

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Brechen (Brecheen, Brecken)R1170 Elizabeth fn34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/1/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Bedford County

On this 25th day of April in the year of our Lord 1833 –

Personally appeared before me Thomas Coffey one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County William Brechen Senior a resident of Bedford County aforesaid, aged seventy-eight years eleven months and 28 days; who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated (to wit) That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted Soldier in Person County¹ and State of North Carolina on the 1st of October in the year 1779 as well as he now recollects and was placed in a company commanded by Captain John Douglas who was under the command of Colonel William Moore and was marched from Person County, into Orange County North Carolina, to Hall River where he says he was For about 20 days, when his Captain was ordered to march his men home and dismissed them, deponent says he was marched back home and dismissed accordingly, and that he served on this tour not less than 5 weeks –

This applicant states that he was called into Service again in the same County (Person), and he says he entered the service of the United States as a drafted Soldier and was placed in a company commanded by Captain McFarland and was marched to Ramsey's Mill in Chatham County North Carolina on the 18th of March 1780 where he says he was stationed until about the last of May in the same year, when he was furloughed to go and see his family, where he was attached with the flux so violently that he was not able to return; but, that he secured a discharge for a three months or in writing signed by his Captain, he further states that he entered the service of the United States again, about the 15th of September in the same year 1780² as well as he now recollects and in the same County (Person) as a volunteer & and mounted gun man, and was placed under command of Captain Shadrach Hargis who was under the command of General

¹ Sic, at the time spoken of by the veteran, this portion of North Carolina was part of Caswell County North Carolina. Person County was not formed from Caswell County until 1789 and was named for General Thomas Person, a revolutionary war veteran. Caswell County was formed from Orange County in 1777

² Sic, probably 1781 as the events he described occurred in 1781, not 1780.

Butler [John Butler] and Colonel William Moore, and was marched on down the Country across the River at a Colonel Brown's and from there he was marched on towards Wilmington, to the Bridge on a water course the name of which he cannot at this time recollect. Deponent states he was told that the object of this expedition was to retake the Governor of the State of North Carolina, who he says he understood was then a prisoner with the British; and from there he states he was marched through the Country for some time but from the great number of years since it took place he cannot recollect the names of places he was at – until he was marched back home, and dismissed after serving not less than two months according to the best of his recollection at this time. This applicant further says he entered the Service of the United States again in the same County, (Person) as a drafted Soldier, on or about the 13th of September 1781 and was placed in a company commanded by Captain but cannot at this time recollect his name, he says his Colonel was Oneal [O'Neal] and that he was marched through the Counties of Orange, Chatham and Moore in order to disperse the Tories who were very numerous, and frequently embodied in different parts of the last mentioned counties – where he says he continued in service not less than two months when he says he was dismissed and returned home, making in the whole a term of actual Service of not less than seven months and one week for which he claims a pension – deponent States that he was born in Hanover County in the State of Virginia on the 25th of April in the year 1754 agreeable to the best information he could get from his parents, but has no record of his age whatever. That he was a citizen of Person County and State of North Carolina during all the time he was in service, and after the close of the Revolution until 1815 when he removed to Wilson County in the State of Tennessee, and two years afterwards he removed to Bedford County Tennessee where he has lived ever since and where he now lives – Deponent says he did secure a discharge in writing but what has become of it he cannot tell. This applicant states that he was not acquainted with any Regular Officers where he served: and that the foregoing declaration is the most prominent history of the general circumstances of his Service that he is able at this advanced stage of his life to be of. He further says that he is known to the Reverend Willis Hopwood – John Dysart Esquire Archibald Adams, James Adams Esquire, Thomas Davidson and William Williams, in his present neighborhood, – He further states that he has no documentary evidence whatever – and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service. That he relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in the United States –

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of April 1833

S/ Thos. Coffey, JP

S/ William Brechen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Brechen". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Willis Hopwood, a clergyman and Benjamin Logan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 7: On February 14, 1843 in "Mashill" [sic, Marshall] County Tennessee, Mrs. Elizabeth Brechen, aged upwards of 90, a resident of said County but formerly of Bedford County Tennessee, made application at the dwelling house of her son Josiah Brechen, for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Brechen who departed this life March 10, 1834 in Bedford County Tennessee; that her husband was a pensioner of the United States under the 1832 act; that her husband empowered his son Josiah Brechen to draw his pension; that through some informality, he was not able to draw his pension; that she was married to her husband some time previous to January 1, 1794; and that she remains his widow.]

[Josiah Brechen, a resident of Marshall County Tennessee, signed a power of attorney dated February 14, 1855.]

[fn p. 31: on October 6, 1843 and Marshall County Tennessee, Agnes Braudaway, upwards of 85, gave testimony that she was acquainted with William Brechen and his wife Elizabeth while they lived in Person or Caswell County North Carolina and knows that they were married and lived together as man and wife prior to January 1, 1794.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$27.21 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months & 5 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]