

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jesse Browder R8100

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Dinwiddie County }

On this 13th day of April 1844 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace Mrs Polly Pentecost a resident of the County and State aforesaid 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 benefits of the provision made by the Acts of Congress passed 7th July 1838 and the 23^d August 1842 granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of Jesse Browder who was first searjent in Capt Rowley P Dowlman [Rawleigh Downman, BLWt1917-300] company, that he enlisted under the aforesaid Dowlman about the year 1776 for the term of three years, which term he served in the southern army, that she has often heard him speak of having been in the battle on Sullivans island [28-29 Jun 1776], also of his being in an engagement, on or near, the Savannah river (the name of the place not now reccollected,) where the Americans were defeated, and he in order to save his life, and not be taken a prisoner, was obliged to swim the Savannah river with many others, and she does know that he always did attribute his bad health and early death to cold taken at that time. That she has often heard him speak of other battles the names of which she cannot now reccollect, that she does not of her own knowledge know, that he was a searjent. That he enlisted under Capt. Dowlman. That he was in the battles above mentions, but she has often heard him say that they were facts. And she does now, and has always believed them to be such as much as she ever believed any thing that she ever heard, but did not see. That she has often seen his discharge, which is now destroyed or cannot be found, does not reccollect by whom it was signed, but she has often seem him roll it up with other papers and heard him say at such times, that he must keep it, for he had to serve three years before he could get it. She also declares that she was married to the said Jesse Browder, on the 15th day of December in the year seventeen hundred and eighty, that her husband the aforesaid Jesse Browder died on the 7th February 1783. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-four, viz; at the time above states. She further declares, that after the death of the husband aforesaid she was married to Thomas Pentecost, on the 23rd of September 1784, That he died on the 7th day of February 1830, and that she is still a widow.

Polly herXmark Pentecost

Family Record

Marriages

Thos. Pentecost Born

19th November 1758

Was Married To Mary

Browder 23 Sept'r 1784

She was Born 7th Decb'r 1762

[Certified copy from a family Bible, the original in the handwriting of Thomas Pentecost.]

State of Virginia } Ss

Dinwiddie County }

Be it known that on the second day of April 1844 personally appeared before me James H. Boisseau a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and state aforesaid Isham Browder aged 78 years of said county who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement:

That he was well acquainted with Jesse Browder when he was young and that the aforesaid Jesse

enlisted in the regular service as he always believed and that he was in the service three years, but who he the said Jesse served under or the particulars of his service he cannot say more than that he heard him the said Jesse say that in an engagement near the Savannah river where the American forces were defeated and that he the said Jesse and two more in the retreat came to the Savannah river that two of the three could swim that they made a raft and all three crossed in safety That soon after his return he the said Jesse married to one Polly Browder now Polly Pentycost, as I always understood and I do know that they the said Jesse and Polly did live together as man and wife until his the said Jesse Browders death that she the the said Polly Browder after her husbands death the aforesaid Jesse Browder she married one Thomas Pentycost as I heard and I do know that they the said Thomas and Polly lived together as man and wife and were considered to be lawfully man and wife by all who knew them and that he the said Thomas Pentycost died about fourteen years ago that she the said Polly is still his widow.

[signed] Isham Browder

State of Virginia, Dinwiddie County} Ss

Be it known that on the 11th day of April 1844 personally appeared before me Jas. Epes a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and State aforesaid Peter Eppes [pension application S8424] aged eighty five years of said county who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement

That I did not know Jesse Browder in the army but that I knew Jesse Browder before the war of the revolution and after I had been some time in the northern army I learned from his brother Charles Browder who served in the same company with me (viz Capt Alexander Rose company of infantry) that his brother Jesse Browder had enlisted into the regular service and joined the southern army how long he the said Jesse Browder served or in what capacity I do not know, but I knew him after the close of the war and recollect to have had but one conversation with him in relation to the service when I recollect to have said to him the aforesaid Jesse that I had rather serve two years in the northern army than six months in the southern army Although I did not see him in service I have not the least shadow of doubt but that he did enlist and serve out the term of his enlistment faithfully

I would also state that some time after the war the aforesaid Jesse Browder married one Polly Browder now Polly Pentycost of this county I cannot say as to the precise time of the marriage but this I do know that I was married in the year 1787 and that they the aforesaid Jesse & Polly Browder were married before myself

[signed] Peter Eppes

NOTE:

On 2 April 1844 Susan Browder, 71, stated that she had often heard Jesse Browder's mother speak of his having been a soldier in the southern army, and that Polly Browder and Thomas Pentecost were married some years before 1791, when she, herself, was married.

In a letter dated 19 Nov 1844 Polly Pentecost, 82, stated that she had been informed that her pension had been suspended because there was no officer named "Rawley P Dowlman." She stated that the name may have been Rawleigh P. Downman.