

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Brownlow R1358

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/14/06: rev'd 10/11/10 & 1/13/19

[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.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina, Pendleton District

By the Honorable Charles Colcock Esquire one of the Associate Judges of the State of South Carolina.

To all to whom these presents shall come, be seen or made known, Greetings.

Know Ye, That this day John Brownlow a citizen of Pendleton District, did appear before me and made Oath, That on the 29th day of May 1781 At or near Chatham Court House, North Carolina, he, the said John Brownlow, entered the service of the United States of America as he understood during the pleasure of the Government of the United States, under Capt. Joseph Rosser of Col Robert Maban's [sic, Robert Mebane's] Regiment in the 2nd Brigade of the N.C. Line. He was in the battle at Lindly's [sic, Lindley's] Mill, on Cain [sic, Cane] Creek of Haw River, Orange County, N. C. He was in the Van Guard and was wounded in three places in the skull, which was broken with a sword by one of the Enemy. He was many months unable to do any thing, by occasion of his wounds during the time he laid at his Mother's near Chatham C. C. H. N.C. And before he was fit for duty he received a verbal Message from Col. Robert Griffee [?], whose command he was then under, that his services was [were] no longer required by the United States. After he got able to do business or fit for duty (as he lay several Months, confined, the Tories in the Battle having left him on the ground for dead) He thot [sic, thought] it unnecessary to be at any trouble to obtain a discharge as peace was made between the United States & Great Britain before his recovery. This deponent further saith that he has never received any Bounty, Pay or pension from the United States & from age & infirmity he is unable to Labour as heretofore & that his reduced circumstances in life, he stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support.

S/ John Brownlow, X his mark

In testimony that therefore was sworn to & subscribed before me, this twenty seventh day of March Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred & nineteen. I have set my hand & seal of the Court caused to be affixed.

S/ C. J. Colcock,
one of the Justice of this State

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State of South Carolina, Pendleton District

John T. Lewis and Samuel Cherry two of the Commissioners named in the commission hereto prefixed, being first Sworn agreeable to the instruction in the said commission given after which they have proceeded to examine such witnesses as were brought before them touching and respecting the claims of John Brownlow of the district and State aforesaid to a pension from the United States.

JOHN BROWNLOW

On the 29th day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty One I did enter into of the service of the United States as a Volunteer under the command of Captain Joseph Rosser of Col. Guilford Dudley's Regiment, the expedition being from Chatham Courthouse No. Ca. against the Tories who were in Orange County No. Ca. under Command of Cols Hector McNeil & David Fanning (both notorious in said State). The Battle in which I had the misfortune to receive my wounds took place between our party and the aforesaid Tories on the 13th day of September 1781 at a certain place in the said County of Orange Called Lindley's Mill on Cane Creek—In the said Battle I received four wounds—three of them on my head all of which broke the skull, and thirteen pieces of the Skull bone larger & smaller were taken from one of the said Wounds on my head—the other wound was on my wrist of the left arm which in a good disabled it. I was for Twelve months in a desperate situation with the said Wounds and for most of the time was thought past recovery by my friends. On account of the Wounds in my head I am frequently rendered by my state of mind unable to attend to my domestic concerns though they are very limited—and I have never yet received any compensation for service or any support from Government, though a very poor man, and rendered helpless by other infirmities than those arising from my Wounds—

S/ John Brownlow

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Brownlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Sworn and Subscribed before us this 11th February 1813

S/ John T. Lewis

S/ Samuel Cherry

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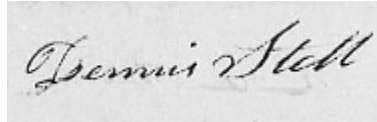
Dennis Stell, Eqr.

In the year 1781 I lived within one mile of John Brownlow the Deponent in the foregoing affidavit. I know well of Brownlow's going out in the expedition mentioned in his Statement for I was with him on Sunday before the battle in which he was wounded, (at their camp). I saw him on his return from the battle and in the precise situation as to wounds as is mentioned in his affidavit – I was his neighbor until after his recovery and much of my time with him, and often assisted in pressing his wounds, and saw bones which came from the wound in his head. – I was very intimately acquainted with Brownlow both before and after he received his wounds, and it is my opinion and also that of many of his acquaintance that his intelligence were impaired by his wounds. During my acquaintance with Brownlow he supported a very fair character.

Sworn & subscribed before us 13th of February 1813

S/ John T Lewis

S/ Dennis Stell



S/ Samuel Cheny

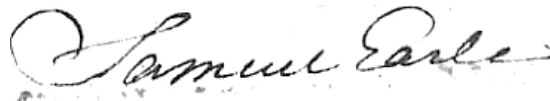
[p 13]

My Dear Sir Beaverdam 29th July 1820 [could be 29th Jany 1820]

