

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Brittain S8100

fn40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/14/09 rev'd 10/9/14

[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.]

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State of N. C., Buncombe County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October 1832

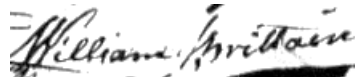
On this 18th Day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open court William Brittain Senior resident in the County and State of North Carolina aged between 70 and 71 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he volunteered and served two three months Tour first he volunteered a Tour of three months in Orange [County] North Carolina being a detached by order of Col. McCauley [William McCauley] and served in the Sergeants command in which command Thomas Bivins was first & he was Second Sergeant of a Guard to Guard the Tories in Hillsboro of whom one was hanged & the others remained at the End of his Tour this was Directly after the capture of Hillsborough and taking of Gov. Burke [Gov. Thomas Burke, was taken prisoner by the Tories commanded by Col. David Fanning on September 12, 1781] by the Tories. He then obtained a Discharge from Col. McCauley and went Home.

That after that he removed to Burke [County] in North Carolina volunteered Again under the command of Col. Joseph McDowell who came in person with a Detachment to what was called the upper Fort near the head of the Catawba River. And delivered them with himself to the command of Capt. Smith and there remained until the time was out & was Dismissed by Capt. Smith within which time Col. Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton was defeated by General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781].

Sworn to & subscribed October the 18th 1832

S/ William Brittain



[Nathan Harrison, a clergyman, and Samuel Davidson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Buncombe County

This day came Samuel Patton before me Isaac T Poor One of the Justices of the Peace for said County and made oath in due form of law that William Brittain and himself did serve a Tower [tour] of three months at the upper Fort near the head of Catawba River in Burke County under Daniel Smith.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 17 day of October 1832
S/ JT Poor, JP

S/ Samuel Patton, P his mark

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State of North Carolina Buncombe County: Court of pleas and quarter Sessions July sessions 1833

On this ___ day of July 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid now in session William Brittain a resident in the said County of Buncombe and state aforesaid aged 71 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 the 7th 1832.

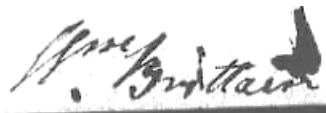
That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a Substitute for Henry Wood who had been drafted for three months and that he served under the command or superintendence of Colonel McCalley [sic, Major William McCauley] in Hillsboro in this State as a guard to guard the Tories whom we head in prison there were 25 of us and were called the Sergeants Guard that he entered on the first of February 1779 and was by Colonel McCalley appointed Sergeant that he remained stationed at Hillsborough in North Carolina for three months and was for the whole of that time there in the service aforesaid as a Sergeant that there was no Captain with the guard no other officer higher than a Sergeant in which office this applicant and one Thomas Bevins served, but we were occasionally visited by Colonel McCalley that at the end of his three months tour he received a discharge from Colonel McCalley at the last of April or first of May 1779. That he again volunteered in the Service of the United States the first of November 1780 under Colonel Joseph McDowell who marched us to what was then called the upper Fort on the head of the Catawba River in Burke County in this State where he met Captain Daniel Smith when this applicant and twenty-four others were left with Captain Smith to strengthen his forces at a Fort that they were stationed at said points for three months in guarding the Fort, nothing of importance occurred more than that two of our men were killed by the Indians that at the end of the three months he was discharged by Captain Smith on the last of January or the first of February 1781.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service, as he never took care of his discharges he lost them. That he knows of no living witness by whom he can confirm the first term of his Service, having moved 250 miles from Hillsboro where he served, that he can prove the last term of three months by Samuel Patton¹ who was in the service with me and now residing in actual Buncombe County only a few miles from me that there is no other witness living in the County known to this applicant by whom he can prove his service Captain Daniel Smith having died in this neighborhood a few years since. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court July 1st 1833.

S/ Wm Brittain



¹ [Samuel Patton S8934](#)

Test: S/ John Miller, Clerk
by S/ N. W. Wood, D. C.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer 1st: I was born in Orange County North Carolina on the 7th day of February 1762

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer 2nd: I have a Record of my age at home, the Record that my father left me.

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer 3rd I was living in Orange County in North Carolina when I was called into the service at Hillsborough the first term mentioned in the foregoing Declaration. I was living in Burke County North Carolina when called in the other tour. I lived in Burke County until about 1788 or 89, when I moved to Buncombe County North Carolina where I now live.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer 4th I was a Substitute for one Henry Wood the first 3 months of my service and the last time I volunteered

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer 5th: There were no Regular Officers nor troops where I served. I knew no Continental Regiments. Colonel McCalley commanded a Regiment of the Militia near where I served at Hillsborough but I do not know what was its number or name. Colonel Joseph McDowell commanded a militia Regiment in Burke County where I served the last tour were all the Regiments of which I have any recollection as for the general circumstances of my service the period was so short and the changes so few that I believe they are stated in the foregoing declaration as minutely as I can conveniently do.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer 6th I received a discharge from my first term of service so given by Colonel McCalley but I have lost it and have not seen it in many years, from the last tour I was discharged by Captain Daniel Smith but am not certain whether he gave me a written discharge or not -- if he did I have lost it.

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer 7th William Kimsey [sic, William Kimzey is how he signed his name] and James M. Smith.

S/ Wm Brittain

Test: S/ John Miller, Clerk

By S/ N. W. Wood, D.C.

[William Kimzey, a clergyman, and James M. Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Buncombe County

This day came Samuel Patton before me John Clayton a Justice of the peace for said

County and after being first duly sworn according to law, on his oath states that he served a tour of 3 months in the service of the United States in the war of the Revolution with William Brittain who has made and sworn to the foregoing declaration that this is the same William Brittain and that he served 3 months in the service of the United States in the Revolution with this deponent under Captain Daniel Smith at the upper Fort near the head of the Catawba River in Burke County in this State in the latter part of the year 1780 and the first of 1781 as this deponent believes that they had been ever since acquainted and he believes the applicant to be a man of veracity and entitled to due credit.

Test: S/ John Clayton, JP

S/ Samuel Patton, P his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]