

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

Pension Application of John Brown S6720

VA

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

State of Virginia }
Lewis County } SS.

On this 7th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Lewis County now sitting John Brown resident in the County of Lewis and State of Virginia aged 67 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States in the Virginia Militia on the first of March 1781 as a volunteer from the County of Hampshire under the command of Captain Michael Stump marched to Fredericksburg Virginia was there received by Gen'l George Weedon, from thence to Richmond Va. encamped at Richmond on the Hill where the Capitol now stands was attached to Col. William Darke's command the whole commanded by Gen'l Peter Muhlenberg continued in Camp above three weeks when the Enemy entered the City. The Virginia troops retreated up the Country as far as Raccoon ford where we were joined by Gen'l Anthony Wayne [10 Jun 1781] they then returned towards Richmond driving the Enemy before them back to Richmond. The Americans encamped near Bacon branch for seven days, prepared to attack the enemy (who affiant thinks were commanded by Lord Cornwallis) on the morning of the intended attack there was a dense fog, so that the enemy escaped from us, retreating towards the New Kent Court House, we overtook them at the fork of the road near New Kent Court House there skirmished with them retreating and pursuing and retreating alternately for two days, we were joined by the Marquis De LaFayette, the Enemy then retreated towards their fleet The American Army went to Williamsburg thence to Yorktown where affiant was discharged a few days before the Surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct] returned home about the first of October 1781 having been discharged by Capt John Henderson having served seven months he has lost his discharge. He then removed to that part of Virginia (then Monongalia) now Lewis County near where he now lives. He was then ordered out as an Indian Spy by Col. Benjamin Wilson placed under Captain Christopher Carpenter, and spied in that part of Virginia which is now Wood, Nicholas, Harrison and Lewis Counties. This was first of November 1781. Affiant continued faithfully to spie untill first of August 1782 when he quit Capt Carpenter having been under him as a private and Indian Spy nine months. Affiant was then commissioned as Ensign. His Commission has been lost many years. Affiant then commanded Indian Spies as an Ensign for ten months under colonels [William] Lowther and Wilson from first of August 1782 until first of June 1783 when he ceased to act as an Ensign

[On 16 May 1833 John Brown was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for at least two years service.]

[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.]

John Brown,

John Waggoner [S7824] of Lewis County has known Brown all his life. they when young resided in Hardy County and have subsequently lived neighbors in Lewis county. never heard of Brown's doing Service as a Soldier in the war of the Revolution nor does he believe he did. Brown is younger than himself [80 in Aug 1832, according to his pension application].

Henry Flesher of Harrison Cty. has known John Brown ever since he Brown first came to western Virginia this was after the close of the Revolutionary war, Brown was then not quite grown. has

been intimate with him ever since. – never heard Brown speak of being in the Revo. war. nor does he believe he ever was. Brown is a talkative man. if he had been in the war as a soldier he Flesher should have most certainly have heard him speak of it—

Isaac Washburn of Harrison Cty. aged 58 years. has known from his earliest recollection. Brown and himself were forted together at Browns Fort, (the Fort of Browns Father) after the close of the Revolutionary war. Brown was then a young man of twenty years or upwards.

Edward Brown [R1292] Brother of John – says that his brother John was in service as a soldier in the war of the Revolution for three months, but he thinks not longer. John is younger than his Brother James [76 in Aug 1832 according to pension application S6718] & older than himself [70 or 71 in June 1834 according to his pension application].

