

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Browning R1355 Frances Browning f35NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/23/08 rev'd 10/14/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Caswell: Superior Court of Law May Term 1833

Be it remembered that on this 7th day of May 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Thomas Settle Judge of our Supreme Court of Law and Equity of the County & State aforesaid, now sitting -- Robert Browning a resident of said County of Caswell aged Sixty-nine years on the 15th day of March last past: 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 June 7th 1832 --

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated. -- In the first place he Volunteered his services in January 1781: and attached himself to a Company of Volunteers Commanded by one Captain Cole [Josiah Cole]. This Company belonged to a Regiment Commanded by Colonel Archibald Murphey of Caswell County, North Carolina -- Adam Sanders [Adam Saunders] of Caswell County, was to the best of his recollection, a Major in this Regiment -- At the Time that applicant entered the Service, General Green [Nathanael Greene] with his Army, was at Halifax Court House in the State of Virginia -- Captain Cole marched his company in the first place immediately from Caswell County to Halifax Court House in Virginia in order to join General Greene's Army -- about the first of February 1781. The Company reached Halifax Court House and joined General Greene. The Regiment commanded by Colonel Murphey above mentioned reached Halifax Court House, and joined General Greene about the same time that this applicant's Company did: -- Having continued at Halifax Court House but a few days, Colonel Murphey's Regiment and this applicant Company among the rest, marched back into North Carolina, that is to say in the first place to Caswell County where they remained only a few days, and then resumed their march and proceeded on directly to Guilford County North Carolina, in which County on the first of March 1781: Colonel Murphey's Regiment again United with the Main Army under General Greene -- This applicant remained with General Greene's Army until the 12th day of March, when he was discharged by the Captain of his Company and sent home, with a sick brother. He served no more during this Tour; and therefore only claims for two months in this Campaign: which he served --

In July of the Same year (viz. 1781), he again Volunteered his Services, and joined a Company of Volunteers, Commanded by Captain John McMullen¹ of Caswell County North Carolina Colonel William Moore of the said County Commanded the Regiment to which Captain

¹ [John McMullen W4287](#)

McMullen's Company was attached -- In the first place and after Volunteering his Services on this latter occasion he was marched directly from Caswell County to Hillsboro North Carolina passing directly through the Town of Hillsborough. They proceeded on in the direction of Wilmington North Carolina, in pursuit of the Tories, who had just been to Hillsborough and put an end to the deliberations of the Legislature of the State -- The Regiment to which this applicant along fell in with and joined the American forces under the command of General Butler [John Butler], in the County of Chatham North Carolina just below the Town of Hillsborough: -- They continued their march under General Butler's command until the enemy Viz. the Tories were overtaken near the town of Wilmington -- So soon as General Butler with his forces overtook the enemy, which was in the latter part of July as well as this applicant remembers -- He (General Butler) ordered his Army to put themselves in battle array, which was done accordingly: no sooner however was the Army arrayed for battle, then, General Butler ordered a retreat, assigning as his only reason for such a course as this, That the Tories had artillery and he had none. General Butler retreated back for several miles, when he changed his course and took his Army on by a circuitous march to a place called the White Marsh Castle near the Cape Fear River North Carolina, he continued at this place two days and nights, when he changed his position, and removed to a place called the Brown Marsh,² not many miles distance from the White Marsh Castle. General Butler took up encampment at Brown Marsh, but on the first night after he reached it is Army was surprised in the night by the approach of the Tories So soon as General Butler was made acquainted with the fact of the enemy's approach, he roused & formed his own Army and ordered another retreat, Stating as his reason on this occasion, that there were eight English officers among the Tories -- This took place in the latter end of August as well as this applicant remembers & General Butler retreated from this point to Fayetteville North Carolina, where they took up Camp for one night only, and proceeded on the next morning beyond Fayetteville, and reached on the second days march from Fayetteville, the Camp of the Main Army under General Rutherford's Command -- The two brigades under the Command of Butler & Rutherford United at Rutherford's Camp, and proceeded on together towards Wilmington, North Carolina, coming near this place they found the enemy in possession of the Town -- Rutherford & Butler took up encampment near Wilmington, about the first of October 1781, and continued there until they received the news of Lord Cornwallis's Surrender at Yorktown; which news they received about the first of November 1781. -- On receiving the news the two brigades of Butler and Rutherford separated Rutherford marched his brigade into the Western part of the State of North Carolina, and General Butler marched his brigade down in another direction, across a Stream called the Black River and proceeded only some distance beyond Black River to a place called the Bluff, where he continued with his Army until the latter end of November 1781, when they were all discharged and sent home. --

This applicant received discharges at the end of each of the above Tours of duty from the proper officers, but they have both been lost, Owing to his having lost his pocket book with its contents shortly after he was discharged and returned home. -- This applicant (Robert Browning) was born in Culpepper County in the State of Virginia in the year 1764. The record of his age was in the family Bible of his father, which was sold at his death, to some person unknown to the applicant -- When called into Service of the United States he was living in the County of Caswell North Carolina -- with the exception of the year 1788, 1789 & 1790 during which time he lived in Georgia, he has lived in Caswell County North Carolina, where he lives at the present time: This applicant is known in his neighborhood & County by Captain John McMullen, who

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brown_marsh.html

commanded the Company to which this applicant belonged in the second Tour referred to in his declaration and by Elisha Evans³ of Caswell County, who is his fellow soldier, and belonged to the same Company, to wit, that was Commanded by Captain John McMullen. There are others to whom this applicant is known and who served with him in the Revolution. He deems it unnecessary how were to transmit more than the Certificates of his Captain and his fellow soldier Elisha Evans -- Does this applicant served his country, two months in the first Tour, and four months and a half in the second Tour. -- which in all amounts to six months and a half for which he claims a pension

Interrogatories propounded to the applicant by the Court and his answers, To wit:

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Culpepper County in the State of Virginia, on the 15th day of March 1764

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have a memorandum of my age, which was taken from my father's family record in his Bible, & which Bible & record was sold at my father sail after his death in the year 1807

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: When called into service I was living in Caswell County North Carolina & with the exception of the year 1788, 1789 and 1790 -- during which time I lived in Georgia -- I have lived in Caswell County North Carolina, where I at present reside

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I volunteered, both times!

