

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Burton W4140  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Susanna Burton  
10/18/10: rev'd 11/3/16

f109NC

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

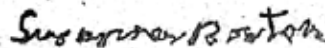
State of North Carolina Hertford County:

On this 13th day of November 1840 personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Hertford County Mrs. Susannah Burton aged eighty-four years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838 entitled, an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of John Burton who was an Adjutant of the 8th Battalion of the Continental Line of the State of North Carolina in the war of the Revolution and served as such from an early period of the war to its close as will appear by the evidence hereto annexed. She further declares that she was married to the said John Burton on this 7th day of May 1792 as will appear by an entry on the lid of her Bible in the handwriting of her husband most of which has unfortunately been destroyed. That her husband the aforesaid John Burton died on the 3rd day of December 1800. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st of January 1794 viz.: at the day & year above written.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year above written before

S/ Jno Vann, JP

S/ Susanna Burton



[p 4 contains the fragment of the record of the marriage of the veteran as referred to by his widow and the above application of the same is illegible and is clearly only a fragment of the record.]

[p 6]

A letter dated September 22, 1939 responding to a request for a summary of the information in this file reads in part as follows to the:

"The date and place of birth of John Burton and names of his parents were not given. Prior to the Revolutionary War, he served in His Majesties 31st Regiment of Foot and about the beginning of the Revolution went from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Hertford County, North Carolina.

"While residing in Hertford County, North Carolina, John Burton entered the service early in 1776, served as adjutant of Colonel Hardy Murfree's North Carolina regiment, was in the battles of Trenton, Brandywine, at the burning of Suffolk, Virginia, in the battles of Guilford Court house and Eutaw Springs and left the service in the spring of 1783. It was stated by soldier's widow that he served as Ensign, Lieutenant or Captain, also. He died December 3 1800, in Hertford County, North Carolina.

"John Burton married May 7, 1792, in Hertford County, North Carolina, Mrs. Susannah Maner or Manier, a widow."

...

"It is shown, also, that John Burton was allowed 1168 acres of land on Warrant No. 171, issued October 23, 1783, by the State of North Carolina, in recognition of his services in the Revolutionary War.

"Susanna Burton died in Hertford County, North Carolina. No children survived her and no names of children are given."

[p 11: Although it is very tattered and worn and largely illegible [C. Leon Harris has taken a crack at what he sees as shown below in the right-hand column], the document appearing on this page appears to be a discharge<sup>1</sup> issued to the veteran for an office in the British Army.

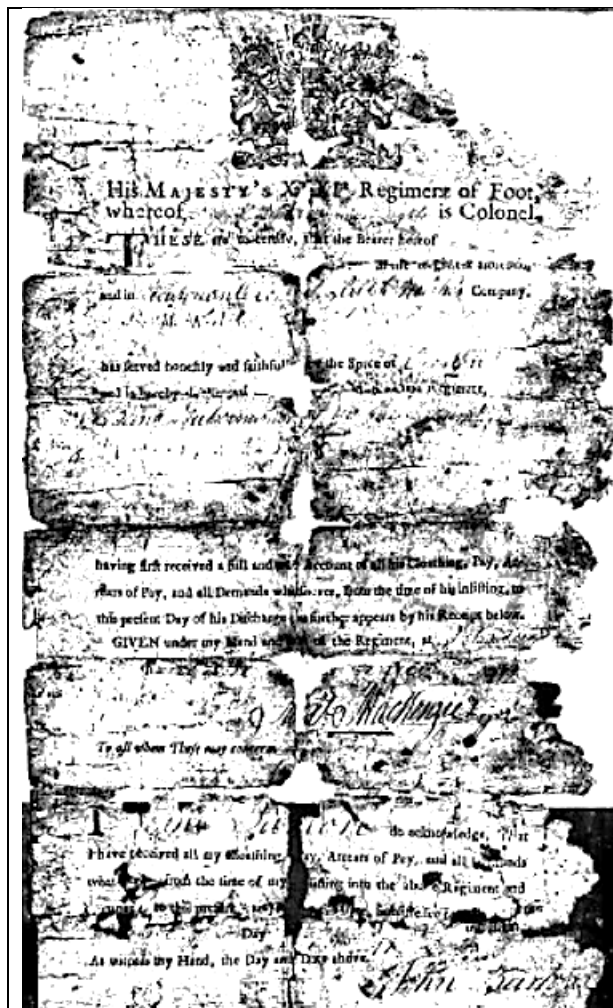
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<sup>1</sup> Don N. Hagist notes: *The British military document in the pension file of John Burton, W4140, is his discharge from the 31st Regiment of Foot. These printed forms, with personal data filled in by hand, were given to discharged soldiers to show that they were legally released from their enlistment contract.*

*The British National Archives has a large collection of discharges for soldiers who received British government pensions (the WO 97, WO 119 and WO 121 collections), because the pension office retained a copy. Discharges for soldiers who did not receive a British pension, like, John Burton, are very rare, so this is a fascinating item.*

*The 31st Regiment served in Pensacola and St. Augustine in the late 1760s and early 1770s, and was part of the force that fought in the Carrib War in the 1770s. Burton was probably discharged before the regiment returned to Great Britain in 1773.*

*By lucky chance, I have copies of the 31st Regiment's muster rolls for this period. I can confirm that John Burton was a private soldier in the 31st and was discharged on 22 April 1772 (along with a number of other men). The semi-annual rolls don't show his enlistment for some reason, but he first appears on the rolls that cover April to October 1771, which correlates nicely with the one year of service indicated on the discharge.*



His MAJESTY S XXXIst Regiment of Foot, whereof, Lt Geml l [page torn here and elsewhere at \*] is Colonel. THESE are to certify, that the Bearer hereof [\*] of the Regiment aforesaid, and in Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Walshes Company, [undeciphered word] Ralph Walsh has served honestly and faithful[\*] for the Space of One year and is hereby discharged [\*] said Regiment, Being Supernumerary in the Regim t. [several undeciphered words] having first received a full true Account of all his Cloathing, Pay, Arrears of Pay, and all Demands whatsoever, from the time of his inlisting, to this present His MAJESTY S XXXIst Regiment of Foot, whereof, Lt Corn l [page torn here and elsewhere at \*] is Colonel.

