

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Brough R1267 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 May 2015.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#):]

Virginia Ship Romulas Hampton Roads

I do hereby certify that first Lieutenant Wm. Brough is a Prisoner of war to his Brittanack Majestys Troops under the Command of the Hon'ble Major General [Alexander] Leslie, and has given his Parole of honour untill Regularly exchanged – Given under my hand the 19th day of October 1780 —
(A Copy) By Order of Major General/ Major Handle Aid De Camp

I William Jennings [pension application S5615] now [13 Sep 1820] seventy six years old born in Elizabeth City County in the Town of Hampton and State of Virginia do hereby certify that William Brough was in Cap't. [Robert] Bright's Company of Militia first Lieutenant, and was in Capt. Squires engagement when Dunmore was in Norfolk and one that took one of his Privateers, the British after this landed their Troops at New Port News [Newport News] and marched to Hampton – Colo. [Francis] Mallory, Wm. Brough and several others were carried on board the Prison ship and Paroled, after Colo. Mallory was exchanged, he was kill'd by the British the 7th day of March 1781 [at Tompkins Bridge near Hampton] —



At a Court continued and held for the County of Elizabeth the 24th day of February 1826.
Personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the County aforesaid William Brough resident in the said County aged seventy five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March [1818] and the first May 1820 that he the said William Brough entered the service on the [blank] day of [blank] 1775 in the State of Virginia as an Ensign in the Company commanded by Capt. Robert Bright in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Francis Mallory in the line of the State of Virginia on the continental establishment [sic: Militia]. That he continued to serve in the Corps untill 1780 when he was taken prisoner and exchanged in 1781 from which day he continued in the service as a Captain untill the conclusion of the war. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any state except Virginia and the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, that he placed his papers and commissions in the hands of such persons as he supposed were best calculated to give them their proper direction and they have miscarried from causes beyond his controul. And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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 person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th 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 and that no changes have been made in my property since the 18th March 1818

12 old walnut chairs
old mahogany chest of draws

1 small writing Desk
1 Dressing Table
2 small walnut Tables
1 [illegible word] Chest
2 old Trunks
Tongs & Shovel

Wm Brough

That there is no other person in family but a wife fifty odd years old very infirm and unable to render service, myself formerly a farmer but now not possessing means or strength to pursue that or any other occupation.

[The above claim was rejected because the acts of 1818 and 1820 applied only to soldiers in the Continental Army.]

To the Honorable the Governor and Counsel in the City of Richmond in Virginia

The Petition of Wm. Brough Officer belonging to Capt. Brights Company in Virginia line in the County of Elizabeth City and Town of Hampton during the Revolutionary War, begs leave to inform your honourable Body he was in the Militia Lieutenant from 1775 till these now happy states were establish'd, your Petitioner begs leave to state to your honourable Body that he was in the action at Hampton in the County aforesaid in the Militia September 1775 when Lord Dunmores forces under Capt Squires were defeated, your Petitioner was taken Prisoner afterwards in October 1780, he then first Lieutenant in Capt. Brights Company of Militia and he and the Captain where both carried on Board of the Prison ship and Colo. Mallory also and several others and was Paroled Colo. Mallory after he was exchanged was kill'd by the British the 7th day of March 1781. Captain Bright Died and I was appointed Capt. in June 1781. always on duty in the Hampton Volunteer Company and went through a great deal of hardship during the American War, and sunk the principal part of my Property during the war and never received one dollar all the War. I can't find but one man that knew any thing of the american war, the rest are dead or gone away. This is a very respectable old man, 76 years old Mr. William Jennings whose deposition I have sent to Richmond. I am now so reduced in Property to support me and so infirm that I am scarcely able to walk, I am now 80 years old the 27th day of May last; now if your honourable Body will be pleased to grant me some assistance under the late Act of Congress it will bestow a great favour on an Old American Soldier who is in extreme want of almost every necessary, this favour granted me will for ever receive my warmest thanks – My hope is in your honourable Body to do something for me with all due respect I have the honour to be Gentlemen your most Obedient sourvant
October 5 1830



[The following are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Elizabeth City County. That file also includes a petition to the General Assembly of Virginia dated 2 Dec 1830 that is similar to the above petition dated 5 Oct 1830. The petition was rejected on 31 Jan 1831.]