Tutt's [Benjamin Tutt] & Bowie's [John Bowie] Companies originally belonged to the 5th South Carolina Provincial Regiment Commanded by Colonel Isaac Huger & as well as I recollect about the 5th of February 1777 the Regiment was placed on the Continental Establishment when these two companies were detached from the Regiment & a new one raised commanded by Captain John Moore they were called Independent Companies & were to consist of 100 men each they were detached from the line at a particular Instance of Mr. John Rutledge who was then Governor & by whom the Officers were commissioned and under whose immediate command and the Succeeding Governors of the State we continued to act until the end of the war & such General Officers as we were occasionally ordered to obey, when we were taken from the line we were promised and did Actually receive the same Bounty of Money & Land, Rations, pay and Cloathing as the Continental man & Officers received subject to the same Articles of War and liable to march to any part of the Continent where we might be ordered by the Commander in Chief which was the case at the Siege of Savannah & on different Occasions after the Indians on the frontier of Georgia. We considered ourselves to all Intents and purposes on the Continental establishment but by being taken from the line. We lost our ranks in it and were in rank in the Companies only, and as an incontestable proof that we were considered so by the Continental Officers, Captain Bowie's Company was on duty once in Charleston, one of the men transgressed, he ordered a Ct Martial but there being only the other Lieutenant and myself he applied to the Captain of the 3rd South Carolina Continental Regiment who sent a Lt Called West of that Regiment to make up a court, upon the whole were my circumstances such as to warrant an application for a pension I should consider myself much better Entitled to it than many who got it. As to this particular man Clayborne I know nothing of his circumstances but this I know I enlisted him when I did so I promised him all that the Continental Soldiers received agreeable to my recruiting orders, these things he did receive until the end of the war, this I also know that for the three years he served there was not in the American Army a more obedient soldier. I believe I can safely say he was never once under Guard, at the expiration of the three years he was with myself and a number of others including Colonel Pickens' Regiment of 400 men surrendered by General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] the commanding General to General Cunningham & Captain Pearis at White Hall in Abbeville District. This statement which I am sure is a correct one you are at liberty to make use of as you please which with best wishes for a continuation of your health concludes me,

yours very truly,

S/ Samuel Earle¹



I served with John Brownlow in the same company in the expedition mentioned in his affidavit. I was taken prisoner before the battle in which he was wounded. I saw him sometime after the Battle and his wounds were desperate, he was for a long time in such a state with his wounds that his life was despaired of, I know that several bones were taken from his skull, I was his near

¹ [Samuel Earle S21174](#) I don't know why this letter is in this file. It appears to relate to the claim of a man named Clayborne. I believe it properly belongs in the file of a [Leonard Clayborne R1956](#), and has been improperly filed.

neighbors before the battle took place in which he was wounded, and the said Brownlow was esteemed before receiving the said wounds and he was accounted a man of sound intellects.

Sworn & subscribed before us this 11th February 1813

S/ John T Lewis

S/ John Saunders, X his mark

S/ John Cheny

I have heard the Commissioners read the Statement of John Brownlow made the foregoing sheets and know that he was badly wounded in the said Battle named in his Statement he being on the Whig side

Sworn & subscribed before us this 7th of June 1813

S/ John T. Lewis

S/ Elnathan Davis



S/ Samuel Cheny

State of South Carolina Pendleton District: Before me personally came John Sanders of the said District farmer, and made oath That in the month of May in the year A.D. 1781 at Chatham Court House North Carolina John Brownlow and this deponent turned out and went into the service of the United States of America as volunteers for the Term of 2 months or until discharged, under Captain Joseph Rossier of Colonel Robert Maban's Regiment of the 2nd brigade of the North Carolina Line. This deponent was long acquainted with John Brownlow before they went into the Service, and this deponent does know that the said John Brownlow was wounded in the Battle at Cane Creek (Lindley's Mills) NC. This deponent did see the said John Brownlow while his skull was broken & before it was healed, – during all their services this deponent does believe Brownlow found his own horses – This deponent knows that Brownlow has always supported the character of a good honest Citizen – And that he is a very poor man – And that he is a man of truth.

S/ John Sanders, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 23rd day of March 1819

Before me

S/ Joseph Grisham, Notary Public Pendleton SC

South Carolina Audited Accounts² relating to John Brownlow

AA14

Audited Account Microfilm file No. 834A

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/13/19

[p 3]

To the Honorable the Senate & house of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The Humble petition of the subscriber Sheweth that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary war & that during his long & arduous Service he received many severe and desperate wounds from which his system has gradually wasted away; so as to render him entirely incapable of procuring the means of supporting his family by manual labor. He has a wife, who like himself is

² The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

old & helpless and who through the deprivations of an affliction Providence enjoys worse health than your petitioner. Your petitioners are both nearly eighty years of age & consequently cannot remain along a charge upon their Country. – Your petitioner has for some years past suffered many & severe privations from inability to perform such manual labor as was necessary to procure the Common Comforts of Life – Your petitioner begs leave further to state that privations occasioned by his indigent circumstances, at his advanced age, more especially when they bear down with equal severity upon his wife who has been his only comfort in early life, or painful & hard to bear.

Your Petitioner has marched four days together over frozen earth without a covering to his feet, he has slept upon his arms for weeks together, he has been literally Chopped to pieces with the sword, which his numerous scars will testify.

He has now become from the inroads of time a charge upon his Country; & respectfully in treats your Honorable body not to refuse him the pittance which is so necessary for his support during his few declining days. –

And in duty bound, Your Petitioner will ever pray &c

Pendleton November 1st 1824

S/ John Brownlow

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Brownlow". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.

[p 6: affidavit by William Trimmier dated November 1, 1824 stating his opinion as to the character and health of the petitioner.]

[p 7: ditto Joseph Taylor & Samuel K Dickson]

[p 8: affidavit of Doctor William Anderson relating to his examination of the wounds of John Brownlow.]

[p 9: Affidavit dated November 26, 1824 of Joseph A Whitner as to the age, health and indigent circumstances of the petitioner.]

[Note: Petitioner was placed on the South Carolina pension list of effective May 30, 1825 at the rate of \$60 per annum and continued thereon until May 29, 1832 as reflected in treasury certificates copies of which appear on pages 12 through 14 in this file.]