

## Lawrence Bathurst of Centre County, Pennsylvania: His Service in the American Revolution

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LAWRENCE BATHURST, aged 75 years, resident of Howard Township, on 1 October 1832, personally appeared in Centre County Court of Common Pleas and on his oath made the following declaration:

In August 1776, I lived at Providence Township, now Montgomery County; the militia<sup>6</sup> were drafted to go to Amboy. I volunteered in a company commanded by Captain Francis, 1st Lt. John Edwards, 2nd Lt. David Schrock, in the Reg't of Col. John Bull, Lt. Col. Curry; marched to Amboy, the British then at Staten Island; remained there two months, was discharged and returned home. Was at home a short time and again volunteered and belonged to the company of Captain Francis and Lieutenant Edwards; marched to Newtown Square<sup>7</sup> in Bucks County; remained there a few weeks and marched, and with other militia and volunteers had the prisoners in care who were taken at Trenton [26 December 1776]. Returned to Newtown and was again discharged.

In June 1777, I was drafted in the Militia and attached to the company of Captain Hamilton in the Reg't of Colonel Heister; marched to the Jerseys, returned to Philadelphia and was discharged. I think in the same year I was again drafted and marched in the company of Captain Rinee, Reg't of Colonel Moore,<sup>8</sup> to Tawnytown [Taneytown, Md.] to guard British prisoners; returned home and the company was discharged. In the same or next year there was a requisition for Waggon to go to the North river [the Hudson]. I drove Thomas Rees's Waggon; when we arrived at Philadelphia the orders were countermanded. There we were employed in hauling Cannon Ball from the King of Prussia Tavern on the West Chester Road to Philadelphia; remained two months and was discharged.

A short time after the Battle of Brandywine [11 September 1777] I was employed by Edw'd Roberts, who had a Waggon in the Government's service and went to the Great Swamp; hauled flour and other provisions for the regular army from Germantown and was discharged. This was the last service I was engaged in.

I am not on any pension roll of any State. I was born in Germantown in 1757; have a record of my birth but know not where it now is. I lived in Providence Township when called into service; lived there until I removed to what is now Centre County, and have lived there forty years and upwards. I know of no person now alive who was in service with me.

I recollect Colonel Stone of the Regular [Continental] service, with whom our troops once served. That service generally was separate from the Regular troops. I never received a written discharge. /s/ Lawrence Bathurst

Certificate dated 28 September 1832, and signed by James Crawford, local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Roland Curtin, Daniel Weemers, John Anderson, Robert Goodfellow, Henry Bonnhart and Frederick Antes, certified they were personally acquainted with Lawrence Bathurst. He was long a respectable citizen of Centre County;

<sup>6</sup> Prior to the Militia Act of 17 March 1777, the so-called "militia" were actually the Associators who had voluntarily joined themselves into military companies for the defense of the country.

<sup>7</sup> There is no Newtown Square in Bucks County. Bathurst confused Newtown, Bucks County, where he was sent, with Newtown Square in Chester County.

<sup>8</sup> Colonel Daniel Heister, Jr. commanded the First Battalion of Philadelphia County militia, and Captain John Hamilton the 1st Company of the Fifth Battalion. Colonel John Moore was in command of the Second Battalion, Philadelphia County militia, and Captain John Reyner the 2nd Company of the Fifth Battalion. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, V, 191, 602, 709-711.