

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

Pension Application of William Brown S23551

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Fayette County            } Ss  
State of Pennsylvania    }

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Charles Porter one of the associate Judges of the court of common pleas for the county of Fayette, William Brown a resident of Fayette county aforesaid, & state of Pennsylvania aged ninety five years, 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the followed named officers & served as herein stated.

That he was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in the year 1737 that he continued to reside there untill he had got his growth when he removed to Cumberland county Pennsylvania, where he lived untill 1775 when he was drafted into the service of the state (this was in the spring of that year) to go out against the Indians who were harrasing the settlements on the head water of the Susquehanna, That he cannot recollect the name of his Captain, but the Lieutenants of the company to which he belonged were John Murphy 1<sup>st</sup>. & William McConnell 2<sup>nd</sup>. That the troops were commanded by Cols Montgomery & Armstrong. That they were never able to bring the Indians to an engagement. that they sudenly appeared in the settlements, committed outrages & as sudenly disapearing. That they were generally headed by either British or Canadians. That he does not recollect the period for which he was drafted – but thinks it was six months as he recollects distinctly that he continued in that service untill the fall of 1775. That in the fall of 1776 he removed from Cumberland County pa. to Frederick county Virginia. That in the spring of 1777 [sic: see endnote] as soon as military operations could be commenced (the last of March or first of April) he was drafted in Captain James Barnetts company of militia, which was joined to Col Holm Regiment, that they were marched from Frederick County Virginia to an encampment on the Shanadore [sic: Shenandoah River] & there stationed for the purpose of embaresing the British whose general force in the south were commanded by Lord Cornwallis, that he continued in the army untill 1780 when he was impressed into the Waggon service to assist in conveying Burgoins prisoners from Albemarl Barracks Northward, to little York Pennsylvania to keep them out of the way of Cornwallis. That as soon as he returned from this service, he was drafted in Captain George Bells company. This he thinks was in July or August 1781) that they were ordered from Shanadore to Yorktown where they were joined to main American army commanded by Gen'l. Washington. that he was engaged in all the fighting that took place in the capture of Cornwallis at York town, that on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 1781 Cornwallis surrendered his whole army to Genl Washington who ordered the Militia to guard them to little York Pa. That on the march to that place he was taken sick at Fredericksburg Virginia where he received a furlough from his captain George Bell. That he went home & continued sick several months, that he did not again return to the service. That he served generally in the revolutionary war from its commencement untill after Cornwallis's surrender. That he can say with perfect safety that during this period he was not out of the service of his country more than six or eight months. That he never received any discharge. That after the war he continued to live in Frederick county Virginia untill 1786 when he removed to the western country and has lived within a few miles of where he now resides (in Fayette county pa.) ever since. That he knows of no person living at present by whom he could establish his services, & that he has no documentary evidence. That he is ninety five of age. That he has no record of his age – but remembers of being told repeatedly by his parents that he was born the same year that George the Third of England was born (4 June 1738).

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state

[signed] Wm Brown

I DO certify that Wm Brown hath taken and subscribed the oath or ~~affirmation~~ of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this seventeenth day of Nov'r. 1777

Thos Helm [Thomas Helm]

[The following does not appear to be an original document.]

Camp Nov. 3, 1781 I do hereby grant a furlough to William Brown a sick man under my Command to go home.

George Bell Capt.

NOTES:

Brown's service as a wagoner could not have been in 1777 as stated, but it may have been in 1781. Burgoyne's army was captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777, but the prisoners were not brought to Albemarle Barracks until Jan 1779. They were taken from Albemarle Barracks in Feb 1781 as Cornwallis marched through North Carolina toward Virginia, and they arrived in Reading PA in June.

On 22 Sep 1851 John Brown authorized an investigation of whether he and other children of William Brown were due an increase in pension, because he believed "from his fathers statements that he done service in other capacity than a private soldier."