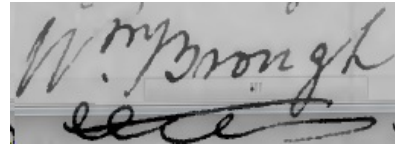
To The Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of Wm. Brough an Old Revolutionary Officer in the County of Elizabeth City and State of Virginia – Respectfully sheweth that your Petitioner was Born the 27th day May 1750 in the County aforesaid near Hampton, Was in the American War from September 1775 'till the Independance of these now happy where established. Your Petitioner begs leave to state to your honourable Body that he was in the Action at Hampton September 1775 when Dunmores forces were defeated under Capt. Squires, and had the pleasure after that to escort a number of Dunmores Men Prisoners of War the 24 day of December following to Williamsburg, the first Prisoners taken in Virginia. Your Petitioner tho' not a Regular Officer, did Regular duty at least five years in the War, Owing to his living so near the seat of War. He was taken Prisoner with the Brave and much respected Colo. Mallory in October 1780, whose

Conduct and your Petitioners was approved by General [Thomas] Nelson and Colo. Ennes [sic: James Innes] in saving the Town of Hampton from the Plunder &c of the Brittish Troops, your Petitioner meet there Troops four Miles from Hampton, they had Landed about Eight O Clock that Morning at New Port News. the terms offered for the protection of the Town was, We and the few Men left in the Town were to give ourselves Prisoners of War. The reason why your Petitioner mentions Colo. Mallory in particular, all the other officers and men left the Town before sunrise, so that their was only the Colo. to Order and your Petitioner to Obey, your Petitioner and others as they marched to go on Board the Ships see seven of their own men dead on the field that had attempted to get in the Town to Plunder the night before – And to the honour of the Commanding Officer (who was a Hessian Major) not a Person in the Town was Plundered or Insulted, After Colo. Mallory was exchanged he was killed by the Brittish the 7 day of March 1781. Your Petitioner now being old, and never expected to be so reduced in his property as he now is, principally living so near the Seat of War the whole Revolution, and of course constant plundering, that he is now unable to provide for himself and Family – Your Petitioner begs leave further to state that he has never received any assistance as yet from Country, except being Post Master the Profits of which is very trifling indeed – He therefore hopes for the honour of Virginia, your Honourable Body will make such provision for his support & family as they in their wisdom shall think proper, and not suffer an Old Revolutionary Officer to come to — Your Petitioner ca forward his Commission if necessary, or they can be seen Recorded in Richmond or in the Office where they were issued.

Hampton

November 22, 1820



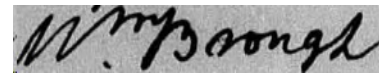
Dec'r 9th 1820 ref'd to Claims/ Rejected 1st Jany 1821

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

Hampton 25 Feb'ry. 1826

Your very kind fav'r. of the 26 Jan'ry. I rec'd. the 1 Feb'ry. the Papers inclosed to me I would not have them finished before our Court day which was the 4th Thursday of this month, and I flatter myself with a hope will be satisfactory – I assure you my good sir! I never was in such a distress'd situation for the comforts of this life to live on on, I have barely a coat to wear. my situation before the Revolution was very independdent and kept the first Company, but misfortunes since have reduced me to what I now am – I am now nearly 76 years old, My Petitions and other Papers Commissions &c has been sent to Congress at least 12 years ago – I now flatter myself with a hope you will grant me such relief as is in your power. I am the oldest officer in this State I believe and have been a faithful soldier from September 1775 to the end of the War and now have the pleasure to see these happy states independent – As soon as I was exchanged, I was appointed Captain and entered in the States Regiment and continued during the War was over — With all due respect/ I am Sir your Most Ob't. S't.



