

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Brown S6718

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Mar 2015.

State of Virginia } Ss.

Lewis County } }

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Lewis County now sitting James Brown a resident of the County of Lewis in the State of Virginia aged 76 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832, that he entered the service of the United States as a private in Captain James Parsons company Virginia militia in the year 1778, in the month of March, Robert Cunningham Lieutenant Baldwin Parsons Ensign, marched from that part of Virginia which is now Hardy County [formed in 1786 from Hampshire County] to Pittsburgh there was joined the forces under the command of Gen'l. [Lachlan] McIntosh, descended the Ohio river to the mouth of Big Beaver, there erected a Fort [Fort McIntosh on Beaver River at present Beaver PA, begun Sep 1778] proceeded from thence to the Forks of Muskingum river now in the State of Ohio, on a branch of that river called Tuscarawas erected Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens near present Bolivar OH, begun 10 Nov 1778] left Col. [John] Gibson with some troops to guard Fort Lawrence and Gen'l. McIntosh with the regulars and militia returned to the Fort of McIntosh at the mouth of Big Beaver. Affiant was one of those that through the winter of 1778 and 1779, and in the Spring of 1779 returned with provisions to the Fort of Lawrence and continued there till the Fall of 1779, he thinks September, the fort was abandoned [Aug 1779] and affiant discharged does not know who discharged him as his Captain and subalterns had all gone home. Affiant having been drafted for six months, continued twelve months longer as a volunteer, under different officers whose names he cannot now recollect, he distinctly recollects Gen'l. McIntosh and Col. Gibson, returned to what is now Hardy County in Virginia and continued there till the Spring of 1781. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March of the year 1781 he volunteered in the Virginia militia for a tour of six months under Captain Michael Stump, marched to Fredericksburg in Virginia where the troops were received by General George Weedon, from thence to Richmond Va. was there placed under Major McPherson a Pennsylvanian attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. [William] Darke commanded by Gen'l. Peter Muklenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. were stationed at Richmond on the Hill, continued there three weeks or thereabouts, was driven from there by the enemy and retreated up the country to Raccoon ford in Culpeper County, was joined by the forces under Anthony Wayne [at Raccoon Ford, 10 Jun 1781], the enemy returned towards Richmond, and the americans then again returned towards Richmond, encamped on or near a water called Bacon Branch, lay there about one week preparations were made as affiant then understood and believed to attack the enemy but they escaped in a thick fog one morning, affiant then understood that those troops were commanded by Lord Cornwallis, they marched towards New Kent Court House, where at the fork of some road near said Court House we had a skirmish with them for two days [23 - 24 June]. Gen'l. Marquis De LaFayette then commanded the Virginia troops. From New Kent the enemy proceeded towards their fleet and the Americans went to Williamsburg, from thence to a place called York or Yorktown. He was there discharged a short time before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] having when he returned home been seven months in the service as a volunteer militia man a private. He returned home to Hampshire (now Hardy County) where he again forthwith entered the service of the United States in the Virginia militia as a private soldier substitute for one Cornelius Westfall, started from home under the command of Captain Isaac Parsons returned forthwith to Yorktown, arrived there just in time to witness the capture of Cornwallis, served three months & seven days and was discharged by Captain Parsons. Returned home and again forthwith entered in the service as a substitute for James Parsons under Captain Simmerell[?], with Vincent Williams as Major, was marched to Winchester, attached again to Col. Darke's command, guarded British prisoners at or near Winchester for six months returned home and

removed to where he now lives in what is now Lewis County. was ordered out as an Indian Spie in the Fall of the year 1782 by Col. [William] Lowther, continued to spie under Captain James Tanner and different other officers (sometimes without any subaltern officers) not less than three years, not less than two and a half years after the close of the war with Great Britain and not less than three years and four months during the Revolution, to wit Eighteen months the first tour before he ever returned home. Seven months the next, three the next, six the next, and then as an Indian Spie at least six months before the treaty with England. Affiant does not remember that he got any discharge the first tour or rather it may be regarded as two tours one as a drafted militia man for six months, the other as a volunteer served in the militia for twelve months. The tours in 1781 & 82 he rec'd. three different discharges, one from Captain Michael Stump, one from Captain Isaac Parsons, the third by Captain James Simmerell; He took no care of those discharges thinking them of no further use when the war ended, nor indeed before only as a kind of passport to go home without trouble. He has no documentary evidence. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services unless it is his brother John Brown [pension application S6720] who served the tour commencing in 1781 with him starting with Captain Stump but his brother was transferred to Captain Anderson's company. His memory is much decayed by his great age and infirmity. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

(signed) James hisXmark Brown

The Court proceeded to propound to the applicant the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department to which he gave the following answers viz.

1<sup>st</sup>. That he was born in Cumberland County in the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1756.

