

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to John Brent VAS2630

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some of the online images are illegible. Some pages are out of order but are arranged here in what appears to be logical sequence. The file also contains two documents pertaining to Private John Brent R1176.]

State of Kentucky Green County to wit [24 Sep 1824]

This day John Smith [X740] personally appeared before me Adam Campbell A Justice of the Peace for the county aforesaid and made Oath that John Brent Entered the Service of the united States in Virginia and was appointed Capt in the Month of February 1776 in the Fourth Virginia Regiment on the continental line Commanded by Col Isaac Read and that Col Isaac Read died in the year 1776 at which time Robert Lawson was appointed Col. Commatant [sic: Commandant] to said Regiment and that the said John Brent continued to command as Capt in said Regiment untill the month of February or March 1778 at which time he was promoted and received the appointment of Major but he does not recollect the name of his Col nor the Number of his Regiment in which he was appointed and that he never has received nor has any other Claiming as heirs to John Brent his ancestor deceased to his knowledge any land bounty from the united states of the state of Virginia on account of Services rendered in the revolutionary war by the said John Brent nor did the said John Brent in his life time to the knowledge of the said John Smith receive any land Bounty from the said state or the united states.



[the first part missing] of the said Brent (to wit) Jane Brent who married the above John Smith – and Nancy Brent who married William W. Cobbs – and Margret Brent who Married Liberty Green – and Elizabeth Brent who married Samuel Rogers – and Catherine Brent who married Samuel Henderson – and Sarah Brent who married Robert Hughes and James Brent and Thomas C. Brent – and that the Six Girles and two sones is all of the heirs of the above named John Brent Judith herXmark Caldwell
[24 Sep 1824]

State of Kentucky Shelby County to wit [9 Oct 1824]

This day George Hankins [S31102] personally appeared before me James C. Burnett a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he enlisted in Capt John Brents Company in the service of the united states in the spring 1776 and that he was acquainted with John Smith while in said service in Capt John Brents Company and that he well knows that Capt John Brent did render the millitary service as is stated in the affidavit given by John Smith who belong to the 4th Virginia Regiment on the continental line
George hisXmark Hankins

State of Kentucky Mercer County to wit

This day [28 Oct 1824] Humphrey May [W8408] personally appeared before me Jeremiah Clemens a Justice of the Peace for the county aforesaid and made oath that he was appointed Sergeant by Capt John Brent in said Brents Company in the Month of February 1776 in the 4th Virginia Regiment on the Continental line commanded by Col Isaac Read and after the death of Read Col Robert Lawson [VAS850] Commanded said Regiment and that the said John Brent continued to do the duties of Capt untill he was appointed Major but he does not recollect what time he was promoted to the office of Major and as well as he recollects the said John Brent was appointed Major to the Fourth Virginia Regiment on the Continental

line and that he does not know how long he continued in the Service of the united states but some time during the revolutionary war he came home took sick and died

Humphrey Elay

State of Kentucky Spencer County to wit

This day [27 Oct 1824] Samuel Linderman [Samuel Lindeman] personally appeared before me Jephthah Berkley a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid and made oath that he belong to Capt John Brents Company and that the affidavit Given by John Smith respecting the service of Capt John Brent contains the truth

Samuel Linderman

To The Honorable the Executive of Virginia.

The Heirs and Deviseses of Maj'r John Brent respectfully shew

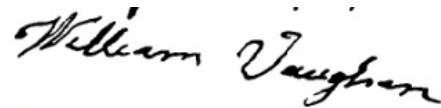
That their ancestor entered the service of his Country in the year 1776 on the 24 of February of that year he was Commissioned Captain as is seen from a Transcript of the order by the then existing authority – how long he was in the service is not exactly known but it is most clearly established that after being engaged in several conflicts with the Enemy, which impaired his health, he returned to his native County upon furlough and died [undeciphered word] while in service.

Your Petitioners believe that neither he nor any of his Family ever received any portion of the Land promised as Bounty to those who should serve in the Army as provided by Law and they respectfully ask that such allowance may now be made. They are advised that they are entitled to receive as much as if he he had served to the end of the War & one third more. The evidence shews that he was promoted to a Majority, which was the rank he held at the time of his death, which is submitted by his Heirs

The Affidavit of William Vaughan [S14754] of the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia, intended to be used as evidence in establishing a claim of land bounty in behalf of the heirs of Major John Brent, Deceased, late of this county of Charlotte.

