

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

John Burns' Revolutionary War Pension Testimony, read and typed by Mark Nelson on Jun 27, 2014. In the following transcription I use [] to indicate material not in the text. The testimony is written in a narrow, bound notebook. It is difficult to read at the binding margin. I have kept the lines intact to make it easier to make a correspondence between the original document and the transcription. In most places I have tried to retain the capitalization and punctuation, but both are difficult to read because of the age of the document, possibly archaic spellings, and the idiosyncrasies of the penmanship.

The document was obtained by me on ancestry.com from the "The Junction of Conner Court and Reddick Road" family tree. It was shared by bobconner2.

The page numbers are taken from the six ancestry.com .jpg files. I enhanced them a little bit in Apple iPhoto. I denote the pages as [Page 1], etc. Enhanced version attached to end.

My notation for the transcription

??? — illegible word

[sp?] — illegible spelling, usually names

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

[Page 1, An index card format, seemingly the cover sheet for the file]

N.C. Burns, John S.1944

carded

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

[Page 2, appears to be a certificate of pension awarded]

7295

West Tennessee
John Burns
of Bedford Co in the State of W Tenn
who was a private in the company commanded
by Captain Nelson of the Rg [Regiment] commanded
by Col Martin in the N Carolina
line for 7 months 21 days

=====
Inscribed on the roll of West Tennessee
at the rate of 25 Dollars and 66 Cents per annum
to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.

=====
Certificate of Pension issued the 27th day of March
1833 and Au??? [Authorized?] J. McC Kissick Shelbyville Tenn

=====
Arrears to the 4th of March \$51.52.
Semi-anl, allowance ending 4 life [?] 12.83
=====

\$64.15

Revolutionary Claim
Act June 7, 1832

Recorded by Daniel Boyd
Book E [or 6] Vol. 7 Page 2

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

[Page 3, First page of the testimony]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

On the 10th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before Samuel Phillips, ??? P. Neill [sp?] and John B. Armstrong Esquires gentlemen Justices of the peace appointed to hold the court of pleas and quating [???] Sessions for Bedford County in the State of Tennessee, now sitting. John Burns ??? [Snr?, Jnr.?, Esq.] a resident of the county and State aforesaid aged seventy nine years and six months, who first being duly sworn according to law ??? [did?] 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 entered the Service of the united States as a volunteer in the County of Guilford and State of North Carolina in Captain John Nelson's Company attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. James Martin, he states his Lieut. Was by the name of Josiah Gates, and that he volunteered and mustered into Service in the Spring or Summer of 1776.— he thinks about the 1st of June; he states he was marched from Guilford Court house in North Carolina to Sal[off page] =lurry [Salesbury?] from that to Calbergs [sp?] ford on Cataba [?sp] river from thence into the Cherokee nation to Cataba [?sp] Town At which place one of our men killed one of the Indians; our troops destroys Cataba [?sp] Town and a great many other that he cannot recall the names of; he recollects Turkey ??? [Town?] the americans destroyed the corn that was growing by cutting it down. The

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

[Page 4]

deposant further states that he remained in the nation for some time and was then, marched back home and discharged or dismissed at Robert Nelsons in Guilford County North Carolina he thinks and believes about the first of November in the same year. — He also states that afterwards he was Numbered [?] when over ten men had to furnish one man for the Continental Service and in this way my class furnished three men at different times He does not recall the year He further states that the governor of North Carolina called for troops to guard the legislature of the State Canveaned [convened?] at Salem he does not recall the year but he thinks he served about one month as a volunteer in this occ[off page u?, occupation?] pation under John Nelson as Capt. — He afterward volunteered under Captain John Nelson in Guilford County aforesaid, to go against the tories who were imbodyed on the Yadkin [sp?] river about a mile from the Shallow ford on said river, but they[n?] were driven from that place as he was informed by Col. Campbell from Halston [or Holston?] before Capt. Nelson and his men reached that place; he states that Capt. Nelson returned home with his men in about six or seven days after when they were dismissed, he states that afterwards he volunteered with the same Capt. John Nelson, his Lieut. was Josiah Gates, his Col. was James Martin, he thinks he volunteered about the first of February in the Year 1781. He states he was mustered into Service at Wm Manganeries [?sp] about six miles below Guilford Court house in the state of N. Carolina in general Greens army. he states the troops remain[off page] tuin [???] when they were mustered into Ser[off page, Service] but was ordered and marched to Wosks [sp?] bridge an[off page, and]