2<sup>d</sup>. That he has no record of his age that the accounts of his parents agrees with his own recollection He was old enough in 1774 to go as a soldier in what was Dunmore's campaign against the Indians. He did not state that service in his declaration because he was told that it was not within the provisions of the act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

3<sup>d</sup>. That he was living in what is now Hampshire County Virginia, that he removed to where he now lives in the Fall of 1782 or the latter part of the summer of that year it was then as he thinks Monongalia County now Lewis County.

4<sup>th</sup>. That he was first drafted, then volunteered then again volunteered, then substituted for Cornelius Westfall, then again substituted for James Parsons, and lastly was ordered out as an Indian Spie.

5<sup>th</sup>. That he remembers General McIntosh, Col. Gibson. He knows that General McIntosh commanded both regular soldiers and militia, has forgotten the names of the other officers. Col. Gibson was left at Fort Lauren's during the Winter of 1778 until the Fall of 1779 when that Fort was abandoned.

5<sup>th</sup>. That in his tour of 1781 he saw General Muhlenburg, Gen'l. LaFayette, Gen'l. George Weedon Gen'l. Wayne. In his 2<sup>d</sup>. tour in 1781 at Yorktown he saw Gen'l. George Washington. M. De LaFayette, Gen'l. Wayne, Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln (who marched out the British troops) Gen'l. [Henry] Knox who commanded the Cannons. we used to say General Knox gave hard knocks. He then saw and heard the names of many other officers whom he has now forgotten. He does not remember that he saw any General officer at the Barracks near Winchester.

6<sup>th</sup>. That he received such [discharges] as he speaks of in his foregoing declaration, one from Captain Stump, one from Captain Parsons and one from Captain Simmerell. When he acted as an Indian Spie he does not recollect that he received any discharge. that he has lost them all many years since.

7<sup>th</sup>. That he is known in his neighborhood to John Brown Esq'r. and Mark Smith [S18594], they can testify as to his character for veracity and their and the neighborhood belief of his revolutionary services. He also offers the positive testimony of his brother John Brown as to a part of his services, and his almost positive evidence as to the other parts. There is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood.

(signed) James hisXmark Brown

We John Brown declarant's brother residing in the County of Lewis and Mark Smith residing in the said County do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with James Brown who has subscribed and sworn

to the above declaration that we believe him to be 76 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he now resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

John Brown

Mark hisXmark Smith

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On Brown's report Singleton wrote "Fraudulent."]

James Brown Pensioner received \$80—

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] has known Brown for fifty years – Brown is older than himself (Seventy Six), but knows nothing of his revolutionary services

Col. Benjamin Copeland [sic: Benjamin Coplin S10464] aged 83 yrs. knew Brown before the war, he was then a man grown.

Edward Brown [R1292] Brother of James, (a younger Brother) knows that James was a Soldier in the war of the Revo. for six months at least –

John Brown Brother of James, (a younger Brother) that James & himself were in Service together at Little York, Virginia. they went from Hardy County under Capt. Stump were gone Seven months. – James was afterwards at Winchester Va. guarding the British Prissoners (as he has heard from James) for 3 or 4 months.

James Brown on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1834 gave the following narative of his age and services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, to wit. is in his 80<sup>th</sup> year of age. was drafted in the year in which Cornwallis was captured – for 3 mos. & marched from Hardy County Va. under Capt Stump to Richmond by the way of Fredericksburg and to Yorktown. Genl Mulenberg commanded the Militia the Marquis of Lafayett commanded the regulars. was gone from home four months. his Brother John and himself were attached to the same company. they went and returned together. Shortly after his return he was started back on another tour. (dont recollect under whom) got as far as Winchester. Met there Cornwallis' Prissoners. was ordered to Winchester & remained there 3 or four months guarding the British Prissoners.

In the year 1777 came out from Hardy County over the allegany mountain [Allegheny Mountains] under Capt. James Booth on an expedition against the Indians, as a volunteer. (there were sixteen or seventeen of us came over the alleganey together. was in this service seven months. this comprises all his service. Jonathan Wamsley took his declaration. Swore to it in open court. the Statement made to Wamsley was substantially the same now made agreed to give Wamsley the first years draw. — haveing heard the forgoing statement read & [illegible word] the same correct I hereto subscribe my name June 27<sup>th</sup> 1834.

Witness/ Nathan Goff,

James hisXmark Brown

William Powers a Magistrate of Lewis County aged 69 yrs. knew Brown in Hardy County in 1778. Brown was at school in Hardy County in that year, he has no doubt but what Brown served a tour of duty east of the Mountains Knows that Brown could not have come over the Mountain as a volunteer under Capt. James Booth as he Brown states. Booth was living in Western Virginia (west of the allegany mountains) in 1772. (Powers lived in the same country with Booth and knew him well.) he Powers is well satisfied that Booth never brought men from east of the Alleganies – nor had Booth command of any men from that region —

Anderson Corbin of Harrison county Pensioner (see his own narative) [W6739]. Says that John & James Brown marched from Hardy County in the Spring of 1781 under Capt Michael Stump to Frederickburg Richmond and Yorktown and were attached to the same Batallion to which he was. – that there was some arrangement (but what that arrangement was dont know) between Stump and Mulenburg for his Stumps discharge at an early day — Corbin is confident that Stump and the greater part of his company, including the Browns, were discharged and went home after the General engagement at

Yorktown – they could not have been in Service exceeding four months – if that long — Mr. Corbin states further that he himself was at Winchester six months guarding the British Prisoners, But saw nothing of John or James Brown there. If they or either of them had been in that service, he must have seen them and recollected it.