This Affiant being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, That he was well acquainted with Major John Brent, late of Charlotte, now deceased, before, and during the Revolutionary war. The said John Brent engaged in the continental service, and commenced as Captain, and raised a large company. He the said Vaughan enlisted under Captain Brent, and the company marched from the County of Charlotte to Portsmouth in Virginia, in the early part of March 1776, and was stationed at Portsmouth untill late in the fall of the same year. The said Captain Brent and his company were then ordered to the north, and went by water and landed in the State of Maryland. The said Captain Brent was engaged in most of the battles fought in the States of New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania of any consequence, during the year of 1777; and he has a distinct recollection of seeing him engaged in the battle at Germantown [4 Oct 1777] being under his immediate command. He is under the impression though to certain at this time, that the said Captain Brent was promoted while in the northern service, and was made Major. The said company of Captain Brent, was attached to the 4th Virginia Regiment on continental establishment, commanded by Col [Robert] Lawson under General Stevens [sic: Adam Stephen]. While in the northern service, the said Brent's health was much injured, and he thinks the said Brent, obtained a furlough, came home, and never was able afterwards to return again. In what year the said Brent died, he does not now recollect, but feels satisfied, he died sometime before the close of the war. The said Brent was always considered a brave and efficient officer and devoted to the cause in which

he was engaged, and rendered the country much service during the Revolutionary war. That he the said William Vaughan is now in the 85th year of his age, and has for several years been drawing a pension.
[11 March 1833]



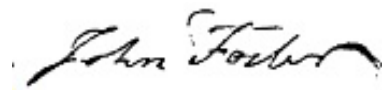
I, James Morton [S9035] of the County of Prince Edward and State of Virginia do hereby certify, that I knew John Brent of Charlotte County, who raised a company of regular soldiers, early in the year 1776 and marched them to Norfolk; about the latter end of September of that year, he was ordered on to the North, and joined General Washington in New Jersey, near the North River, he continued in the Northern service until after the breaking up of the camp at Middlebrook, near Brunswick. I do not distinctly recollect at what particular period, but he was promoted to the rank of Major during this service, as I remember that he commanded a detachment of the army in that capacity in an engagement at a place called the Short Hills [26 Jun 1777], I learned that he came home, on furlough, and died. It is my impression, at this time that he served about two years. Given under my hand this 26th day of March 1833.



Virginia – Charlotte County to wit;

I John Foster [S1515] of the county of Charlotte in the Eightieth year of my age, do hereby certify, that I was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was well acquainted with the late Major John Brent of the county of Charlotte while in the service, and before the commencement of the war. I know very well he raised a large company of men in the county of Charlotte and first marched them to Portsmouth in Virginia, where they remained until the fall of the year 1776, and afterwards the said company was ordered to the north. All the facts and circumstances named in the affidavits of Major James Morton of Prince Edward and Mr. William Vaughan of Charlotte, I feel no kind of hesitation in subscribing to; having been an eye witness to most of the facts stated therein. How long Major Brent continued in the service I am not able at this time to say; but feel confident in saying that he was an able and efficient Officer, and would have continued in the service had not his health been impaired by the hardships and fatigue which most of us had to undergoe. I enlisted under Captain John Morton and was attached to the 4th Virginia Regiment, the same to which the company of John Brent was attached. I am satisfied the said Brent died while in the service of his country.

[12 Aug 1833]



The affidavit of Maj William Gaines [possibly William Fleming Gaines BLWt880-300] of the County of Charlotte to be read as evidence in establishing a claim of Land Bounty in behalf of the heirs of Major John Brent Deced.

