

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of William Brown S31563

fn71NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/11/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Missouri, County of Lincoln

On this nineteenth day of May, 1834, personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, now sitting, William Brown, a resident of said County and State aged seventy-eight 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 7th, 1832.

That he enlisted as a private soldier in the service of the United States for the term of three years in the spring of the year 1776, according to the best of his recollection, in the town of Jonesborough, now in the State of Tennessee, in the company commanded by Captain James Robinson; that he served three years under the first enlistment, most of which time he was engaged against the Indians and was in eight battles with them. That he was during that time a while under Captain Fain, and was with him when he was killed by the Indians on the Tennessee River at the place called the Orchard defeat. That he recollects that he was during this enlistment under Captain James Robinson, Captain Fain, Colonel Christie [sic, Colonel William Christian] and Colonel Charles Robinson. That at the expiration of the three years he was discharged in the aforesaid town of Jonesborough, and then within a few days enlisted for during the war, he thinks in the company commanded by Captain John Sevier. That he was under him a part of the time during the last enlistment, if not at first, and a part, as he thinks, most of the time in the 4th Regiment commanded by Colonel Campbell or Colonel Shelby and in the 2nd Battalion. That he continued in the service under the last enlistment four years, three months and some days, making in all a little more than seven years. That he has no education and can neither read nor write. That he can recollect but a few of the officers he served under but that he was at the battle of the Lookout Mountain and was then under Colonel Joseph Martin, and he thinks under Captain Isaac Butler, that he well remembers that he was standing near and on one side of Captain Butler when he was killed and his brother Joseph Brown was standing on the other side. That he, William Brown, made the litter to carry a Captain to the foot of the mountain where he was buried. That he was at the battle of King's Mountain, and they are under Captain Sevier, and he thinks, Colonel

Christie, but was not in the engagement. They heard the reports of the guns and hurried on for several miles and arrived at the foot of the mountain just as the guns ceased. That he arrived at Yorktown, Virginia, about the time the town was surrendered to the Americans and thinks he was then under Colonel John Sevier. That he was discharged at the close of the war in or near Richmond, Virginia. He further states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, except his brother, Joseph Brown, who is a twin brother, and was with him at the time during the Revolutionary War, and likewise, Mrs. Mary Thurmond who is now absent from this County, as he is informed. That he, the said William Brown, does not know whether he belonged to the regular troops, state troops, militia or volunteers.

Questions by the court:

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Bedford County, Virginia in the year 1756.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age, but the time of my birth was set down in a Bible, which was burnt together with the house it was in 30 or 40 years ago, but well recollect my age from hearing it from my mother.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I have lived since the Revolutionary War in North Carolina, now East Tennessee, and came to Lincoln County, Missouri about 20 years ago, and left this County the 10th of May 1832 and went to the Arkansas Territory to reside with a son, and have lately returned to Lincoln County aforesaid to reside with Levi Brown, another son, who lives in this County.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I was never drafted but enlisted voluntarily both times.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: Most of my services were against the Indians on the frontiers and sometimes against the British and Tories. Was in one skirmish against and with the Tories at Ramsour's Mill in South Carolina [sic, North Carolina]; was not marched to Virginia till near the end of the war. I do not recollect particularly any officers more than I have already mentioned except Colonel Tipton, and was under him two or three tours. There were others that I have some recollection of, but do not remember particularly when & where I served with them, but have a distinct recollection of the battle at Guilford Court House & was in the battle, but am not sure who was my Captain or Colonel.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer: I received a regular discharged at the expiration of the first three years service given I believe by Colonel Charles Robinson and another at the close of the war given by Colonel John Sevier, who was afterwards Governor of Tennessee, and they were both burnt with the house they were in a few years after the war in East Tennessee. The house was Peter Parkinson's.

[7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.]

Answer: I am well acquainted with many persons in this County having lived here for some years, and am acquainted with several clergymen, the Reverend Mr. Bowen and the Reverend Mr. Hubbard, and some others.

