

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

Pension Application of Bernis Brown R1301

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Albemarle County } ss

On this 23rd day of October 1842 personally appeared before me [T. H. Brown] a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Henrietta Brown, a resident of Albemarle County and State of Virginia, aged Eighty one years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7 1838; entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows; That she is the widow of Bernis Brown, whom she has often heard state that he commanded a guard in the revolutionary War, that guarded the prisoners that was kept confined in the Jail in the Town of Charlottesville in Albemarle County State of Virginia; that whilst in the command of the said guard he was called, Captain; but she cannot now state the rank or Commission which he bore whilst in the Service; but would refer to the evidence that will accompany her declaration; and to the declaration of Daniel Maupin [pension application S5733], now on the files of the pension office; whom she has understood to have been in the service under the command of her late husband; whilst he commanded the guard in Charlottesville, She cannot now state the year or years that he performed his services in, but she does well know, that the term of his services, whilst in command of the guard was for eighteen months; and his term of service expired but a short time before their marriage; She further states, that whilst in the Service she believes, that he was under the command of Col. Nicholas Lewis, and that he belonged to the Virginia Militia

She further declares that she was married to the said Bernis Brown on 17th day of November 1779, that her husband the aforesaid Bernis Brown died on the 30th day of October 1814 that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of Jan'y. 1794 viz at the time above stated
Henrietta herXmark Brown

[On 19 Oct 1842 Brightberry Brown (pension application R1282) made a supporting statement similar to his statement below. On 7 Nov 1842 Jesse Lewis (S5680) made a supporting statement similar to his statement below.]

State of Virginia }
Albemarle County }

On this 22nd day of October 1842 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid William Maupin [pension application S13851] aged eighty two years and made oath in due form of law, that he was well acquainted with Bernis Brown the late husband of Henrietta Brown, and he does well know that the said Burnis Brown Commanded a guard that guarded the prisoners in the Jail at Charlottesville Va.; he cannot state the office or commission he bore, but he does well know that he was an officer of some grade; for he commanded in the town of Charlottesville; affiant cannot now say how long the said Burnis Brown continued in the command of the guard at Charlottesville but he does well know that Daniel Maupin, a brother to affiant served under the command of the said Burnis Brown, whilst he commanded the guard fully five months; and then the said Daniel Maupin enlisted into the regular army.
[signed] William Maupin

The deposition of Brightberry Brown; Testifies that he is Eighty one years of age and That he was well acquainted with Burnis Brown, the late Husband of Henrietta Brown, and he does know that the said Burnis Brown, was under the command of Col Nicholas Lewis, County Commandant whilst

commanding officer of the guard, in the Town of Charlottesville in the revolutionary war, and not under the command or controul of the Sherif of the County, he further testifies that the persons that were guarded were tories or persons sent from below, and deemed unsafe to be permitted to go at large, and he believes there was a strick guard kept over the prisoners whilst under the command of said Brown, two of the persons guarded were by the names of Goodriche (and old man and his son) there were others likewise under guard, he further testifies that the said Brown was commandant of said guard at the lowest period of time twelve months. he believes he served longer, for he deponant superinded business for the said Burnis Brown whilst he commanded the guard at Charlottesville, deponant cannot now give dates as to the service of the said Burnis Brown but he does well remember that it was early in the revolutionary war, and during the time that Burgoyne's prisoners were guarded at the barracks [Jan 1779 - Feb 1781], and further testifies that he does well remember that the said Burnis Brown and Henrietta his wife was married before the ending of the war, that he was present and saw the marriage ceremony performed.
[signed 2 Jun 1843] Brightberry Brown

The deposition of Jesse Lewis. Testifies that he is Eighty years of age and that he was well acquainted with Burnis Brown, who intermarried with Henrietta Rhodes, and he does know that the said Burnis Brown commanded a guard, in the Town of Charlottesville in the County of Albemarle State of Virginia early in the war of the revolution, he cannot now name the year, the said Brown was generally called Captain of the guard, but he deponant believes he only ranked as a Sergeant, that he had under guard an old man by the name of Goodrick and his son. (they were called tories,) he understood that they were sent up from below, from somewhere near Williamsburg, by what authority he does not now know. he understood that Goodrick was a man of wealth and that he Goodrick intended or was making his way to join Lord Dunmore, there was other prisoners belonging to the British in Charlottesville at the same time, (wounded Grenadiers) taken at the battle of the long bride near Norfolk [sic: Battle of Great Bridge, 9 Dec 1775], at the time when their Captain Fordice [sic: Charles Fordyce] was killed, there was likewise two or three british officers at Charlottesville he believes that they were navel Officers and the officers seemed to go in the neighborhood as they pleased, he supposes upon parole. Goodrick and his son had a room and a Sentinel always at their door to guard them unless allowed to take some recreation and then a sentinel to attend them; he further testifies that he believes that the said Burnis Brown was in the service whilst commanding the guard as aforesaid at least twelve months, and he further testified that the said Burnis Brown and Henrietta Brown his wife was married before him deponant several years, and deponant was married in the month of — in the year of 1786
[signed 5 Jun 1843] Jesse Lewis

NOTE: One Benjamin T. Brown certified that Henrietta Brown had not remarried.