This affiant being first duly sworn according to law deposeseth and saith: That he was well acquainted with the late Major John Brent of the county of Charlotte, now Deceased, who was an officer in the Revolutionary war, and all the members of his family. The said John Brent departed this life, leaving his wife Margaret who is since dead, and the following children to wit, James Brent, who is dead; leaving his widow by the name of Ann, who has since intermarried with a Mr. William Johnson; and two Children to wit, Martha, who married George Hannah, who has since died, leaving two Children; towit Joel W. Hannah, and Julia A. who has since married Samuel Thomas; and Julia Brent, who married Edward C. Allen. The said Allen has since died. 2^d Thomas Caldwell Brent. 3^d Jane who married John Smith. 4th Elizabeth, who married Samuel Rogers. 5th Catherine, who first married Nathaniel Rogers; and

afterwards, as I understood, married a Mr. Henderson. 6th Nancy, who married William Cobb. 7th Margaret, who married Liberty Green. 8th Sarah, who married Robert Hughes. That these are all of the children of the late Major John Brent of Charlotte Decd according to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have always understood that Maj Brent came home on furlough, and I think he died shortly after his return home, which was sometime in the year 1781.



Charlotte County towit:

I do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with James Brent, who was a son of the late Major John Brent of Charlotte an officer in the Revolutionary war. The said James Brent departed this life many years since, leaving a Last Will & Testament and his wife Ann, by whom he had two children, to wit, Martha who married George Hannah, and Julia who married Edward C. Allen. The said widow of James Brent has since married a Mr. William Johnson and is still living. Martha the wife of George Hannah is dead, leaving two children, towit, Joel Hannah, and Julia A. Hannah who has since intermarried with Mr. Samuel Thomas. Edward C. Allen, who married Julia Brent the other daughter, is dead; but his widow is still living. The said Martha who married George Hannah, and Julia who married Edward C. Allen, were the only two children of the late James Brent Decd of the county of Charlotte. Given under my hand this 15th day of August 1833.

Wm. Harris [William Harris]

Monday 4th March 1776.

Present. Mr. President

Mr. Digges	Mr. Lee
Mr. Page	Mr. Jones
Mr Bland	Mr. Walker

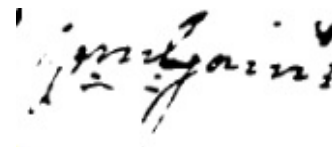
C[ommission]s issued to Captain Fleming (Cumberland) and his Subalterns dated Feb'y 29th (deli'd him), also to Capt. Jno. Brent (Charlotte) 24th Feb'y.

I certify that the above is a true copy taken from a Book in this office called the "Minutes of the Committee of Safety" Oct 5th 1833. J. Adams Smith/ 1st Clerk/ Auditor absent

State of Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

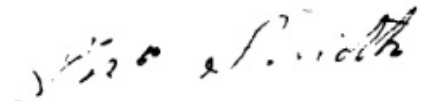
I William Gains of the County of Charlotte, do hereby certify, according to the best of my recollection in impression at the present time, that Captain John Brent was the first Captain who raised and marched from the county of Charlotte a company of Regular Soldiers to join the Grand Army under the command of General Washington. As well as I can recollect the company marched in the early part of the year 1776: my impression is that Capt Brent did not return from the army untill 1781, although he might have visited his family in Va. intermediate time. When he did return in 1781, he was in desperate health, and died shortly after his return. It was said by those who were intimate with him, and I know it was the general impression at the time of his return and death, that he had been promoted in the Army and made Major, and was on furlough in consequence of his bad health. He was certainly stiled and called Major upon his return from the northern army; was so considered by his most intimate friends and acquaintances; and I believe by the people of the County generally. Being raised in the same neighborhood and County, I was well acquainted with Major Brent, and the members of his family. The day and month in which he died I cannot now recollect; but I feel satisfied that he died in the year 1781, and shortly after his return from the army.

