

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

Pension Application of David Brown R15

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

I certify – that I belonged to the Navy of Virginia in the time of the Revolutionary war, and served on board of the ship Dragon, in the capacity of clerk and Midshipman. I further certify that I now have in my possession the original book of the said ship Dragon & that David Brown stands charged on the said book as Surgeon of said ship with pay for the 21st July 1777 to the 3^d May 1778 and that the said book then shews that he s^d. Brown was turned over to the ship Tartar. I was acquainted with said Brown & saw him in or about the year 1783 or 1784 in the City of New York.

[Fredericksburg VA; 29 July 1835]

David Henderson [pension application S5506]

To His Excellency Lyttleton Waller Tazewell [Littleton Waller Tazewell] Gov^r. of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the petition of Noah Brown a resident of the State of New Jersey respectfully represents – that he is the son of the late David Brown who was killed about fifty years ago by the Indians, in the western part of the State of New York – that his said father resided in the time of the Revolution, in the state of New York & that he entered the service of the United States in time of said war, and went into the South and was engaged, (as your petitioner has ever understood and believes in the service of the State of Virginia, but in what capacity he is unable to say. Your petitioner was only about 8 or 10 years old at the close of the Revolution, and his said father being killed a very short time after his return from Virginia, he was deprived of an opportunity of learning much of his father's services. He recollects of often hearing his mother say, that his father was several years in service in Virginia.

He states that his father died intestate and left eighteen children, most of whom have died and left children, which are now residents of several states & with the names of all which, your petitioner is not acquainted, nor has he time now to ascertain their names before the law granting an appropriation of land will expire. He therefor begs that your Excellency will consider his case, and if any bounty land shall be due for the services of his said father, that your Excellency will order the Register of the Land Office to issue his warrant for the same to the heirs [13 July 1835]

Noah Brown

Thursday October 9th 1777

Present. Mr. [Thomas] Whiting, Mr. [Edward] Archer and Mr. [Warner] Lewis [Commissioners of the Navy Board].

Ordered that Dr. McClung be desired to furnish Dr. Brown of the Dragon Galley, with such medicines as he may think necessary for the use of the said Galley./ From page 295.

Thursday [sic: Tuesday] the 25th day of August 1778.

Ordered that Dr. McClung deliver to Dr. Brown such medicine as he may think necessary, for the use of the ship Dragon./ From page 454.

Wednesday the 26th day of August 1778.

Ordered that the Keeper of the public store deliver to Dr. Brown twelve pounds of coffee, one pound tea, fifty weight sugar, two doz bottles of wine for the use of the sick on board the ship Dragon./ From page 455.

Thursday the 27th day of August 1778.

Ordered That the Keeper of the public store deliver to Dr. Brown, a suit of cloathes, two shirts, three p^r. stockings, two pair shoes, two hkfs [handkerchiefs], twelve yards of coarse linen, two blankets; and to Mr. Webb, one blanket, four yards linen and two hkfs on their paying for the same. (page 457.)

Friday the 28th day of August 1778.

Ordered. That the keeper of the public store deliver Dr Brown, six yards linen for bandages & dressing,

four hunks silk, five ounces thread, one paper pins, three quire paper, three yds of flannel, for the use of the ship Dragon. (page 458.)

Thursday the 17th day of December 1778.

Ordered. That the Keeper of the public store deliver Dr Brown, cloth for a suit of cloathes and great coat, two shirts, two pair stockings, one pair of shoes, two blankets one hat; & forty wt sugar, and two pounds tea, for his mess on board the Dragon, on his paying for the same. (page 520.)

Ordered that Dr. Brown have leave of absence from the service of the Navy till the last of this month. (page 520.)

The above entries are truly copied from the Navy Journal. Given under my hand at the Auditor's office Richmond this 23^d day of November 1850. Ro Johnston/ First Auditor.

[The following additional records from the Navy Journal are found in the file of William Lewis R62:]

Wednesday the 15th day of April 1778.

Present. Mr. [John] Hutchings. Mr. [Champion] Travis & Mr. Archer

A letter from Doct'r. David Brown was received, read and filed.