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/William Brown, X. his Mark

S/Francis Parker, clerk

[Thomas Bowen, a clergyman, and John S Besser gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 8]

State of Missouri County of Lincoln:

Be it remembered that on this 19th day of May 1834, personally appeared in open court, into Lincoln Circuit Court, Joseph Brown,¹ who being duly sworn, on his oath, says, that he is a twin brother of William Brown, whose name is subscribed to the above and foregoing Declaration, that he entered the service of the United States according to the best of his knowledge and belief, in the spring of the year 1776, with his said brother, William Brown, that he continued with him the whole time mentioned in said declaration – that they both enlisted together in the same Company, and continued together during the seven years & some months therein mentioned, and that the particulars in said declaration are true according to the best of his recollection, remembrance and belief – and for his services he the said Joseph Brown now receives a pension by Certificate bearing date of 17th of October 1833.

Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid in open Court

S/ Francis Parker, Clerk

S/ Joseph Brown, X his mark

[fn p. 9]

State of Missouri County of Pike: SS

Be it remembered that on this 19th day of June A.D. 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace within & for the County of Pike and State aforesaid, Mary Thurman, who being first duly sworn, on her oath says that she was born in the year 1760, and that in the year 1770 her father, Jonas Little, removed to within 9 miles of Jonesborough then in North Carolina, now Tennessee, that in March 1776, she first saw William Brown whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Declaration for a Pension, and that he & his brother Joseph Brown then lived about 4 miles from her father, and were spoken of as soldiers. That she often heard her brothers, who were in the revolutionary war, say that both of the Browns were good soldiers – her brothers' names were George, John & Benjamin Little, and were all in the war and are now dead – that they were frequently out after the Indians with the said Browns, – that Colonel Jonathan Tipton, whose name is mentioned and William Brown's declaration was her uncle and she has often heard him, the said Tipton say that both of the Browns who are twin brothers were as good soldiers as any in the world – that she saw said William Brown a

¹ [Joseph Brown S17291](#)

few days ago, and well recollects them, & knows him to be the same person, that she saw in the year 1776, and the person her uncle & brothers used often to speak of as a soldier, – and that she has often seen him before the time mentioned above since the war – that she has no doubt from what she heard at the time of the revolutionary war from Colonel Tipton, her brothers and many others that said William Brown served as a soldier as long as he has stated in his declaration – and that she has heard the same persons tell of both of the Browns being at several places & in several battles with the Indians while they were soldiers, that William Brown has not mentioned in his declaration, & which he has probably forgotten, that she thinks William Brown is mistaken when he says that he served under Captain John Sevier, and that it was Captain Robert Sevier – that she has never heard anything against the character of the said William Brown, that he has always been considered very honest, but poor, that she has lived as a neighbor to said William Brown several years since the revolutionary war, and she believes from what she has ever heard and known of said Brown that if he has made in his declaration any incorrect statement – that it is owing entirely to the want of recollection, and that his character always stood fair as to truth and veracity.

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid

S/ James M Watson, JP

S/ Mary Thurman, 8 her mark

[fn p. 12]

The Amended Declaration of William Brown for a Pension
State of Missouri, County of Lincoln