THESE are to certify, that the Bearer hereof [\*] of the Regiment aforesaid, and in Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Walshes Company, [undeciphered word] Ralph Walsh has served honestly and faithful[\*] for the Space of One year and is hereby discharged [\*] said Regiment, Being Supernumerary in the Regim t. [several undeciphered words] having first received a full true Account of all his Cloathing, Pay, Arrears of Pay, and all Demands whatsoever, from the time of his inlisting, to this present Day of his Discharge as further appears by his Receipt below.

GIVEN under my hand and seal[?] of the Regiment at St Augustine this [date illegible]

[signed] [first name undeciphered] MacKenzie major To all whom These may concern. I John Burton do acknowledge, that I have received all my Cloathing, Pay, Arrears of Pay, and all [undeciphered word] whatsoever from the time of my inlisting into the above Regiment and Company, to the present day [one or two undeciphered words] Subsistence [\*] the [date illegible] Day As witness my Hand, the Day and Date above. [signed] John Burton Day of his Discharge as further appears by his Receipt below.

GIVEN under my hand and seal[?] of the Regiment at St Augustine this [date illegible]

[signed] [first name undeciphered] MacKenzie major To all whom These may concern. I John Burton do acknowledge, that I have received all my Cloathing, Pay, Arrears of Pay, and all [undeciphered word] whatsoever from the time of my inlisting into the above Regiment and Company, to the present day [one or two undeciphered words] Subsistence [\*] the [date illegible] Day As witness my Hand, the Day and Date above. [signed] John Burton

The veteran's signature, however, does appear at the bottom of the discharge and is legible. Here is an enlarged version:



[p 35]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that it appears of record in this Office, that John Burton as adjutant of the 8th Battalion of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, obtained a Warrant for three years service in said line, on the 23rd day of October 1783, which Warrant is No. 171 & was drawn by Colonel Murfree

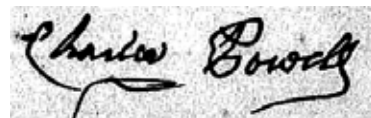
Given under my hand this 4th day of May 1840  
S/ Wm Hill

[p 58]

State of North Carolina Hertford County: The affidavit of Mr. Charles Powell<sup>2</sup> a citizen of the County above written aged eighty-three years and now a Pensioner of the United States who being first duly sworn according to law testifies and says. That he knew John Burton at the commencement of the Revolution who served as an adjutant and served in that capacity when this affiant was engaged in the expedition to Suffolk in Virginia which the enemy burnt, from that time up to the period of his death of John Burton he resided a very close neighbor to this affiant and was married on the seventh day of May 1792 to the widow Maner into miles of this affiant and continued to live in two miles of this affiant up to his death. This affiant was present at the marriage and he has examined the entry attached to Mrs. Burton's declaration he knows it to be the handwriting of John Burton and if it had not been mutilated would show the entry of his marriage which certainly took place at the time above mentioned which this affiant is convinced of from the birth of one of his own children which was in today's of the marriage.

John Burton was certainly in service for some time, but not with this affiant. In conclusion he testifies that Mrs. Burton now applying for a pension is the identical person married to John Burton as above stated and has never married since his birth. Given under my hand this 14th day of November 1840

S/ Charles Powell



[p 88]

State of North Carolina North Hampton [sic, Northampton] County

This affidavit of Nicholas Tyner<sup>3</sup> of the said County now in the ninety first year of his age and a pensioner of the United States – Who being first duly sworn according to law testifies and says that he enlisted under Captain Jacob Turner at Halifax in the fall of 1776 and marched to the North under the command of Colonel Hardy Murfree – John Burton whose widow is now applying for a pension was Adjutant of the Regiment. I served in the North and was at Trenton & Brandywine and continued to serve until 1780 when we returned to North Carolina and joined General Greene at Hillsboro and served at Guilford Court House and Eutaw Springs. In all this service John Burton acted in the Regiment as Adjutant. We were finally discharged at Halifax in

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<sup>2</sup> [Charles Powel \(Powell\) S7323](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Nicholas Tyner S7773](#)

the spring of 1783. John Burton returned to Hertford County, and there lived, married and died living all his life in fifteen miles of the affiant. This affiant can testify that John Burton served as above stated and he knows that he is the identical person who served and then married the individual (now his widow) and applying for a pension.

The marriage of John Burton with his widow now applying for a pension took place in May 1792.

Given under my hand this 19th day of January 1841

S/ Nicholas Tyner, X his mark

[pp 92-93: James Weston<sup>4</sup> also gave a supporting affidavit stating that he knew Burton to have served as Adjutant in Col. Murfree's regt.]

[Widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1843 and ending August 19, 1844 when she died, for the two years service of her husband as an adjutant in the service of North Carolina during the revolution.]

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<sup>4</sup> [James Weston S7858](#)