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I was with the troops who were Commanded by General Nathanael Greene, Colonel John Greene -- Colonel Washington & Colonel Lee, the two last belonged to the Horse Company & others of the regular troops -- also by [was] with the Caswell regiments, one commanded by Colonel William Moore & one commanded by Colonel Archibald Murphey & others. -- The general Circumstances of my Service, I have before endeavored in some degree to detail --

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I received discharges for both tours but I have lost or destroyed them -- I think I lost them with my pocket book as spoken of before -- They were given by the proper officers but by whom signed -- I cannot at this distant day tell.

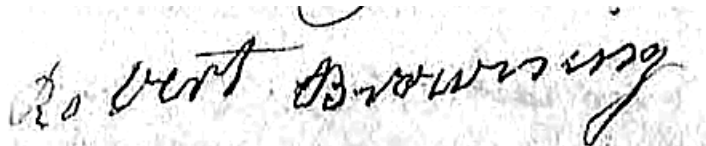
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

John McMullen, who was my Captain in the Company to which I belonged in my second tour of service is still living & is my neighbor, Elisha Evans also who was my fellow soldier. -- I would refer for my character to Paul A. Haralson the Clerk of our County Court & to your Honor on the bench --

Sworn to and Subscribed in Open Court the day and year aforesaid

S/ Robert Browning

³ [Elisha Evans S6830](#)



Test: S/ Jeremiah Graves, Clk

[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and Paul A. Haralson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Elisha Evans of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina do hereby Certify that Robert Browning was a soldier of the Revolution as [sic, and?] served as he has stated in his declaration in the Second Tour spoken of I being & Served with him in said Tour -- Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Test: S/ Jeremiah Graves, Clk

S/ Elisha Evans, X his mark

[George Williamson, Richard Jonson and Thomas L. Lea gave affidavit as to the strict piety of Robert Browning.]

[p 30]

State of North Carolina, County of Caswell


Be it remembered that on this 1st day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before us H. Allen and Wm Anderson two of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid John McMullin of said County, who being duly Sworn according to law States that he was a Captain in the Army of the revolutionary war, and that he well recollects Robert Browning in said War; That the said Robert Browning Volunteered under him, (Captain McMullin) and was marched down to the lower part of the State of North Carolina, he being in a Horse Company, or Company of Mounted Infantry. That the said Robert Browning, Served out his tour of Duty: & was exchanged from the Horse Company to the foot or Militia, where he continued, and as this affiant afterwards learned for something like four months -- as I believe that the said Browning was a faithful and valiant soldier, and was ever ready and willing to do his duty, when required -- That he was in the Battle of Brown Marsh, where he lost his horse --

This affiant also states that he is now old and infirm, so much so that he cannot attend Court to be examined in person by the Court in the Matter of the application of the said Robert Browning for a pension -- he residing somewhere near 14 miles from the Court House --

Sworn to & subscribed before us the day and year aforesaid

S/ H. Allen, JP

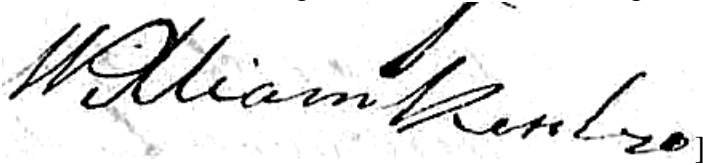
S/ J McMullin



S/ Wm Anderson, JP

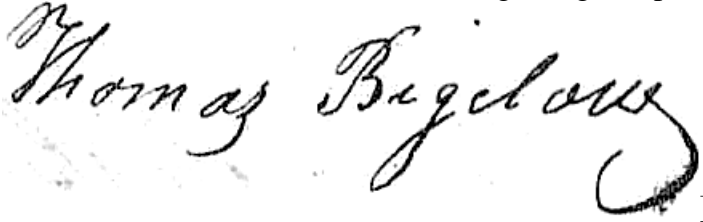
[p 11: On July 5, 1844, in Caswell County, NC, Frances Browning, 70, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Robert Browning; that they were married in Caswell County on December 13, 1791; that her husband was placed on the pension roll at the rate of \$21 per annum under certificate number 13560; and that her husband died April 11, 1843. She signed her declaration with her mark.]

[p 12: On July 2, 1844 in Caswell County North Carolina William Kimborough [sic, Kimbrough or Kimbro] of Caswell County gave affidavit that he was at the marriage of Robert Browning and Frances Kimborough at his father's house: signs his name "William Kimbro".

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Kimbro". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. A small bracket is visible at the end of the signature.

[Ava Browning testified that Robert Browning died April 11, 1843: she signed her name with an "X"]

[p 14: On August 10, 1844 in Caswell County North Carolina Thomas Bigelow also testified as to the date of death of Robert Browning being in April 1843.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Bigelow". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. A small bracket is visible at the end of the signature.

[Facts in file: p 18: Frances Browning died September 22, 1846; James Murrie served as administrator of Frances' estate.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Murrie". Below the name, the word "Admin" is written in a smaller, less legible cursive script. A small bracket is visible at the end of the signature.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 ½ months in the North Carolina militia.]