A true copy, W. G Singleton

Note Brown is a man of notoriously Bad character. he has been presented and sued.

W. G Singleton Nov. 4 1834

[From [digitalcollections of the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The speaker and house of delegates of Virginia

Your petitioner James Brown respectfully states that about the year 1777 He enlisted to serve (He now believes for two years although his fellow soldiers say it was for 18 months) as an Indian Spy under captain James Booth. That he enlisted in what is now Harrison County and spied in what is now Harrison and Lewis counties for thirteen months when his captain was killed by the Indians [16 Jun 1778] and his subalterns were attached to some other captain so it was that your petitioner never rec'd. any discharge from his said captain and by that means can never obtain any pay. He is now 78 years of age. He was generally engaged against the common enemy from the year 1775 to the year 1795 with four [few?] intervals for some portion of his service agst. the British he rec'd his pay but never did he receive his pay for his services against the Indians. He is a poor man living in a retired situation wholly ignorant of the means buy which he could recover his pay for his said services under Captain Booth till very lately He is not yet advised of any mode by which he can get his pay for other services against the Indians because he acted as a volunteer generally (except his services under captain Booth Scout hardly ever in any embodied corps He cannot however believe that this latter kind of service was less perilous or meritorious than that of a more systematic character. He respectfully asks that a law may pass authorising him to receive his pay for his 13 months service under captain Booth. He here offers proof of such service.

James his mark Brown

John Brown a resident of said county aged 68 years over[?] made oath that James Brown his brother was an Indian Spy under captain James Booth for about thirteen months in or about the year 1777 and 1778 That the said Booth was killed by the Indians in or about June 1778. That he always understood and verily believes that none of said Booths men rec'd. any pay because they obtained no discharges. affiant further states that he was in court when his brother James was (by a military court) acquit of two tours of duty thereafter because of his patriotic service under captain Booth. his brother James is an older brother and he believes him to be 78 years of age



Subscribed and sworn to before me and I do certify that the said affiant John Brown is a credible man and that his statement is entitled to credit. Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of Nov'r. 1833

John S. Camden JP

State of Virginia } to wit  
Lewis county }

This day John Cutright [W6626; see endnote] aged 78 years personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said county and being first duly sworn doth on his oath declare that he is well acquainted with James Brown of Lewis county who is about affiants own age. He knows that said James Brown served under captain James Booth as an Indian Spy in 1777 & 8 for about thirteen months that the said Booth was killed by the Indians affiant further states that David W Sleeth and his father John Sleeth and Thomas Cunningham [W4166] were also soldiers Indian Spies under the

said Booth. That the said John Sleeth the father of David W Sleeth was a sargeant in said company The  
all served till said Booth was killed and none of his en rec'd their pay  
subscribed & sworn this 28<sup>th</sup> day of Nov'r. 1833                      John hisXmark Cutright  
Given under my hand, and I do certify that the above named affiant is an old and credible man that he is  
of sound mind and his statement is entitled to credit. this day and year first above written.  
William Newlon J.P.

[In different handwriting]  
Dec'r 17<sup>th</sup> 1833 ref'd to C'ms [Claims]  
1834 Feby 5<sup>th</sup> Reasonable  
6<sup>th</sup> Reported  
Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill drawn

NOTES:

In his own petition to the Virginia legislature on 25 Nov 1832, John Cutright stated that he, David W. Sleeth, and Alexander West [W6450] were the only surviving members of James Booth's company.

The pension application (W4166) of Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham, includes the following transcription of a law passed by the Virginia Legislature on 13 Mar 1834: "Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That David W. Sleeth [S6111], sole surviving heir of John Sleeth deceased, who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain James Booth, in an expedition against the Indians during the Revolutionary War, be allowed the sum of One hundred and thirty dollars, for thirteen months servises of his said father as Sergeant as aforesaid, and Joseph Parsons [S8942], John Tucker [S6274], James Brown, and Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham deceased, shall be allowed the sum of One hundred and four dollars each, for their services as privates for the same time in said company; and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby authorized and required to issue a warrant on the treasury, in favor of the said Sleeth, Parsons, Tucker, Brown, and Cunningham, respectively, for the same to be paid to them or their representatives out of money therein not otherwise appropriated This act shall be in force from its passage"