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

[Page 5]

He states that he was ordered from that place to pilot [?] some baggage waggons [sic] to the rocky [sp?] Springs now in Rockingham county North Carolina and after some days was ordered to have said waggons [sic] moved across Dan river into Hensy [sp?] County Virginia, which he performed agreeable orders; he states that afterward he was marched to the battle ground of the Guilford County [???] to bury some of the Americans who fell [off page, fell] in that battle and were left on the ground the found six men and buried them; he thinks he served on this tower [??? sic ? tour?] of duty about one month and a half and was dismissed, making in all about Seven months and twenty one days. He states he knew Major John Nelson of the Continental line but does not know what Regiment he was attached to— He further states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whos [sic] testimony he can procure (except the testimony of William Cunningham whos [sic] affidavit is here to annexed who can prove a part of the tower [??? sic ? tour?]) who can testify to his Service, He hereby relinquish [off page, relinquishes] every claim whatever to a pension or annuity exce [off page except] just [???] the present, and declares that his name is not on any pension roll of and Agency in the united States—

Interrogatories [sp?] by the court

Intry. 1st Where and what year were you born—

Ans. I was born in Baltimore County in the State of Maryland on the 10th day of February 1753— as I have been informed by my parents—

Int. 2nd Have you a record of your age and if so when ???

Ans. I have not. any record of my age

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

[Page 6]

Intry 3rd Where were you living when called into Service
where have you lived since the Revolutionary War;
and where do you now live?—

Ans I lived in Guilford County State of North Carolina
when I entered into Service of the united States and sht[??? off page]
remained there until after the revolutionary war,
and moved from that county in the year of 1807
to Bedford County State of Tennessee where I now reside.

Intry 4th ????? were called into Service, were you drafted
and did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if
a substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was a volunteer all of the time I served.

Intry. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers
who were with the troops where you Served; Such con
=tinental militia Regiment as you can recollect
and the general circumstances of your Service.

Ans. I recollect Major John Nelson who was a regular
officer, I cannot recollect any particular Regiment
except those under Col. Martin and the Militia and
Volunteer Regiments under general Green the rest [?]
of which if I ever I knew I have forgotten.—

Intry 6 Did you ever recieve [sic] a discharge from
the Service.—

Ans. I never did;

Intry 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known
in your present neighborhood and who can testify
as to your character for veracity and their belief
as to your Services as a revolutionary Soldier.—

Ans. The Rev. John Brooks, John A. Mason, Thos.
Davis, Benjamin Strickley, John Oakin [s?] and John