Wednesday April 2^d 1777

Present Mr. Whiting Mr. Hutchings & Mr. Archer.

It is directed that the name of the galley building at Fredericksburg be the Dragon.

Friday the 1st day of January 1779.

Present Mr. Travis Mr. Archer and Mr. Innis [sic: James Innes].

Ordered that the keeper of the public store deliver Lieutenant [John] Hamilton fifty weight sugar and two pounds of tea for the sick on board the ship Dragon, and two dozen sheets of tin, two two hour glasses, a speaking trumpet, two quires paper, a wit[?] of Ralline[?] and a jug of oil for the use of the ship Dragon.

Monday the 25th day of January 1779.

Ordered that the Keeper of the public store deliver Mr. Henderson fifty weight sugar two pounds of tea, for the use of the Cabin mess on his paying for the same, and two quires of paper for the use of the ship Dragon.

Monday the 17th day of May 1779

Ordered that Mr Robert Boush deliver Mr Livingston [Justice Livingston, Surgeon, pension application R64; see endnote], one hundred weight of sugar and six pounds of tea for the sick on Board the Tartar, Dragon, Patriot and Fly; and six bundles of match rope for the Squadron.

This is to certify that the foregoing are true extracts from the journals of the Navy Board on file in this office, and that on reference to the index of the said journals the first volume running from the 8 July 1776 to the 5th day of March 1779 inclusive; and the second from the 6 March 1779 to the 23 June 1779 inclusive, Dr Brown is not named, except in reference to the entries, preceding the first double black lines on the 2^d page of this sheet, nor does his name appear in the index to the journal of the Board of War, (to which Board the duties of the navy Board were transferred) running from the 30th day of June 1779 to the 7 April 1780 both inclusive – nor does it appear on the index to remnants of minutes of the Navy Board James Maxwell Commissioner; running from the 21 July 1780 to the 19 December 1780 both inclusive. I also further certify that it appears from an entry in the journal of the Board of Trade of the 25th March 1780, that the ship Dragon was in that day transferred to that Board, by an order of the Executive Council.

Aud'r. Office, Rich'd Va./ 9 February 1853

Ro Johnston/ Aud of Pub Accts

Board of Trade Mar 25, 1780.

The Ships Tartar & Dragon if immediately put under our direction will be a saving of several thousand Pounds to the State in the freight of the Tobaccos which the Executive engaged to deliver to Mr.

Defsaney in York River. J Ambler/ Dun. Rose.

In Council Mar 25, 1780. the Ships Tartar & Dragon are transferred to the Board of Trade for the Commercial purposes of the State./ Th. Jefferson [Thomas Jefferson]

I certify the foregoing are truly copied from 1st Volume of Navy Papers now on file in this Office./ Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 4th day of November 1846./ Jas. E Heath/ Aud'r. P Accts.

NOTES:

A document dated 24 Nov 1849 states that David Brown, late of Elizabeth City County and formerly a Surgeon in the Virginia Navy, died around 1798 leaving as his only heir William Brown, who died leaving two children, John Brown and Richard Brown. John Brown subsequently died, leaving two heirs: William L. Brown, about 48, residing in Petersburg; and Mary Brown, about 44, wife of James Burcher, residing in Elizabeth City County. Richard Brown died leaving the following children: Jane K. Massenburg, about 44, wife of James Massenburg, residing in Elizabeth City County; Elizabeth M. Young, about 36, wife of John Young, residing in Elizabeth City County; Susan M. Brown, about 34, "single lady;" Sarah Ann Whitfield, about 32, wife of Thomas Whitfield, residing in the City of Norfolk; and John W. Brown, about 26, residing in Elizabeth City County.

The claim for half-pay was rejected because there was no evidence that Brown had served to the end of the war, as required. The file includes documents transcribed in the pension application of Justice Livingston (R64), labeled "Papers filed with the Arguments of Appeal in the Virginia Half Pay case of Surgeon David Brown." These documents were filed to show that Livingston was surgeon aboard the *Tartar*, and that it was therefore unlikely that Brown continued as Surgeon after Feb 1779. Attorneys for Brown's heirs filed several lengthy appeals.