As witness my hand this 7th May 1834



State of Kentucky, Green County S.c,t

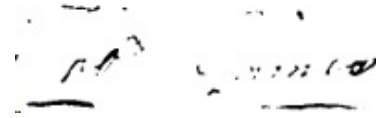
Be it known that on this 18th[?] day of December 1834 before me Archibald Webster a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared John Smith a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following statement towit, that before and during the Revolutionary war he was intimately acquainted with Major John Brent deceased, that before and during the revolutionary war he lived in the immediate neighbourhood with said Brent in Charlotte County Virginia, (Except when with him in the Service) that sometime in the Spring of the year 1776 the said John Brent entered the service of the united states as a Captain and marched a Company under his Command as Captain from Charlotte County Virginia to Norfolk thence to the north that said Brent was in the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and Germantown I was with him in both of said Battles and he Commanded as Captain and in the battle of Brandywine him and myself were both in the Forlorn hope. That he Continued in Service near two years as Captain That he was then while in Service promoted to the Rank of Major. After my term of service was out I returned home and left him in Service. As relates to his being a Captain and marching a Company from Charlotte County as above stated I the said Smith know to be true from my own personal knowledge I was also with him in the aforesaid battles at Brandywine & Germantown. He also took into the service a waggon & team and the said Waggon & Team and the driver who was a Black man named Henry was in the Battle of Brandywine Germantown and was also at Gaites's Defeat [sic: defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] where he lost his waggon and all the horses Except one that he made his escape on Said Henry got his waggon & recruited his team & still continued in the service until the Battle of Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781] his waggon and Team & driver was there how long it continued in Service afterwards I Cannot say. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year last above written



State of Kentucky Green County S,c,t

Be it known that on this 18th day of December 1834 before me James Campbell a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid [two or three undeciphered words] Thomas Gaines [W11048] a resident of said County who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following statement towit, that before and during the revolutionary war he was intimately acquainted with Major John Brent [illegible word], that before and during the Revolutionary war he resided in the immediate neighborhood with said Brent in Charlotte County Virginia, that sometime in the spring of the year 1776 the said John Brent entered the army of the united States as a Captain and marched a company under his command with them from Charlotte County Virginia to Norfolk; then to the north; that said Brent was in the Battle of Brandywine, that he continued in service something like two years as Captain that he was then while in service promoted to the Rank of Major, that shortly after being prompted to the rank of Major as aforesaid he returned to his residence in Charlotte County Virginia on furlough that during his stay at home on furlough [several illegible words] interview with said Brent and learned from him that he had been promoted to the rank of Major [one or two undeciphered words], that the fact was lately corroborated by information received from a number of persons who were with said Brent; as relates to his being a Captain and marching a company from Charlotte County as above stated, he (said Gaines) knows to be true from his own personal knowledge; [several undeciphered words] said Brent returned [several undeciphered words]; and that he the said Brent shortly afterwards entered into the [several undeciphered words] did not see said Brent again until a short time previous to his death; [several undeciphered words] at his residence in Charlotte County Virginia in the year 1781 and whether said Brent was then on furlough or not at the time of his death, the said Gaines does not know, that at the time of his death his wife Margaret Brent was living and departed this life in Green County Kentucky about 20 years after the death of her husband the said Brent, that when he entered the service as a Captain as before stated he also took into the service a

Waggon Team and driver, and that in the year 1781 he the said Gaines saw [undeciphered word] Brent's same waggon team and driver still in the Service. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written.



1835 Apl 7 Rejected

[The handwriting in the following is scarcely legible.]

To the Governor and Council of the State of Virginia The petition of Stokely[?] Smith John B Smith, Elizabeth Rogers, Catharine Henderson Stokely Smith and Margaret Smith his Wife, Cecely Ship{?} and Terressa Ann his Wife, John W Brown and Bathsheba Jane Brown his wife, Gas[?] U Cobb William W Cobb, Frances Cobb, John N Brent Thos C Brent ann Brent, Margaret Green Sarah Hughs, Jno W Hannah Samuel [illegible] Julia [?] Thomas John [undeciphered] and John Dugraffenreid and Margaret C Degraffenreid Heirs of John Brent dec'd/ respectfully shew

That in the year 1833 they presented to your Honorable Body a [part missing at bottom and top of online images] allowance might be made to them of Bounty Land for the services of their ancestor as a Captain during the Revolutionary War, which was Granted in the month of February 1834 but altho they were informed their said ancestor had been promoted during his Service in the War yet they had it not in their power to produce such proof of it at that time as was satisfactory, and therefore the Executive did not make the allowance for the higher but for the lower rank.

Your Petitioners beg leave now to shew that they have it in their power to satisfy the Executive that their Ancestor was promoted during the time of his service from the Rank of Captain to that of Major.