I saw John Brown on the 27th June 1834 and then received from him the following statement. – is 70 yrs. old next March. raised in Hardy County [formed from Hampshire County in 1786] & settled where he now lives in 1782. – in the year 1781 was drafted in Hardy County & marched from there under a Capt Michael Stump as an orderly Sargeant to Frederickburg Richmond and York town. was from home seven months – in this tour although when he left home he was only a Sergeant he performed the duties of ensign to the company. this was done under the direction of the Colonel whose name he dont recollect. nor does he recollect to what reg't. he belonged. this is all the service he done on the East side of the Allegany [sic: Allegheny] Mountains.

in the Spring of 1782 after he crossed the Mountains & settled where he now lives he was commissioned for eight months as an ensign by the Governor of Virginia (dont recollect the Governor's name) to go in character of a Spy against the Indians around the frontiers of the settlement. he was all the time (eight months) out in service – in the succeeding summer 1783 he spied 5 months & five days against the Indians in the same region of country. this service commenced in March – he was also in service against the Indians in 1784 & 1785 — Jonathan Wamsley wrote his declaration. he swore to it in open court & proved his services by Witnesses – the services then detailed are the same detailed to Wamsley. he has no recollection of seeing or signing his Declaration but he may have seen & signed it – has no recollection of hearing it read – agreed to give Wamsley the first years pay. Wamsley drew the money on his power of attorney & retained all but \$146.66 [out of \$366.65]—

This statement haveing been read to me & finding the same correctly written down I have subscribed my name. June 27th 1834.

Witness

John Brown.

Nathan Goff,

William Burn resided in in western virginia (now Harrison County all the time except about one year during the war of the revolution. knew Brown in Hardy county in 1778 1779. he Burn was at School then at that time. Brown settled in western virginia where he now lives in 1785. removed from Hardy county in that year. Knows nothing of Browns revolutionary services. Brown was an Indian Spy after his removal to the west in 1785 as before stated. Brown was not in the settlement (western virginia) in 1782, 1783 & 1784, as stated by him. he could not have been there without his knowledge. there were but few in this settlement at that period. every man engaged in defending the country was known to each other. Mr. Powers [probably William Powers S18164] knew every man able to bear arms and almost every woman and child. the settlement to which he refers is embraced in the Present limits of Harrison, Lewis Tyler a part of and and the Northern part of Kenhawha [sic: Kanawha] counties – haveing heard Browns statement read of his services Mr. Powers states confidently that Brown is mistaken—

Col. Copelan [sic: Benjamin Coplin] was at Clarksburg 14 miles from Browns Fort in 1782, 1783, 1784 & 1785. never saw Brown or heard of him until the fall of 1783. never heard until now that Brown was an Ensign and Spy in 1782, 1783, 1784 & 1785 and yet he knew him all the time from the fall of 1783 up to the present time – – does not believe that Brown was on this side the mountain in 1782 & 1783 until the fall of 1784. believes Brown statement of his services on on this side the Mountain to be eroneius—

Additional statement made by John Brown July 25, 1834 – in the first campaign detailed in his

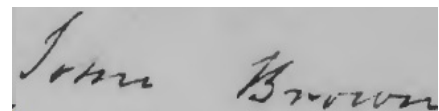
original statement as having been done under Capt. M. Stump his Brother James & himself went together & returned together. it may have been that they were only in Service four months but he thinks it was seven months. – the service as a spy for eight months mentioned in his original in 1782 was done in Lewis County at old Bushes [Fort Bush a few mi NE of Buckhannon now in Upshur County WV], 12 miles from Clarksburg. there was a settlement at that place. Some Cabbins. the settlers raised corn. there was about 23 at the Station. they were under his command. in 1783. he was stationed at Browns Fort (on his Fathers place) his Father moved to Lewis in 1784. In Witness that this additional statement is true I hereto subscribe my name July 25, 1834 John Brown.

[Notes on Brown's pension certificate indicate that he was dropped from the pension list on 16 Mar 1835.]