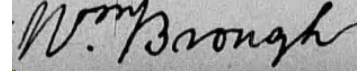
Sir [J. L. Edwards]

Virg'a. Hampton 15th March 1826

With all due respect I had the pleasure to write to you the 25 February after our Court day and had my papers recorded and sealed agreeable to your directions and my attorneys in Court, & sent them forward to you. I flatter myself with hope a they will be satisfactory, and did arrive safe, Will you be so good as to let me hear from you as early as you conceive proper, I hope my now happy Country will give me some support while I am living in this world and my poor infirm companion – I left nothing undone in my power to support the cause of liberty and obtain the Independence of my Country, and now I have the pleasure (nearly 76 years old) to see these United States free and happy – If my Papers are not arrived at

Washington, be pleased to let me know, and I can obtain a copy from the Clerks Office and send them up – I gave Mr. Alexander Marr when he was in Hampton a letter from the Governor & Counsel here invitin'd me to see our much esteem'd friend the Marquis Lafayett [sic: Lafayette, during his 1825 American tour] at York, be so good as to ask him for it, if you see him, perhaps it may be of use to me – I am in a very distress'd situation, and in no way to get the least support — With all due respect

I am Sir/ your mo't. Servant Ser't



War Dept. Pension Office/ July 29, 1830

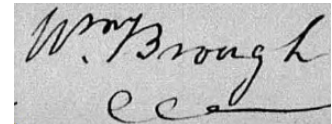
Capt. William Brough,/ Hampton, Va.

Sir: Your letter to the President of the U. States has been referred to this Office for reply. It would afford the President great pleasure to do anything in his power for your relief; but as there is no general or particular act of Congress which would authorize him or this Department to grant you a pension, he has only to repeat that his disability to afford you help is not commensurate with his disposition. Your papers are on the files of this Office. J. L. E.

Dear Sir [J. L. Edwards]Virginia Hampton 28 Aug't 1830

your kind letter of the 29 of July I Received sometime ago for which I am very thankful to you for, the message to me from the President, I am very thankful to him for his good will to me, as you have my papers I will take it is a great favour if you will be pleased to inclose them to me, as I expect something will be done for me in Virginia, when it is I shan't fail to let you know, your goodness to me will ever be remembred by me

I am/ Dear Sir/ with great esteem
Your most Ob't. Servant



At a Court held for Elizabeth City County, July 28th 1778.

William Brough took the oath of a second Lieutenant in the Militia of this County. Frances Mallory Esq'r. took the oath as Colo. of the Militia for this County.

At a Court held for Elizabeth City County, March 27th 1783

The Court doth recommend to his Excellency the Governor the following persons as proper for Officers to serve in the Militia of this County, Virginia. William Brough first Lieutenant Wm. Parsons [William Parsons] second Lieutenant. John Seymour Ensign
[Copies certified 27 Apr 1849.]

State of Virginia } to wit:

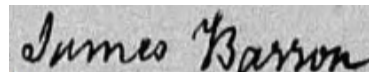
City of Norfolk } On this 7th day of May 1849 personally appeared Joseph N. Brough of the City of Norfolk, but formerly of Elizabeth City County in the State aforesaid, aged forty years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 7th 1832. That he has often heard his father William Brough decd. say that he entered the service of the United States in the Militia service as an officer in the time of the revolutionary war, according to the Laws of the State of Virginia, and that Col. Francis Mallory commanded at that time, this he has heard from several respectable persons; that he has heard John Bushell decd. a very respectable old gentleman say that he served under his father William Brough and that he spent a great deal of money for his Company; that he has heard his father say that he was taken prisoner by the British and put on parole, which parole has been lost or mislaid; that he heard his father William Brough say that he was at the battle of York Town [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. That his father William Brough died in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two sometime in the month of September. That his father in his life time delivered his papers to Mr. Thomas Newton while in Congress, and that he thinks the parole was among them, for the purpose of obtaining

what might be coming to him, but the papers have been mislaid or lost, therefor your petitioner humbly prays that you will allow him what his father ought to have been entitled to from that time while Mr. Newton was in Congress, as the papers ought to have been presented, and his pay allowed. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his father William Brough is not on the pension roll of any State, of if any only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia.

