

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Cartwright R1761
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee Williamson County

On this day to wit the 25th October 1839 personally appeared Susanah Cartwright before me Collin McDaniel one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that She is seventy four years of age and who further upon her oath makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benifit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July the 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and Pensions to certain Widows. That she is the Widow of Robert or E Cartwright she is not certain whether the "E" was used in his name and believes Robert Cartwright was the only way he wrote his name who was a Soldier of the Revolution in the Virginia Continental or State troops her said husband enlisted under Captain Samuel Bracey [see endnote] he was then a living in Camden County North Carolina and went over into Virginia and enlisted unknown to his father for three years and served two years and four months and was then discharged by his hiring another Substitute for and during the War – the substitute served but a few weeks when the war terminated. His enlistment commenced about 1779 but as this was before the marriage of this declarant she cannot be particular She further declares that she was married to the said Robert Cartwright on the [blank] day of October 1784 seventeen hundred and eighty four. That her husband the aforesaid Robert Cartwright died on the [blank] day of April 1816 eighteen hundred and sixteen That she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four to wit at the time above mentioned

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and year first above mentioned
Susanah hisXmark Cartwright

State of Tennessee }
Williamson County } On this day personally appeared Susanah Cartwright before me Collin McDaniel one of the acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county and further makes oaths in suport of her claim that she has no record or other documentary evidence in suport of her claim the original discharge was destroyed by their little child having got it into his hands and tore it up there were other furloughs but are all destroyed after the war terminated the acquaintances of her husband and particular Joab Canada and Robert Canady who were in the same mess wanted her husband to go down to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] and get Captain Braceys certificate in order to get his land but he neglected it he was stationed part of the time at Petersburg and the most of the time at Northfolk [sic: Norfolk] and was in the service at the time the Great Battle of Brandywine was fought [11 Sep 1777]

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th October 1839 Susanah herXmark Cartwright
Elisha McBride a Justice of the Peace married them

State of Tennessee }
Davidson County } On this day personally appeared Elizabeth Pritchard aged seventy two years before me Martin Forehand one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid and made oath in due form of law, that her Brother Robert Cartwright the husband of Mrs Susanah Cartwright enlisted in the army of the Revolution under Captain Bracey She thinks his name was William Bracy he was a regular Captain but it might have been Samuel Bracy She will not say which. It was about the year 1779 or a little before her Brother went over to Virginie and enlisted unknown to her father and mother he enlisted for three years and was stationed at Petersburg and at Northfolk Sometimes at Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] her father and mother was greatly

distressed at their sons enlisting he was but about sixteen years of age her father tryed to get him released but could not he served two years and about five or six months and then her mother became uneasy that the troops to which her son was attached would be moved further north and she prevailed on her husband affiants father to go and hire some one to serve out the small ballance of the time and her father went and gave a great price but the substitute served but a short time before Cornwallis was taken [19 Oct 1781] and peace concluded. her Brother frequently wrote letters home to the family but the letters have all been destroyed as well as his regular discharge She recolects that her Brother had his discharge after he come home and he had purchased several discharges for the purpose of getting land from the State of Virginia but they did not cost much and after her Brother had married their little child was furnished with the papers as playthings until they were all destroyed Some two or three years after peace was made (for this affiant has no dates or records before her and has to state all from memory) her Brother Robert Cartwright and Susanah Spence were married they were married by a Justice of the peace by the name of McBride She was present and saw them married from the age of their children the marriage must have been about the year 1784 and further this deponent saith not

Sworn and subscribed this 20th day of November 1839 Elizabeth herXmark Pritchard

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, WILLIAM HILL, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that Robert Cartwright a private sold'r. in Capt. Armstrong's Company of the first Regiment, entered the service on the 10th day of November 1777 for the term of the war. I further certify, that a warrant for 640 Acres of land was issued for the services of said Robert Carteret, on the 12th of May 1784, which is evidence that he served during the war.

Given under my hand this 21st day of Novem'r. 1853. W. Hill Secretary of State

NOTES:

The Robert Cartwright or Carteret named in the last certificate was evidently not the Robert Cartwright said by his widow to have enlisted in Virginia around 1779 for three years. On 29 Sep 1853, however, his son, David Cartwright, 64, applied for the pension he considered owed to his mother, Susanah Cartwright, stating that his father served in the North Carolina Line. He also stated that his father had said he was entitled to bounty land "but by some means had got wronged out of it." He also stated that his mother died on 15 Oct 1850, and that he was the only surviving child. On 13 Dec 1853 David Cartwright stated that he had heard his father say that "Bracy" was a favorite officer, but that he was not sure what rank he held.

On 13 Dec 1853 Mrs. Elizabeth Cartwright, 54, stated that she had been present when a Mr. Ferguson prepared the pension application of Susanah Cartwright, and that she never heard it stated that Robert Cartwright served in the Virginia Line. On the same date Elizabeth Pritchard stated that the first child of Robert and Susanah Cartwright would then have been 63 or 64, that the second child was David Cartwright, and that he and John Cartwright were the only children who survived their mother, and that both were still living. She also stated that Robert Cartwright was in the North Carolina Line, but was stationed part of the time at Fort Smith in Virginia. This last claim is very doubtful.

There was a Capt. Thomas L. Bracey in the North Carolina Line, according to the pension application of John Riggs (S9081). It is possible, however, that the Captain named by Cartwright was Thomas Bressie from Portsmouth (pension application R12763).