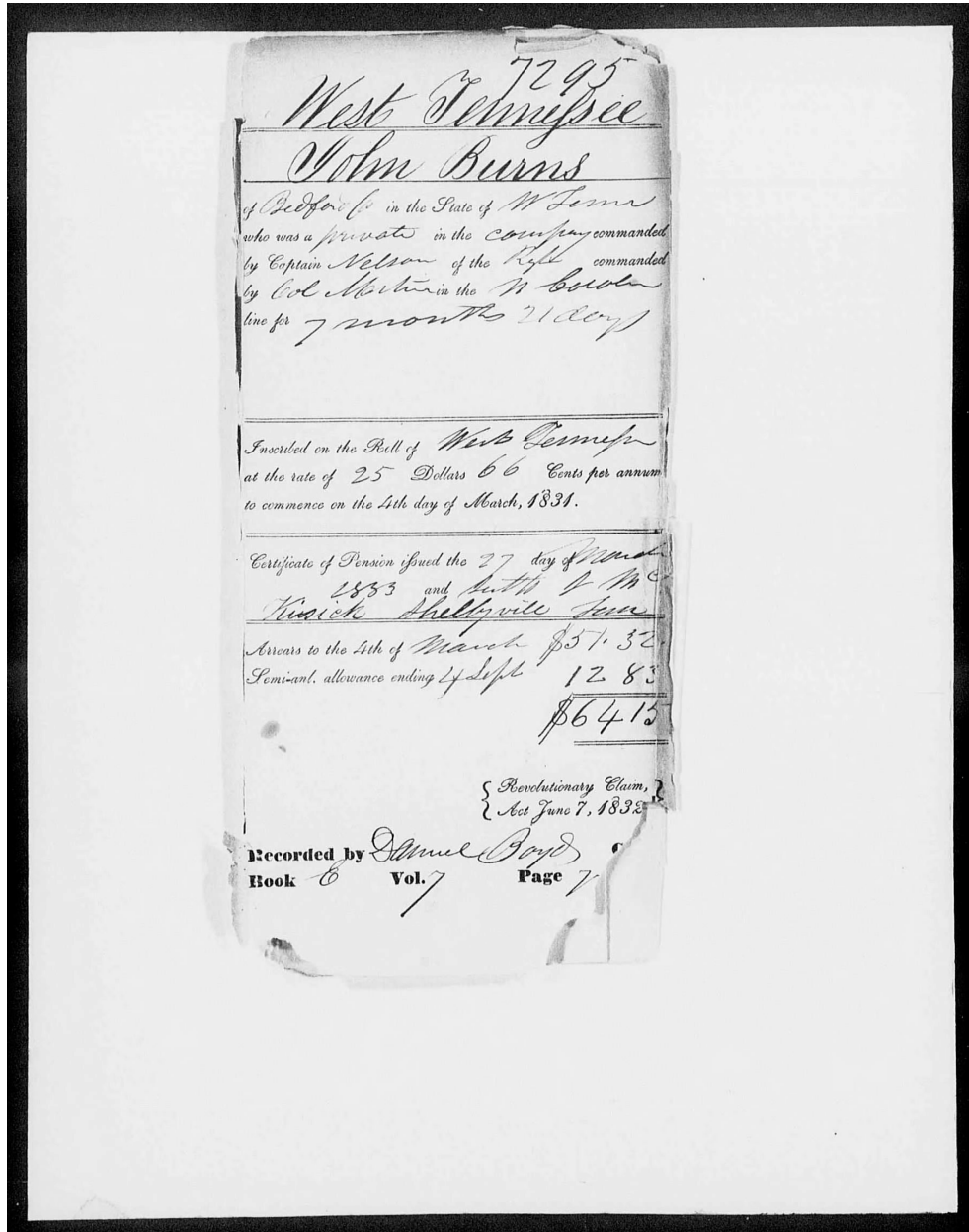
C. Caldwell Sworn to subscribed the day and

year aforesaid

John Burns [new handwriting]
[signature of stenographer]

Seal[handwritten and surrounded
by curly bubble]

John Burns Pension Application Testimony



John Burns Pension Application Testimony

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the
act of Congress passed 9th June 1832.

On the 10th day of August in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally
appeared in open court before Samuel Hillis, John
P. Hill and John S. Armstrong Esquires gentlemen
Justices of the peace appointed to hold the court of pleas
and quarter Sessions for Bedford County in the State
of Tennessee, now sitting, John Burns had a resident
of the county and State aforesaid aged thirty nine
years and six months. Who first being duly sworn ac-
cording to law took an oath, with the following
declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of
Congress passed June 9th 1832. That he entered the service
of the United States under the following name of war
and served as herein stated. — That he entered the service
of the United States as a volunteer in the county of Guilford
and State of North Carolina, in Captain John Wilsons
Company attached to a Regiment commanded by Col.
James Martin, he states his Lieut. was by the name of
Josiah Gates, and that he volunteered and was mustered
into service in the Spring or Summer of 1776. —
He thinks about the 1st of June; He states he was marched
from Guilford Court house in North Carolina to State
erry Span that to Colliersfort on Catawba river
Span thence into the Cherokee nation to Catawba Town
At which place one of our men killed an Indian; our
traps destroy Catawba Town and a great many other
Towns that the enemy recollect the names of; he recollects
Turkey Town the Americans destroy the corn that
was growing by cutting it down &c.