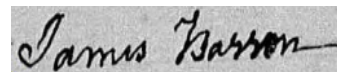
[signed] Jos N. Brough

To all whom it may concern, be it known

That I James Barron [pension application W12264] of the United States Navy do certify that I know Mr. William Brough of Hampton Virginia from my earliest youth to the period of his death, about eighteen years ago, Mr. Brough was considered a patriot all the war of the revolution, and did perform militia duty as a Lieutenant and Captain occasionally during said War. Mr. Brough was also a useful member of society of those days, of, great necessity, in, as much, as he did cause to be built vessels for the West Indian Trade, which wer of great value in introducing the necessaries of life, and munitions of War into our state whenever the absence of the enemy from our waters rendered trade practicable. Norfolk Virginia/ February the 12th 1850. Respectfully I am



I will state in addition to what I have already stated, in a former affidavit, that William Brough, Esquire, of Hampton Virginia – served throughout the Revolutionary War, as an officer of Militia, as his services were required – which from the exposed situation of the Sea board, were frequent. My impression is decided, that his actual, and active services, as a Captain, Commanding a Militia Company, in said War, far exceeded six months. December the 24th 1850.



At a Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Elizabeth city County, continued and held at the Courthouse on Tuesday the 23^d day of April 1850 –

The Court doth order it to be certified that from satisfactory evidence adduced to the Court that William Brough was an officer in the Militia Service in the revolutionary war, that he served more than one year, that he was taken prisoner, and was a prisoner for nine months, that he was in the battle at New Ports News [sic: Newport News], and York Town, that he was in service at different times until the war was closed, that the said William Brough died in the fall of 1832 in Hampton, that Joseph N. Brough, his son and Helen and Robert Repiton, his grand children, and children of Eliza D. Repiton, now deceased, who was a daughter of William Brough are the only heirs of the said William Brough, and the Court further certifies that the facts aforesaid were satisfactorily proved to the Court
A Copy teste S. S. Howard Clk

The deposition of Ann Payne taken before me Thomas C. Peek a notary public within and for the County of Elizabeth City in the State of Virginia this 11th day of December 1851.

Ann Payne a very old and respectable lady of the Town of Hampton county of Elizabeth City aforesaid being first duly sworn according to law, deposeseth and saith by way of questions and answers as follows:
Question. Was or was not the County of Elizabeth City much exposed and frequently invaded by parties of the enemy during all the war of the Revolution?

Answer. Yes, this County was troubled a great deal by parties of the enemy who frequently came from their vessels laying in the roads, and used to bother us a great deal. In the latter part of the war we were more frequently troubled with them than in the first, and the militia were obliged to hold themselves in readiness to look out for attacks that might come on them unexpectedly.

Question. Were or were not the militia of this County frequently called out to defend the County and

keep guard to defend depredations?

Answer. As I said before, towards the last the Militia were called out whenever they were needed which was very often, both to defend the County from the attacks of the enemy, and also in times of alarm to keep guard, in fact they were almost always out. In the early part of the war when the people were not so much alarmed the militia were very seldom called out, but always ready to turn out when they were called.

Question. For what proportion of each year during the war from 1776 to 1783 do you think each officer and private who was liable to do military services, was in service in this County?

Answer. I am unable to answer that question. For the last two or three years they were almost all the time engaged in some way, keeping guard or trying to keep the enemy off. before that time they were not called so often, only when alarms were given, sometimes they would keep guard then too, but not so often as towards the last.

Question. Do you, or do you not think from your knowledge of Lieut Wm. Brough, that he was in service at different times during the war as much as any other officer or soldier of the militia in Elizabeth City County?

Answer. I am almost certain that there was not an officer or soldier in this County who did more service in the militia than William Brough. I knew him very well, and I know he was always ready and willing to turn out. he was one of them daring fellows that was always ready to meet the enemy, and would go any where, and do any thing that any of them would.

And further this deponent saith not.

Ann herXmark Payne

NOTE: A letter by Joseph N. Brough dated 15 Mar 1850 states that the doctor who attended William Brough was his nephew, Dr. Samuel Cotton, who had been dead seven or eight years. He further stated that William Brough was also survived by a daughter, who had since died leaving children.