

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Butler W20803

Behethland Butler

f92SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/10/08, rev'd 8/13/10 & 3/27/19

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 4]

State of South Carolina Edgefield District

On this twenty-sixth day of March in the year of our Lord 1841 one personally appeared before the undersigned one of the associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, Beheathland Butler, a resident of the District of Edgefield, aged seventy-six years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made act of Congress, passed the 7th of July 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows: That she is the widow of William Butler, who was an officer in the revolutionary War, first serving as a Lieutenant under Captain M. Watson [Michael Watson] and afterwards appointed Captain of a troop of mounted militia, attached to the Regiment, commanded by Colonel Hammond and received his commission from John Matthews the acting Governor of South Carolina, which said Commission is appended to this declaration.

She knows little of her own personal knowledge of the Military services of her husband. She must refer principally to official records, muster rolls, historical and obituary notices & living testimony for the evidence of his services. She first became acquainted with her husband in 1780 while his father Captain James Butler was confined by British authority in the Provost in Charleston. During the siege of 96, she saw her husband occasionally, and on one occasion after General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] began his retreat, -- she saw him at William Anderson's, where he made a British soldier a prisoner and departed with him in custody to join General Greene or Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee]. She has been informed that her husband gave Colonel Lee the first intelligence of the near approach of the British for the relief of 96. After this, perhaps in the early part of 1782 she saw her husband frequently, while as Captain, he was in command of a mounted Corps, raised under the orders of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens]. Whilst in this service, she saw her husband going to 96 returning from General Pickens, who lived at that time near Long Cain [Long Cane Creek]. General Pickens' letters to her husband and the muster roll will have the nature & time of service, the originals will accompany this declaration, to which the department is specially referred.

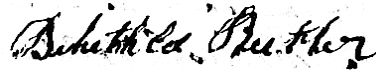
She has always understood and believes that her husband was engaged in active as Lieutenant at the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] and that before she knew him he was actively employed in the War. She has heard her husband say, that for some time he acted with & served under the command of Count Pulaski. She further declares that she was married to the said William Butler on the 4th of June 1784, that her said husband William Butler died on the 15th of November 1821 in the sixty third year of his age, since which time she has remained a widow.

That she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, to wit -- on the 4th of June 1784 as above stated --

Sworn to & subscribed before me in open Court, the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Josiah G. Evans, Presiding Judge

S/ Behethl'd Butler



[p 7]

“William Butler (S. C.)

W20803

An order to William Butler, signed William Henderson dated Camp before 96, June 13, 1781 and a roster of Captain Michael Watson's Co. of volunteers on horseback from December 15 1781 and June 15, 1782

and an order to Captain William Butler, signed Andw Pickens, dated Long Cane, July 5, 1782

and an order to Captain Butler, signed John Purvis dated Turkey Creek, July 6, 1782

and an order to Captains Moore, Polk and Butler signed Le Roy Hammond dated Snow Hill, Aug. 1, 1782

and an order to Capt. William Butler signed Andw Pickens, dated Long Cane Aug. 21, 1782

and an order to Captain William Butler signed Andrw Pickens, dated Cherokee Ford September 17, 1782

and an order to Captain Butler signed Andw Pickens dated Long Cane, Dec. 20, 1782

have been removed from this claim to be sent to the war Department.

S/ D. G.

April 18, 1911

Sent to War Department: Jan 16, 1913”

[p 75]

South Carolina Edgefield Dist

On this 6th day of September 1848, personally appeared before me, A. B. Adison on the [indecipherable word] Magistrates of South Carolina for the District of Edgefield, Mrs. Behethland Foote Butler a resident of South Carolina Edgefield District, now in the Eighty-fourth year of her age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed on the 2nd day of February 1848 granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of the late General William Butler of S. Ca. Who served as a Captain in the War of the revolution under the command of General Andrew Pickens -- then Colonel --

For details of the Services of her husband, she begs leave to refer to the Statements Contained in her declaration under which she has attained a pension under the acts heretofore passed and [indecipherable word or words] -- The amount received under the act of 17th June 1844 until its [one or more indecipherable words] \$166.66 annually as now [?] believes the Certificate will Shew [show].

She further declares that she is still a widow.

Sworn to before me this date within

S/ B. Butler

S/ A. B. Addison
Magt. E. D.

[p 80]

South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared William Dawson¹ before me Allen B. Addison, a justice of the Quorum for said District & makes oath, that he was well acquainted with the late General William Butler. Among his contemporaries he had the reputation of having been actively engaged as a whig in the revolution. The impression was in general that deponent always regarded him as prominently associated with the partizan warfare in South Carolina.