On this 4th day of November in the year of our Lord 1834, personally appeared before the Lincoln County Court, in the County of Lincoln and State of Missouri, William Brown, a resident of said County and State aged 78 years, who having first been duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier probably in the militia in the company commanded by Captain James Robinson, he thinks in the spring of the year 1776, near Jonesborough in the state of Tennessee, then North Carolina, and went immediately with the company and commenced building a fort in the point between the rivers Nolichucky and Big Limestone, near the aforesaid town of Jonesboro, and remained here about three weeks when four Indian traders came in from the Cherokee Nation and told them that the Indians were coming upon them that night or the next morning. At this time the Captain was absent, but returned about 12 o'clock at night and ordered the company to march immediately for Watauga Fort, eighteen miles distant. There the company arrived early the next morning. The Indians followed and remained about the Fort for some weeks, killed several men, citizens who had come to the Fort for protection and among others, one by the name of Norton, one Cooper and his five sons and one by the name of Manshoat [?]-one morning the Indians attack the Fort from both sides of the river and kept up a brisk fire for nearly 3 hours, which was as well returned from the Fort; eighteen Indians were found dead after the others had retired and it was supposed that the Indians had taken away many more from the appearance of blood in every direction, but he recollects after arriving at the Fort and before this battle that he went under lieutenant Elijah Robinson, the Captain's brother, with eighteen men

to the Long Island on Holston [River] about forty miles, here they found about one hundred soldiers more and here they had a severe battle with the Indians, supposed to be several hundred in number, many of them were killed and twenty-five or thirty of our men were killed or wounded. He then returned with the Lieutenant to the Fort. Soon after the battle at the Fort, Colonel Christie sent on there a Captain with a company of men, then Captain Robinson's company started immediately after the Indians, the company sent by Colonel Christy being fatigued remained at the Fort, and they pursued the Indians to Little Limestone [River] 25 or 30 miles from the Fort and killed eight Indians and took a large number of horses, which the Indians had stolen; the horses were sent back to the Fort by four soldiers. He, with the remainder of the company, went on to Little River seventeen or eighteen miles and had a skirmish there with the Indians and killed, he thinks, eighteen of them. Then Captain Robinson's company turned back to a place called Flat Creek and here Colonel Christie with a detachment joined the company and they all marched from that place to the Indian towns, to wit, the Big Island town, the Hiwassee town &c and destroyed the towns & corn and, the Indians having fled. And Captain Robinson's company then returned to Watauga Fort. In the fall of that year and during the succeeding winter he was frequently out in scouting parties after the Indians, the particulars of which he cannot now recollect. In the following spring, 1777, he went again under Captain Robinson and Colonel Shelby and Colonel Charles Robinson to the Indian Mobile towns several hundred miles from the Fort, and were all well mounted. There were about 400 soldiers along but found no Indians except a few friendly ones. They [the Indians] having gone to the British's lines on the Mobile, and they [the soldiers] all returned to Watauga Fort about the first of January 1778. During this year, 1778, he was out on military duty most of the time in the same company as before, and thinks it was this year that they had a skirmish with the Indians at a place called the French Run, near the Indian Nation and killed several Indians; he thinks that Captain James Robinson had left the service at this time, and that his brother, Elijah Robinson, was Captain a while, and after he was wounded, Robert Sevier took command of the company; and that it was this year, the skirmish at the place called the Orchard Defeat took place, where Captain Fain was killed and likewise the battle at the Lookout Mountain, where Captain Butler was killed, at each of these places he was present, and in the spring of the succeeding year, 1780, he started with the company from Jonesborough, and joined two companies at Buncombe [County] in North Carolina, and in a short time they all marched towards Ramsour's Mill and was engaged in the battle fought at that place with the Tories, and was then under Colonel Campbell. From this time he can recollect nothing of importance until the battle of King's Mountain, but the Regiment to which you belong did not arrive until the firing ceased. He thinks that he continued in the same company and in the 4th Regiment during all his services in the Revolutionary War. From this time he has now no distinct recollection of his services but thinks that he was not discharged till peace was made; he is very confident that it was some over seven years from the commencement to the end of his services in the Revolutionary War, but from infirmity of body and mind he cannot give a more particular description or history of his services than what he has already done, but knows that he spent time of his life in the service of his country, for which he has never as yet received the value of one dollar; that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services except his brother Joseph Brown and Mrs. Mary Thurman, who have already testified for him and that by reason of

old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but, according to the best of his recollection, he with the greatest confidence can swear that he served not less than the period of three years as a private soldier and for such services he claimed the pension.

