts I owe amount to between forty and fifty dollars.

William Butler

[Butler ws dropped from the pension roll because he owned too much property (more than \$200).]

Crawford County

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Ss

On this first day of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty three personally appear in open Court of Common Pleas of Crawford County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania being a Court of record for the trial of Civil causes, established by the laws of the said Commonwealth, William Butler resident in said County, aged eighty years in July next, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of the 18th of March 1818, the first of May 1820, and first of March 1823, that he the said William Butler enlisted for the term of twenty two months on the — day of — in the year 1776 in the state of Pennsylvania, in the Company Commanded by Captain — Christ, in the rigment commanded by Colonel Samuel Miles, in the line of the

state of Pennsylvania on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said company and regiment during the full term of his enlistment, at the expiration of which term, he again enlisted in said Company and regiment for three years or during the war, and continued to serve the United States faithfully until the year 1782 or 1783, when he received an honorable discharge from the service of the same in Philadelphia at the close of the war, and after his return from the campaigns in Georgia and South Carolina. [Oath similar to the one in the 1820 application follows.]

Schedule of property belonging to William Butler

Two hundred acres of land in Sadsbury township on which I reside About fourteen acres of it in Cultivation the residue is in a state of nature, heavy timbered, of no use to me whatever but an annual expence to me in the payment of taxes. I cannot make sale of it, so as to obtain any thing from it towards my support Taking the whole two hundred acres together I could not rent it for five Dollars Per annum, the tenant being obligated to Pay the taxes it is wet and Swampy and very unfit for raising grain

One mare, fifteen years old, and one Colt one year old, two Cows two heffers of two years old two spring Calves eight sheep old and young one hog one Plough and horse gears – household furniture, excepting bedding not exceeding the value of five Dollars

I receive a pension from the state of Pennsylvania of forty Dollars per annum granted to me for my revolutionary services

I am or have been to speak more correctly by occupation, a farmer, and have heretofore supported my self by Labour, but from my age and infirmities, and from the wounds received in battle during the revolutionary war, when fighting for the liberties of my Country, I am now totally unable to pursue my occupation, or to earn a livelihood by labour. I have arrived at that age, that it cannot be expected I will enjoy the liberality of my Country for a great length of time, should I be restored to the pension list, All I want is to be made a little comfortable toward the close of a long life, seven years and four months of the prime of it I spent in the service of my Country in defending the liberties thereof, exposed to every hardship and danger incident to that eventful period

I have living with me an aged wife, and two daughters the oldest one Jenny, has been married, her husband has left her and she has returned to me with two small children – the other Daughter living with me named Sally is about twenty years of age, she is, and always has been, an idiot totally deprived of her mental faculties, the ties of nature compel me to support her as far as I am able – she destroys in her clothing and other articles about the house nearly as much as would maintain her I have two younger Daughter one of them eighteen years of age named Mary the other aged about sixteen named Kitty they are not living with me, but have to go out to the neighbors and work their maintenance

The debts I owe to different persons amount to rising one hundred and eighty eight dollars, I am liable at any time to be sued for them, and my little property taken from me for the payment thereof the debts due to me do not exceed five Dollars My situation is really deplorable, and unless assisted by my country I must depend upon Publick or private Charity for support

William Butler

[The court valued Butler's property at \$320.50 minus the \$188 he owed.]

NOTES:

In the file is a 12-page booklet entitled *William Butler: Soldier of the Revolution* by his grandson, William D. Butler of St. Louis MO, dated 22 July 1895, which includes family history. According to this booklet the soldier was born near Dublin, Ireland, was brought to America as an impressed seaman, made his escape to Pennsylvania, and died on 4 March 1837.

On 2 Aug 1859 Mary Ann Bright applied for bounty land for the service of her father, William Butler, who died about 1841, leaving the following children: William, Nelly, Mary Ann, and Catharine.