

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Isham Brown S39210

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee, SS.

On this 11th day of Dec'r. 1819, before me, the subscriber, one of the Judges of the State of Tennessee, personally appeared Isham Brown aged 70 years, resident in Giles County in the said state, who, being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said Isham Brown enlisted for the term of two years on the [blank] day of March in the year 1776 (the date not recollected) in Prince Edward County in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain John Moreton [sic: John Morton, pension application S9035] of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Stephens [sic: Adam Stephen] (4<sup>th</sup> Regiment) in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States, until March 1778 (the end of his term), when he was discharged from service at Valley Forge state of Pennsylvania, that he was in the battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776], Princeton [3 Jan 1777], Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], & Germantown [4 Oct 1777] & some inconsiderable skirmishes and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services (except the certificate herewith enclosed).

[signed] Isham Brown

I James Morton of Prince Edward County and State of Virginia a Lieutenant in Captain Holcombs [sic: John Holcombe's] Company in the forth Virginia Regiment of Regulars in the Revolutionary War do Certify that Isham Brown served as a Regular soldier in said Company in the Revolutionary War from March 1776 till march 1778 Certify'd By me this 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1819

James Morton

Lu't. to [illegible word] 4<sup>th</sup> Reg't

State of Tennessee } Court of pleas and quarter session May term 1823.

Giles county }

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1823 personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the said county Isham Brown being in the seventy fourth year of his age, resident in said county; who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows. That in the month of March 1778 in the county of Prince Edward and state of state of Virginia he enlisted as a private soldier on the continental establishment in a company commanded by Captain John Morton in the fourth regiment of the Virginia line of continental troops for the term of two years, and that he faithfully served in said regiment for said term of two years when he was honorably discharged in the month of March 1778 at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

After his said discharge from service as aforesaid he sent the same to the City of Richmond in the state of Virginia for the purpose of being enrolled to draw back rations and has never received the same since: that sometime in the year 1819 or 1820 (the date not now recollected but he thinks on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1819) he petitioned the government of the United States for a pension under an act of Congress passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war and caused his declaration which was made before the honorable Alfred M. Harris then judge of of the sixth judicial circuit of the state of Tennessee to be sent on to the war office, but never received any return from said War office relative thereto until this day, when he received a letter from J. L. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions] dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 1823 in

answer to a letter written by said Harris to the war department on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1823 communicating the information that he the said Isham Brown was inscribed on the pension list for the West Tennessee agency and a certificate of pension for him, sent to J. Blair Esquire at Jonesboro, Tennessee on the second of June 1820, that he hath never received said duplicate or any art of his pension under the same, he is consequently unable to insert the number of his certificate. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule of the property of Isham Brown.

By profession a cultivator of the earth, which profession he is unable to pursue sufficiently to obtain a subsistence in consequence of age and bodily infirmity; that he has no home of his own, but lives with his son William Brown & his daughters Nancey & Elizabeth Brown: that his son William is afflicted with a white swelling and unable to assist him but that his two daughters are healthy and contribute principally to his support. That as to his property, securities, contracts or debts due him or to become due he hath none of any consequence, and that the whole will not amount to twenty dollars being an account of 4 dollars on Josiah Philips D[itt]o. on Alen Pitts \$3.25. D'o. on James Woodfin \$2.25. Isham Brown

State of Missouri, County of Saline Sct:

On this Eleventh day of February 1833 personally appeared before the Court of the County of Saline, aforesaid Isham Brown, a resident of Arrow Rock Township, in the County aforesaid, and state of Missouri aforesaid – aged Eighty three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1776 with (Edward Davidson [W3958] a private under) Obadiah Woodson, second Lieutenant, and served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia line, under the following named officers:

He enlisted in Prince Edward County in 1776 in the state of Va and was marched from thence in the Company Commanded by Capt. John Morton, Leut. John Holcom, 2<sup>d</sup> Leut Obadiah Woodson, and Ensign Edward Wood, to Suffolk in the state of Virginia, where he joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Va. line, Commanded by Col. Stephens, Lieut Col. Reede [sic: Isaac Read], and Major Robert Lawson. From Suffolk we marched with the said Regiment to Portsmouth in Va. from thence to a place called Kemp's Landing [now Kempsville] – from thence back again to Portsmouth – at these two latter places the 4<sup>th</sup> regiment remained from about April 1776 til say Oct. 1776. From thence we sailed up the Chesapeake Bay to the head of Elk River [now Elkton MD], to Hollinsworth's ordinary in the state of Maryland. Previous to my leaving Portsmouth in Va Col Stephens was promoted to Brigade Gen'l. Leut Col. Reede, was then promoted to Col. and Major Lawson to Leut Col. At or near Portsmouth. He was in a slight skirmish with the british, (on detached service) while they were engaged in plundering. They retreated to their shipping. From Hollensworth's in Maryland, He travelled thro the state of Delaware, to Chester, in Pennsylvania. Here he remained for some time sick – after his recovery he proceeded from thence to join Gen'l. Washington's Army which he did, not far from Trenton, in New Jersey – about this time, or before, I joined Gen'l. Washington's Army Capt. Morton resigned his Commission [12 Mar 1777], and Capt. Wailes [probably George Walls (Wales), pension application R18785] Commanded his Company. Shortly after this Leut Holcom was promoted to the rank of Capt. and He believes took command of the Company Wailes formerly Commanded – shortly after this application was made to Gen'l. Washington,

and he ordered an exchange of officers – then Capt. Holcom took command of the Company to which I belonged – and which Morton formerly commanded & Wailes Commanded the Company he formerly commanded. From thence the main army proceeded toward Princeton where Lord Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] was then encamped. From thence we retreated (being pursued by Cornwallis) thro' Trenton, occasionally some skirmishing with the rear guard of our Army – From this place a march was made during the night, and next day Gen'l Washington's Army arrived before Princeton. Here we had an obstinate engagement, with the British before we drove them from the Town. (Here too Gen'l. [Hugh] Mercer was killed) and took possession of it. From Princeton in New Jersey, we pursued Lord Cornwallis to Hog Island, on the march, there was considerable fighting – from thence we ret'd. to Princeton. Here I remained for some time, sick, in consequence of excessive fatigue before I had recovered of my first attack. From Princeton I marched to join Gen'l. Washington's Army, (after my recovery) which I did in N Jersey – and from thence marched with it to a place called Elk Ridge. From this place we retreated before Lord Cornwallis & Brandywine where we made a stand, and where the next morning we had a hard fight for several hours. From thence we retreated to the Schuylkill River, from thence we marched to German Town, where we had another battle – in this battle Capt Holcom had his thigh broke, here Col. R Lawson commanded the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt Va line – and Gen'l. Stephens acquit himself badly. From thence we returned up the schuylkill river near Valley forge – to winter quarters. Here I left the main army – and was detached as a waggon guard to Lancaster Penn – from thence I went on to little York in Penn; where I remained from about Nov. 1777 til March 1778 – under the command of Col. Williams of North Carolina. Here I was appointed superintendant of the Artificiers – and on application to the board of War, Christopher Chafin [possibly Christopher Chaffin, pension application W4919] was appointed my Clerk. In this service, I remained, the balance of my term say til March 1778 when I obtained my discharge from Gen'l. Charles Scott, then stationed at Valley Forge  
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

#### NOTES:

On 3 June 1824 from Pulaski TN Isam Brown wrote and signed a long letter to the Pension Office explaining why he had not submitted a schedule of his property as required by the pension act of 1820 in order to prove financial need.

On 23 Feb 1824 Isam Brown, as he signed, made a deposition from which the following is excerpted:

“On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 1816, he divided his property amongst his children, as equally as he could; he gave at that time to William Brown his son one hundred acres of land in Giles County, worth about five dollars per acre: but did not execute a deed of conveyance for the same till the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1821: On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 1816, he gave to his daughter Nancy Brown the following property, towit – 135 acres of land, worth about two dollars per acre – twelve head of cattle – five head of sheep, 20 head of hogs, one sorrel mare, 1 Bed & furniture worth about two hundred & thirty or forty dollars but did not execute a Bill of sale for the same till the deed to said William at the time of the gift, & the Bill of sale to Nancy at the time of said gift to her was, that they were both under age, & lived with this affiant.

That on the same 16<sup>th</sup> of Febry 1816, this affiant gave to his sons George – Abraham & James & to his daughters Polly Watson – Sally Webb – Lucy Finch – Patsy Crecy & Betsy Brown (all of whom were then of full age) a tract of land each, for which he executed deeds in 1816, – & the property above mentioned was at the same time given to William & Nancy then minors as afores'd. This affiant's object being to make the shares of his children as equal as he could – and he does think that he made them as equal as possible.”