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

The speaker and house of delegates of Virginia

Your petitioner John Brown respectfully states to your body that about the year 1783 or 1784 he was engaged as a ranger under Captain Christopher Carpenter for Eight months That his said captain drew the pay for his men without any authority from any of them as your petitioner understood and believes, and as to himself he positively avers that he gave him no authority to draw for him so it was he was entrusted by the Audetor or paymaster to pay off his men. He however ran off with the money without paying our petitioner or either of his men one cent he soon after died in the western country insolvent and your petitioner has not to this day rec'd. one cent. of this he offers proof as positive as negative proof can be had. Your petitioner further states that in the next year he was ordered out by Col. John P Duvall as an Indian Spy under captain James Tanner and spied for five months and five days. That the pay promised to him by Col. Duvall was five shillings per day. He further states that he never rec'd. one cent for this service owing to the following facts. The mode then was for the captain to give his men discharges. The Col. in cases where he had ordered them out gave (on the production of our honorable discharge from the captain) a certificate That certificate from the Col entitled the spy to his pay. as soon as your petitioner rec'd. his discharge he was called into Hardy county on business from (what is now Lewis where his service both in ranging and spying was performed, whilst he was about Col Duvall left that part of the country and settled temporarily on an Island in the ohio above Marietta which took his name there-after "Duvall Island" [now Buckley Island] when your petitioner returned from Hardy to the now county of Lewis and heard that his Col. had left he proceeded to the ohio with his discharge from Captain Tanner went to the house of Col. Duvall – gave him his discharge. The Col wrote him a certificate in haste together with some others who were then there on similar errands but in the hurry of business he omitted to sign the certificate given to your petitioner and some others; he particularly remembers Edmond Wests [Edmund West VAS75] was not signed Col. Duvall left that place shortly after for Kentucky and your petitioner never again saw him till he died. Edmund West sent his certificate and had it signed afterward your petitioner presented his for payment & it was refused. Your petitioner has waited long and enquired much of others how he should get his pay & has now for the first time been advised to petition and offer such proof as he could obtain which he now does And respectfully asks that a law may pass giving him the amount which he is entitled to. He confidently relies that his omission to petition many years since will not be made an objection to his claim now particularly if it shall appear as the truth is that your petitioner has always been a poor man. has had and raised a large and helpless family and has still resided in an obscure situation without the means of information. He respectfully submits his case with the accompanying evidence to the consideration of your house conscious that it will receive due investigation.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Brown".

Lewis County to wit

James Brown [S6718] this day appeared before me and made oath that in or about the year 1783 or 4 he knows his brother John Brown acted as a Ranger after Indians under captain Christopher Carpenter for about Eight months that It was said and believed by affiant and all the citizens that the said Christopher Carpenter went and by his address drew the pay for his said company of rangers. He further states that the said Carpenter left the country suddenly as he knows without paying anything to his men or either of them. The said Carpenter never returned to this county but died soon after insolvent. Affiant further states that the next year which was in 1784 or 5 his said brother John acted as an Indian spy under Captain James Tanner by orders of Col. John P Duvall. That the manner of adjusting the claims of spies in those days was for the Col. (in cases where they were ordered out) who ordered them to give his order or certificate on the production of the discharge from the Captain under whom the spy acted. This certificate from the Col enable the Spy to draw his pay at the Treasury. Affiant states that the said John Brown served about five or six months and was called to Hardy county on business, whilst he was absent Col. Duvall removed to the Island in the Ohio a little above Marietta. when John Brown came home from hardy he proceeded to Duvalls residence to get his certificate from Col Duvall. He understood from his brother on his return from Col Duvall that Duvall gave him a certificate without putting his signature to it. This he always understood prevented his brother from receiving his pay, he has heard him for many years enquiring of delegates and Lawyers how he could get his pay. James his mark Brown
Subscribed and sworn to before me and I do certify that the affiant is a credible man and his statement is entitled to credit. given under my hand this 20th day of November 1833. John S. Camden JP

[In different handwriting]

Petition of John Brown asking pay for services rendered in the Indian war/ Sam'l L Hays

Dec'r 17th 1833 ref'd to C'ms [Claims]

1834 Feby 5th Reasonable to pay for 13 m

6th Reported

Rejected in House of Delegates