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

deponent further states that he remained ^{in the nation} for some time
and was then, marched back home and discharged
or dismissed at Robert Nelsons in Guilford County North
Carolina he thinks, and does believe about the first of
November in the same year. — He also states that after-
wards he was summoned when every ten men had to
furnish one man for the Continental service and in the
May my class furnished three men at different times.
He does not recollect the year. He further states that the
governor of North Carolina called for troops to
guard the legislature of the State Carreand at
Salem he does not recollect ^{the} year but he thinks he
served about one month as a volunteer on this occa-
sion under John Nelson as Capt. He afterward
volunteered under Captain John Nelson in Guilford
County aforesaid, to go against the Tories who were
imbedded on the Yadkin river about a mile
from the shallow ford on said river, but ^{they} were
driven from that place as he was informed by Col
Campbell from Salston before Capt. Nelson and
his men reached that place; he states that Capt
Nelson returned home with his men in about six
or seven days ^{after} when they were dismissed, he states
that afterwards he volunteered with the same Capt.
John Nelson, his Lieut. was Josiah Gates, his Col.
was James Martin, he thinks he volunteered about the
first of February in the year 1781. He states he
was mustered into service at a Mr. Marganers
about ²⁵ miles below Guilford Court house in the State
of North Carolina, ^{in General Clintons Army} he states the troops remained for some
time when they were mustered into service, but
but was ordered ^{and marched} to work bridge on Saw river

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

He states that he was ordered from ^{that} place to pilot
some baggage Waggons to the rocky Springs
now in Rockingham County North Carolina and
after some days was ordered to have said Waggons
marched across Dan river into Henry County Vir-
ginia, which he performed agreeable order; he states that
afterward he was marched to the battle ground of
the Guilford ^{battle to} Henry some of the Americans who fell
in that battle and were left on the ground they found
six men and buried them; he thinks he served on
this tower of duty about one month and a half
and was then dismissed, making in all about
seven months and twenty one days. He states he
knows Major John Nelson of the Continental line
but that he does not know what Regiment he was attached
to. He further states that he has no documentary
evidence and that he knows of no person whose
testimony he can procure except the testimony
of William Cunningham whose affidavit is here to
be examined (who can prove a part of one tower) who
can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes
every claim whatever to a pension or annuity ex-
cept the present, and declares that his name is not
on any pension roll of any Agency in the
United States.

Interrogatories by the court
Q. When and in what year were you born?
A. I was born in Baltimore County in the State of
Maryland on the 11th day of February 1758.
as I have been informed by my parents.
Q. Have you a record of your age and if so what?
A. I have not any record of my age.

John Burns Pension Application Testimony

Interrogatory 2^d When were you living when called into service
where have you lived since the Revolutionary war,
and where do you now live?

Ans: I lived in Guilford county state of North Carolina
when I entered the service of the United States, and I
remained there until after the revolutionary war,
and moved from that county in the year 1807
to Bedford ^{State of Tennessee} ~~county~~ ^{where I now reside.}

Interrogatory 3^d How were you called into service, were you drafted,
did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if
a substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was a substitute, all the time I served;

Interrogatory 4th State the names of some of the regular officers
who were in the troops when you served: such con-
tinentals, Militia Regiments as you can recollect,
and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I recollect Major John Nelson who was a regular
officer, I cannot recollect any particular Regiment
except those under Col. Martin and the Militia and
volunteer Regiments under general Green the most
of which if I ever knew I have forgotten.

Interrogatory 5th Did you ever receive a discharge from
the service.

Ans: I never did;

Interrogatory 6th 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 fidelity,
and their as to your service as a revolutionary
soldier.

Ans: The Rev. John Proctor, John A. Mann, Wm.
David, Benjamin Strickler, John Calkin and John
C. Caldwell sworn to and subscribed the day and
year aforesaid.
John Burns
Wm. Strickler et al

Seal