

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Brooks S6732

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 Jan 2012.

State of North Carolina }

Robeson County } on this the 30 of May 1853 Personally appeared before the subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in & for said County Mr. John Brooks a resident of said County aged about 95 or 96 years who having been duly sworn doth upon his oath make the following declaration In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7 of June 1832. That he was a revolutionary soldier that he served a private under the command of Capt Alex McNeill [Alexander McNeill] Capt Gipson [sic: Gibson] Capt Hadly Col. Regan & others which for the loss of memory he cannot at this time recolect. that he marched on one expedition to Charleston & from there that he marched to Camden & that he was in a Battle at Camden [see note below]. That he remained in the army four years. The reason why he did not apply for a pension at an earlier day is that he has no education & that he was not aware that any laws were passed in favour of revolutionary soldiers untill a few weeks ago. he therefore makes this application for the whole amount of pension due him up to this day for the services rendered by him in said war

John hisXmark Brooks

[Certified by Mrs. Tempy Brooks; by Mrs. Rachel Locklier, aged about 90, who stated that she had known John Brooks about 80 years; and by Mrs. Rhody Locklier, near 100, who stated that she had known Brooks for 90 years.]

State of North Carolina }

Robeson County } On this the 4th day of January 1854 Personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the acting Justices of the peace in & for said County Mr. John Brooks who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war that he was taken a prisoner and remained a prisoner a good while that he was not discharged untill peace was made & that he then returned to his home in Bladen County, that part of it which now composes Robeson County

John hisXmark Brooks

State of North Carolina }

Robeson County } on this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1854 Personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the acting Justices of the peace in & for said County Mr. Rowlen Brooks a resident of said County who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that his is well acquainted with John Brooks and that he often heard him say that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war that he served under the command of Capt. Gibson & Capt. McNeill. that he heard him say that he was in the army three or four years that he heard him say that he was in a Battle at camden & in an other at Betties Bridge [possibly skirmish at Beatti's Bridge on Drowning Creek between present Hoke and Scotland counties in North Carolina, 4 Aug 1781]. that he heard him say that he was taken a prisoner & remaned a prisoner a good while, or untill peace was made. that he then returned to his home in Bladen County that part of it which now composes Robeson County & further that he was always recognized & known as Revolutionary Soldier

Rowlin hisXmark Brooks

State of North Carolina }

Robeson County } on this the 2nd day of Nov'r 1855 Personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the acting Justices of the peace in & for said County Mr. John Brooks a resident of said County who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. That from old age & loss of memory he did not give as full a statement in his first

declaration. That on thinking on the events of the Revolutionary war his mind became more alive to the events of that period, & that he remembered now some things which escaped his memory before. He says that he was drafted in Bladen County. That he went three different tours to Wilmington that he went on a tour to Charleston. That he & a number of others marched under the command of Capt Gibson to Camden that he was in a battle at Camden. That he Capt. Gibson & two others were taken prisoners about four months & that they were allmost starved to death wile prisoners That they were discharged at or near the close of the war. That he & Capt Gibson returned to their homes in Bladen County. That part now composing Robeson County. That the greater part of his services were rendered about Wilmington & in the cape fear country, and that all his services were performed in the militia. He further says that he did not mean in his original declaration that he served three or four years without interruption, but that the different militia tours of six & three months he performed during the war would in the aggregate amount to about three years

John hisXmark Brooks

[Certified by Rachel Brooks, about 90.]

State of North Carolina }

Robeson County }

Be it known that of the 22 day of march 1858 personally appeared before the subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in & for said County John Brooks & made oath in due form of law that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, that he has allready made application for a Pension for his servicies therein, & that his papers and proofs are now on file in the Pension office at Washington City. He therefore refers to said papers & proofs in support of this application for Bounty land under act of 3 March 1855

John hisXmark Brooks

NOTES:

There were two battles near Camden SC: the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780 and the Battle of Hobkirk Hill on 25 Apr 1781. American forces would not have been coming from British-held Charleston before the latter battle, so it is unlikely that Brooks was at that battle. The Bladen County Militia was at Charleston during its siege, and if Brooks was captured there at the surrender on 12 May 1780 he would have been paroled and therefore under oath not to fight. It is possible, however, that Brooks's militia tour ended before the surrender of Charleston, and that he was therefore able to serve at the Battle of Camden.

In the 1830 federal census of Robeson County there is a John Brooks, head of a household of "free colored persons," but his age is listed as only 36-55. In the 1840 census Rowland Brooks, age 55 - 100 is also listed as head of a household of free colored persons. Brooks is said to have been a Lumbee Indian in several other places, for example Dial, A. L. and D. K. Eliades, *The Only Land I Know: A History of the Lumbee Indians* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996, p 33).