

Mill Bend Co 22 August 1856

Sir:

It is alleged by the heirs of John Burke, who was a Revolutionary pensioner at the rate of 96¢ the year enrolled in the County of Lee State of Virginia, and was paid the same up to his death which took place about the year 1840 or 41. That Polly Burke widow of said John buried him and was pensioned under the act of 1836 extended by the act 1848, and enrolled from the said County of Lee. But that a mistake was made in issuing the certificate to the said Polly which only allowed her 48¢ per annum and which amount was received during her life. She having died in 1850. There is apparently therefore 48¢ per annum due to the children of Polly for the mistake a few said during the time she was pensioned.

I respectfully ask information for and in behalf of said children as to how this is as shown of record in your office, and beg you to give it to me as soon as you may with convenience.

With Very much respect  
I am your Obl. Servant  
Abraham L. Purcell  
Mill Bend  
Co. Va.

Honorable J. Minor  
Comm<sup>r</sup> of Pensions  
Washington  
D.C.

I know all men by these presents that said John Burke and Philip Owen and heirs and family bound with Patrick Henry Esquire, Governor or Chief Magistrate of the State of Virginia, in the sum of fifty pounds; to which payment well and truly he made to the said Patrick Henry, or to his assignors, and bound ourselves, and each of us, our heirs and each of our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally jointly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this first day of May one thousand seven hundred & eighty five - The condition of the above obligation is such, that so long as there is a Marriage lawfully intended to be had and solemnized between the above bound John Burke and Mary Stearns. Now if there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct the said Marriage then the above obligation to be void else to remain in full force.

Sealed & acknowledged in presence of: John <sup>his</sup> Burke  
Philip Owen <sup>his</sup>

I John R. Stepley Deputy for Robert S. Mitchell Clerk of the County Court of Bedford in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Marriage Record bound taken and filed upon issuing license for the intermarriage of John Burke and Mary Stearns as appears from the records of said Court, with the exception of the date, which is expunged in said bound in fair legible figures as follows "first day of May 1780."

I John R. Stepley, above named, depose and say that I hold the Office of Deputy Clerk in the County and State aforesaid, and that the above is a true transcript from the records of said Court, with the exception above named as certified by me  
John R. Stepley Deputy Clerk of  
the County Court of Bedford

Edward Bedford and  
William Perry Justice of the Peace

Washington county in the State of Virginia

On this twenty second day of August 1821 persons appeared in open court being a court of record for the said county of Washington, John Burke aged upwards of sixty years, resident in the said county of Washington who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows— He enlisted under Captain Thomas Bell in the first Maryland Regiment commanded by Colo Thomas Rawlings for one year, after which he continued in the service at Pittsburg in the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment as well as he recollects near three years, when he was removed to Annapolis under Gen<sup>l</sup> Smallwood. The original declaration of the said John Burke bears date the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 1818 and he has obtained a pension certificate N<sup>o</sup>. 14723. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. I own one small mountain tract of land containing <sup>one hundred</sup> ~~one~~ acres valued to be worth one hundred and fifty dollars, on which I

have given a deed of trust to secure the payment of seventy dollars with some interest and the following personal property. One old mare twenty four years old— One small Cow & calf— one small broken oven & lid— one small pot— two axes, one iron wedge, three sheep, one shovel plough rope traces & leather collar, one clevis & hammer— one old flax spinning wheel— one cotton D<sup>o</sup> old, three old hoes, one reel, two pair of pot hooks— five very old pewter plates, one dish and three spoons, five knives & three forks, one old smoothing iron, one old churn, one old slop bucket, one old cooler, three old tin cups, one pair of old wool cards, one old flax hackle and two old chains one without a bottom.

John <sup>his</sup> Burke  
mark

The said John Burke is by occupation a farmer that he is often very much afflicted with rheumatic pains so as to render him unable to pursue that occupation that he has living with him a wife aged about fifty five years, two daughters and one son. His son is nearly of age and he expects will soon leave him. His daughters are grown up and work for themselves— His wife is frail and unhealthy.

I John Campbell Clerk of Washington County Court in the Commonwealth aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing oath and the schedule thereto annexed are truly copied from the records of the said court: and I do further certify that it is the opinion of the said Court from disinterested testimony that the total amount in value of the real and personal property exhibited in the aforesaid schedule is one hundred and eighty dollars. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the said county on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1821.

John Campbell



State of Virginia Court.

On this nineteenth day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia allotted by law to the thirteenth Circuit, which comprehends the county of Washington personally appeared John Burk, aged sixty years, and in the county of Washington in the state aforesaid, who being by me first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late 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": That he the said John Burk enlisted at Hazari town in the State of Maryland, in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Beal of the first Maryland Regiment, or Continental establishment, <sup>commanded by Colonel Mays</sup> in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States, untill the close of the revolutionary war, when he was discharged from service at Annapolis in Maryland: that the troops with which he served were stationed successively at Fort Pitt, Fort M<sup>c</sup>Intosh, and Detroit, for the purpose, as he understood, of keeping the Indian enemy in check: that he spent the greater part of his time, while in service, at those posts, and was, therefore, not engaged in any of the battles fought with the British force: that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for subsistence and that he has no other. The said John Burk also produced

before me a credible witness, of good character, named Isaac Praker, who, upon oath, declared and gave evidence, that the before named John Burk was, to his certain knowledge, at least twelve months in the military service of the United States, during the war of the revolution, and that he has frequently seen his discharge, which however, has been long since destroyed by accident. I was to and asked when on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1818 <sup>Peter Johnston</sup> Judge as above stated, do certify, that it appears to my satisfaction, that the said John Burk did serve in the revolutionary war, as stated in the preceding declaration, against the common enemy, for a longer period than nine months, in the continental establishment; and I now transmit the proceedings and testimony had and taken before me to the Secretary for the department of war, pursuant to the direction of the aforementioned act of Congress.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my private seal (there being no official seal to the Superior Court of Washington County) on the day and year first above written.

Peter Johnston

I now further certify, that at the time when the foregoing declaration was made before me, by the applicant John Burk, it appeared to my satisfaction, that the said Burk is in reduced circumstances, and that he stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support. Given under my hand at Abingdon in the county of Washington, and State of Virginia, August 5<sup>th</sup> 1819.

Peter Johnston

James Stevens	Born January 30 <sup>th</sup>	1782
Lycias <del>Stevens</del> Brewster	Born January 11 <sup>th</sup>	1788
John Brewster	Born January 15 <sup>th</sup>	1790
Cathy Brewster	Born March 15 <sup>th</sup>	1792
Thomas Brewster	Born Sept. 2 <sup>th</sup>	1793
Robert Brewster	Born Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	1797
Lucy Brewster	Born Aug <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup>	1800
David Brewster	Born April 11 <sup>th</sup>	1804