Your Petitioners pray leave to refer to the papers and proofs filed in the former application as well as those shall accompany this supplemental Petition – it will be seen that John Brent their Ancestor entered the service of his Country in the year 1776 in the month of Februry of that year as a Captain, and that his Company was attached to the 4th Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col Lawson under General Stevens; that the said Brent raised his Company in the County of Charlotte and marched to Portsmouth in the State of Virginia in the early part of March 1776 – from thence he and his Company were ordered to the North, that he was engaged in most of the Battles fought in New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania of any Consequence during the year 1777 during which service he was promoted to the Rank of Major. Your Petitioner further shew that as far as they are informed and believe the said Major Brent remained in the service as long as he lived. that after sustaining the hardships they have mentioned he came on furlough to his Native County and there died.

Your Petitioners pray that on the proofs now produced they may be allowed the additional Bounty Land to which a Major is entitled over and above that granted to a Captain which they have received;

And your Petitioners as in duty bound ever pray.

Thos P Green

City of Richmond

day of February 183[last digit missing]

Warrant no 8107 for 1000 acres issued to Elizabeth Rodgers & Sarah Hughes heirs of John Brent, a Cap. of Cont. line 9 Feb 1835.

On 28th Aug't 1835 Nos 8328 & 8329 for 1500 acres each issued to the heirs of James Brent, who was the eldest son & heir at law of Captn John Brent.

On 29th July 1837 Wts nos 8455 & 8456 for 750 acres each issued to Julia Ann Thomas & Joel W Hannah, Heirs of Captn John Brent.

Extracts per the records of the Land office/ Teste/ W Selden Reg[iste]r

To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The additional memorial of the Heirs and legal representatives of Major John Brent late an officer of the state line of Virginia on Continental establishment in the war of the Revolution: Respectfully sheweth:

That on a former occasion, they presented their claim to Land Bounty, on account of the services of Major John Brent, as an officer, which was rejected. That since that time, they have procured additional evidence herewith filed and pray that your Excellency will grant them a new hearing on the subject.

Your Memorialists have already obtained the portion of Land allowed a Captain of the Continental Line. They now adduce proff to shew that John Brent was a Major, and of course entitled to additional Land Bounty, being the difference between that of a Captain and Major of the Virginia line. The evidence formerly filed is also prayed to be taken as a part of this memorial. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c.

Wm. J. B. Bedford Atty for the Heirs

Allowed March 12 1840.

This claim is allowed for a service of three years as a Major in the Continental line deducting the amount received as Captain/ DC [Gov. David Campbell]

NOTES:

The file contains a copy of the last will and testament of John Brent of Charlotte County signed on 16 April 1777 and probated on 6 August 1781, with the following provisions.

To son James Brent the tract bought from David Logan on Wallaces Creek, £50, and a young colt. Also that he be bound as an apprentice to learn a trade until he comes of age.

To son Thomas Caldwell Brent one division of the tract on which he (John Brent) then lived, containing the upper end of the plantation on Cub Creek, reserving the plantation on which he then lived to his "dearly beloved wife Margret... to educate my Children and maintain herself and them in the best manner my estate will permit." Also to Thomas Caldwell Brent £80.

To a son who may afterward be born to his wife the remaining portion of the tract of land, but otherwise daughter Jane Brent to have the portion of land.

To daughters Jane Brent, Catherine Brent, Elizabeth Brent, Margret Brent, and any child yet unborn £20 each.

The file contains a copy of the last will and testament of James Brent of Charlotte County signed on 11 April 1819 and probated on 7 June 1819, with the following provisions:

To Capt. George Hannah "a negro man named Anthony, another named Sam and a woman named Alice, and her increase present and futer to dispose of as he may think well."

To grandson Joel Hannah a tract of land on Cub Creek, "one negro woman named Darcus and her increase present and futer."

To granddaughter Julia A. Hannah "negro Women named Brelely[?] and her increase present and futer."

To Edward C. Allen "the whole of the property that he this day have in hand."

To wife Nancy Brent the tract on which he then lived "and also all of my negroes which I hold thereon with all of my other property likewise I have thereon," after her death to be divided among the children of his daughter July Allen.