The Deponent was with the North Carolina troops, when the Army under Lincoln was operating against Prevost [Augustine Prevost] at Stono, which will account for his not seeing William Butler at that time. The Deponent saw William Butler at the siege of 96 acting as Lieutenant as Deponent thinks. After that time he saw him frequently in service either acting as Lieutenant under Captain Michael Watson or as Captain -- The Deponent was with him & Watson once in a fight with the Tories on Edisto [River], -- Watson acting as Captain & Butler as Lieutenant on the occasion -- when Watson was killed,² the Deponent was with a portion of the same company that had been detached under Tutt [Benjamin Tutt?] -- on the North Edisto. Immediately after Watson was killed Butler assumed the command & drove back the Tories, as was said by those, who were with him at the time. Some time in the latter part of 1782 he Deponent went to Bacon's bridge under the command of Captain H. Kay³ & on his return, he met Captain Butler at the head of his company, near Rocky Spring, sixteen miles from the Ridge and the pursuit of Tories & suspected persons.

Sworn to 7th day of Jany 1841 before me

S/ Will. Dawson



S/ A. B. Addison, Q U

[p 81]

South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally came Zach S. Brooks⁴ before me Geo Pope who being sworn deposes that he was personally acquainted with the late General Wm Butler during the war of the revolution. His acquaintance with him commenced about the year 1781 He was in service with him for a short time under the command of General Pickens, while engaged in the pursuit of the notorious William Cunningham during his predatory excursions in the after Country near the close of the war -- The said William Butler was always regarded as an active partizan officer & engaged in work of the military operations an old 96 District with which his is now uniformly associated and the traditionary accounts of that period -- He had the reputation of having served as Lieutenant under the command of Captain M. Watson, upon whose death, he succeeded to his command as

¹ [William Dawson S17920](#)

² Captain Michael Watson was mortally wounded at a skirmish at Dean's Swamp on May 24, 1782 and died the following day. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_deans_swamp.html

³ Sic, I think this MIGHT be a mistaken attempt to name Capt. Henry Thomas Key who served under Col. LeRoy Hammond after the fall of Charleston and after Hammond broke parole.

⁴ [Zachariah Smith Brooks S9294](#)

Captain -- It was while he was in command of this Company that deponent knew him most intimately. The deponent cannot testify as to the length of time what the said William Butler rendered in the service, either as Lieutenant or Captain but he is impressed with the believe that he was in constant service from the Siege of Ninety Six to the close of the War & such is the testimony of those who knew at that period -- Deponent further testifies that he was present at the marriage of the said William Butler & Mrs. Butler, which took place at the time stated and that he has lived a neighbor to the parties for the last 35 or 40 years & knows that Mrs. Butler has continued a widow from the death of her husband down to the present period.

Sworn to 8th of April 1841 before me

S/ Zok S Brooks

Zok S Brooks

S/ Geo. Pope, C. C. P. [?]

[p 87 is William Butler's commission from John Mathews, Gov. of SC, appointing him "to be Capt. of the Company of Militia lately commanded by Capt. Michael Watson in Col. Hammond's Regiment of Militia...." Given in Jacksonbough February 1, 1782.

John Mathews
 SOUTH CAROLINA. By his Excellency ~~John Mathews~~, Esquire, Governor
 and Commander in Chief of the said State.
 To *William Butler Esquire*
 I reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Courage
 and good Conduct, and in your Fidelity and Attachment
 to the United States of America, have commissioned and
 appointed, and by these Presents do commission and ap-
 point you the said *William Butler*
 to be *Capt. of the Company of Militia lately*
commanded by Capt. Michael Watson in Col. Ham-
mond's Regiment of Militia — you are to lead, train, muster, and exercise,
 according to military Discipline. And you are to follow and observe all such
 Orders and Instructions as you shall, from Time to Time, receive from me or
 the Commander in Chief for the Time being, or any of your superior Officers,
 according to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant to the Laws of this State.
 And all inferior Officers, and others belonging to the said *Company*
 are hereby required and commanded to obey you as their *Captain*
 This Commission to continue during Pleasure.
 Given under my Hand and Seal at *Jacksonbough*
 this *first* day of *February* — A. D. *1782*
 and in the *twelfth* Year of the Independence of America.

[p 88 contains a better image of the widow's signature as follows:

Deborah Bond of Butler

[Veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$250 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 and was later pensioned at the rate of \$495 per annum commencing March 4th, 1843, for

