

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Brown S6697

f40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 34]

The State of Alabama Franklin County: Circuit Court for August Term for 1831

This day personally appeared in open court William Brown a petitioner for a pension under the laws of the United States and makes oath that he is the identical person named in the affidavit of John Brown made before William White an acting Justice of the peace for Dixon [Dickson] Tennessee certified by the Clerk & presiding Justice of said County and hereunto annexed that this deponent was in the Service of the United States during the Revolutionary War and served in the North Carolina militia for near four years under the respective Commands of Generals Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Butler [John Butler] & Colonel William Washington that this deponent is poor and unable to support himself by labor, that he is Seventy-two years of age. That this deponent has in possession the following property one horse worth about fifty Dollars the only property which he possesses.

This deponent further states that he has not since the passage of either of the acts giving pensions to the Revolutionary Soldiers changed or so disposed of his property as to entitle him to receive a pension. That he has not for many years owned or possessed more than forty or fifty Dollars worth of property. That the Services rendered by this deponent was at different places – this deponent fought at the Battles of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] & Cowpens [January 17, 1781] besides others. This deponent resides in the County of Franklin & State of Alabama and removed last from the State of Georgia.

S/ William Brown, X his mark

Sworn & subscribed to in open Court this day August 26, 1831

S/ Platt Stout, Clk. C.C.

[p 25]

State of Tennessee Dixon [sic Dickson] County:

Personally appeared before me William White an acting Justice of the peace for said County John Brown who after being duly sworn deposed & saith that William Brown during the Revolutionary War was a resident of the County of Guilford & State of North Carolina that the said William Brown served as a soldier under the command of Captain William Bethel & other captains in the North Carolina militia commanded by General Rutherford General Butler [John Butler] & Colonel William Washington for the term of near four years which service was rendered in tours of three & six months, that the Said William Brown as he is informed & believes fought at the Battles of Eutaw Springs, the Cowpens besides several other Battles.

This same John Brown Sen. before me William White acting and made oath in due form of law that the above certificate is just and true. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of August 1831

S/ William White, JP

S/ John Brown, Sr., X his mark

State of Mississippi Monroe County:

On this 26 day of August 1833 personally appeared William Brown in open Court before the Probate court of said County now sitting aged seventy-three years the 27th of the present month and a resident citizen of said County of Monroe 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 7th 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

The said William Brown states that he entered the service of the United States in the revolutionary war as well as he now recollects in the month of October 1777 as a volunteer in the militia of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain William Bethel Colonel Kennedy whose given name he has forgotten in the County of Guilford State of North Carolina where he then resided he marched to the Cross Creeks on Cape Fear River and was at the battle of Cross Creek, that he continued on to the Cherokee nation down the French broad River into the Cherokee Country against the Cherokee Indians under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] that he continued in the service the rise of six months and got leave to come home.

He states that in about a week after his arrival at home and in April or May as well as he remembers 1778 he substituted for his brother John Brown who was drafted a three months tour of duty under Captain John Cleaveland [sic, John Cleveland] Colonel Smith whose given name he has forgotten in the Army of General Rutherford in an expedition to Wilmington and served out this tour of three months – that he came home and staid about a week and then volunteered under Captain William Bethel about the 1st of September of that year and went on an expedition down on Pedee River in South Carolina under Colonel Smith in the Army of General Rutherford this detachment consisted of volunteers and drafted man, the period entered for was for three months but he continued with Captain Bethel for three months longer without coming home which made a period the rise of six months he was in the service his route.

He states that he volunteered in the month of March or April 1779 as well as he recollects in a horse company commanded by Captain Williams whose given name he has forgotten in the Regiment of horse from Virginia commanded by Captain William Washington that whilst with Captain Williams and Colonel Washington he was in the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] and the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]. He states that he was induced to join the horse company by his brother Samuel Brown who belonged to that company and that he was engaged in the service this tour the rise of four months and a half. He states that after the battle of the Cowpens he and his brother got leave to come home when we met with an old friend Captain Bethel who was about starting an expedition against the Tories and the British down at the Raft Swamp that his brother returned to the Regiment of horse commanded by Colonel Washington and this affiant went in the company of Captain Bethel the above mentioned expedition to Pedee River and was continued in this expedition the rise of three months this affiant states that he had got home about ten days before he heard of the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] after which he states he did not go in the service any more during the revolutionary war. He states he was in the Battles of Cross Creeks, Georgetown, Eutaw Springs

and in the battle of the Cowpens – that his memory in his old age has greatly failed him and he is not able to be particular in dates and that those he has stated is only from the best of his remembrance – and further that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades that his grade was that of a private and that in the first expedition as stated above he served as above stated not less than six months that in the second expedition as above stated he served as a substitute for his brother John Brown not less than three months that in the third expedition as stated above he served not less than six months that in the fourth expedition as stated above he served under Captain Williams in the horse company not less than four months and a half and that in the sixth expedition as stated above he served not less than three months – and for the terms above stated he claims a pension. He states that the period of the war when he served was in the revolutionary war and as well as he can remember from 1777 to 1780 – 81 or 2.

And in answer to the questions propounded by the Court in conformity to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department he states that he was born in Pittsylvania County State of Virginia and on the 27th of August 1760 – as he was informed by his parents and as was contained in his family Bible there he got his house burned and with it his Bible and his discharge from the service as above stated. He states that he was living in the County of Guilford State of North Carolina when he was called into service and that he has lived since the revolutionary war in the States of North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi and now lives in Monroe County State of Mississippi and has resided there for the space of five years last past. He states that he volunteered and was a substitute for his uncle John Brown as above stated. He states that he received regular discharges signed by his captains respectively as above stated that he kept them for many years that when his house got burnt up they also got burned. He states that he was only a militia soldier and was not permitted to mix with the regulars and that he has no perfect recollection about the regular officers, that there were so many of them and that as they were only [indecipherable word, could be “talked”]¹ of by their titles he is not now able to speak satisfactorily of them or their names. He thinks that Colonel Litle [perhaps Archibald Lytle] of North Carolina, Colonel Henderson [William Henderson] of South Carolina and Colonel William Washington of Virginia were regular officers.

He will state the names of the [indecipherable word or abbreviation] William Cook, Mr. John Wilson, Colonel Abner Presnell [?], Nathanael Morgan Esquire and Benjamin Bowen Esquire to whom he is known in his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. This affiant states that he has no documentary evidence of his said services and that he knows of no person who can testify to his service as aforesaid. 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 & subscribed in open court
S/ D. H. Morgan, Clerk

S/ William Brown

William Brown

¹ *talked*

[William H Cook, a clergyman, and John Wilson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: On June 16, 1835 in Franklin County Alabama, the veteran applied for transfer of his pension benefit stating as his reason for moving to Franklin County Alabama to be that most of his connections reside in Franklin County. This document he signed with his mark.]

[p 13: On April 15, 1850 in Choctaw County Mississippi, the veteran applied for a transfer of his pension benefit to the Mississippi agency stating that he had moved there to be with his sons and sons-in-law (not named). This document he signed with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$78.75 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 22 and half months service (18 months in the Infantry and 4 1/2 months in the cavalry) in the North Carolina militia.]