Subscribed and sworn to in open court this fourth day of November 1834.

S/ William Brown, X his Mark

S/ Francis Parker, Clerk

[Benjamin Sullivan, a clergyman, David Bailey and John Chandler gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 19]

State of Arkansas County of Pike: Sct

Martha Coker of lawful age being produced & sworn doth depose and say that she recollects of hearing his family & the neighborhood in which she was raised William Brown of the aforesaid County and State being a soldier in the Revolutionary war at the same time his father John Brown was what has been dead some thirty years & his brother Joseph Brown who lives in Lincoln County Missouri was and who is now (as she is informed) drawing a pension from the general government. She further deposes that she has never heard it doubted but that the said William was a revolutionary soldier of some great she do not know what. And further this deponent saith not.

S/ Martha Coker, X her mark

[fn p. 23: on July 16, 1838, in Pike County, Arkansas William Brown, 83, of Thompson Township in said county, filed another application for a pension. It appears to restate the same services as set out above. Silas C. Blair and Hiram Kizzia gave the standard supporting affidavit for this application.]

[fn p. 34: yet another application, this one dated April 23, 1839 filed in Pike County, Arkansas.]

[fn p. 59]

State of Missouri County of Lincoln: Sct

Be it remembered that on this 25th day of May 1839 Joseph Brown of the County aforesaid who is a credible person and worthy to be believed on his oath, being produced & sworn before me Francis Parker Clerk of the County Court in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Missouri aforesaid maketh oath deposeth and saith that he has known William Brown of Pike County Arkansas all his life. That he knows him to have been a soldier of the Revolution. That he served in a great many campaigns with the said William Brown from shortly after the beginning of the revolutionary war till the end of the same that he was in the same company, Regiment and command with him on several campaigns. That one of said campaigns commenced about the 1st of September 1776 or '7 against the Cherokee Indians West from Watauga Fort about 250 miles under General Christie, Colonel John Sevier, Captain James Robinson and Lieutenant Elijah Robinson the Ensign's name not recollected, and the Major's name not recollected. He thinks the Regiment was called the 4th and that the said campaign ended about the last of February or 1st of March 1777 or '8 – but which was a full six-month campaign. There was no

fighting on this campaign but some kind of a treaty with the said Indians that lay in that quarter. That the said William was a Sergeant on this campaign for all the time. That the said Will Brown was on a second campaign in the same company with himself under all the aforesaid officers except General Christie. This second campaign commenced in 1777 or '8. The Regiment left Fort Watauga (Wataugaugh) in the latter part of August of the said year and marched to Mobile – they had a battle with the Indians on this campaign at their Big Town on the Mobile River in which were several Indians and a British superintendent killed – and they returned home or to Watauga Fort the middle of December 1777 or '8. In this expedition the said William Brown held the office of a Sergeant. And they had a battle also at Big Island Town, (called the battle of the Peach Orchard) in which 18 white men were killed – the Indians (Cherokees) were defeated in this battle. This tour was over three months. That the said William was also on a third tour under the same officers as in the last aforesaid to work in which she was only a private. They started from the aforesaid Fort on the 1st of May 1778 or '9 and marched about 200 miles South to Lookout Mountain where they had a battle with the Cherokee Indians in which there were a few white man killed and some Indians. They returned off this campaign about the middle of July of the same year. That he the said applicant is now drawing a pension for services rendered with at the same time as the said William Brown was in the service [one or more lines of text are missing from the digital image of this page as posted on Footnote.com] ranging under proper authority (as he was sure all the said tours by such) for 8 or 10 or 12 days at a time against the Indians. And after he had finished the said several tours and when he engaged his services for and during the war he was very frequently ranging out from the aforesaid Fort for 15 or 20 days at a time under the command of a Lieutenant or an Ensign. He cannot say particularly how many – but not less than ten before peace was restored. And further this deponent saith not.

S/ Joseph Brown, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]