

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to William Browne [Brown] SC930 AA46
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 831 (2)

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/11/19

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

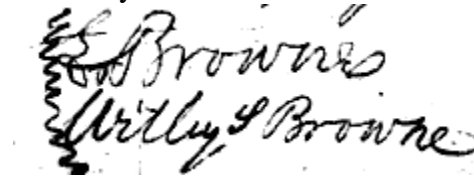
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To the General Assembly of South Carolina

The Petition of Elijah & Willey Browne children Heirs & legal Representatives of Major William Browne of the 6th South Carolina Regiment of this State deceased respectfully Sheweth – that the deceased in his lifetime and long Previous to the Surrender of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] had acquired in the course of fair & Honorable Traffic about a thousand Dollars of the Paper Currency Issued by order of the State in the Revolutionary War and which has remained in our hands ever since his Death which took place in February 1782. The poverty of the Treasury for many years combined with an expectation that the Assembly at every Session would bestow some Attention & at some rate take in & redeem the money – induced us to delay any Application to the Present – the enormous sums that have been granted for the Establishment of the College at Columbia the Free Schools and Internal improvements declare to us that the scene is changed and that the Treasury abounds with money Sufficient to discharge all legal demands coming against her. It is worthy of remark that this money was emitted [?] for the best of Purposes and obtained the best of ends and was only willingly received by a Whig Families and which elevates their claims and gives them reference and Precedence beyond any other class whatever – your consideration & Relief in the Premises will be remembered & acknowledged by
Pendleton & 2nd November 1822
Greenville District's South Carolina

S/ E. Browne

S/ Witley S. Browne

Handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature appears to be 'E. Browne' and the bottom signature appears to be 'Witley S. Browne'.

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

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The Memorial of Elijah Browne to the General Assembly of South Carolina – Respectfully Sheweth

That in the Revolution & for the laudable purpose of carrying on the War several emissions of Paper Money was made by the Authorities of the State on the back of these Bills was written death to counterfeit with a threat to lay a Coat of Tar & feathers on such as refused to receive it in Payment or otherwise. It is well known that the disaffected if they received it at all it was with reluctance Whilst on the other hand the friends to liberty gave it Currency & received it freely to further on the War among the number was Major William Browne of the 6th South Carolina Regiment after passing many thousand dollars of it through his hands and in enlisting 96 men for a constant service of Four years) after his return from the expedition to Floriday [Florida]² he resigned and Purchased goods of Thomas Burke Merchant Broad Street Charleston on Credit & carried the Goods to his residence now in Chester District & there sold them taking this Money in Payment in the meantime the British invested Charleston by land & sea and prevented remittances from being made in the meantime Major Browne died having previously appointed me an executor and on taking possession of his Estate I found this money among his effects say \$1000 which I have retained ever since as assets in my hands. Shortly after Peace was concluded I presented this money for payment through the hands of General Lacey [presumably Edward Lacey]. The Treasurer plead [pled] the Poverty of the State and said a Scale of Depreciation was made or to be made to ascertain its value a strong Inducement that the State intended at that time to pay off the money one of the objections now made that these Bills may be spurious on examination of the Purity of the Bills I am ready to meet and Risque [Risk] all the names of John Blake, John Neufville, William Gibbes and Peter Bacot &c as so well known as to set this matter at rest by a special Committee approved for that purpose (I think hard very hard indeed that Business of minor consideration has been taken up, acted upon and this money neglected entirely overlooked – it appears the State is now able to redeem the money I have heard no reason nor have I seen any Argument why it should not) the Countless Sums that has been expended on the South Carolina College the Internal Improvements the Annual Payments made to the [indecipherable word] Poor the Free Schools the Lunatic Asylum all ought to have withdrawn their claims and given Precedence to this money I sold to Negroes and several good Horses to discharge the Debts to Mr. Burke. If this was all the loss our family Sustained by the Devastations of that War I could afford to be more Silent (and on which I beg to be heard a few moments longer my father's Plantation was Elevated and invited the British to make several encampments thereon the 1st was by Colonel Huck [Christian Huck] & a company of Tories that destroyed our Harvest by which my Mother was about to get pay through the means of a Common friend, the notorious Colonel Floyd understanding what was going on said they had foraged on a Damned Rebel Major and his family should have nothing for it – the 2nd was by Colonel Turnbull [Lt. Col. George Turnbull] for 2 weeks and lastly by Corn Wallis [Lord Cornwallis] who on his retreat from Charlotte [early October 1780] to Winnsboro hearing at Landsford that the family had made a good field of Corn he filed of [off] 20 miles out of his course and made our Plantation his Head Quarters for two days and destroyed everything before them the others had left by their misfortune unable to remain longer in South Carolina we was constrained to take refuge in Virginia where my Parents shortly died in the same week whereupon the family immediately returned to the South again enduring the miseries of Hunger

² There were 3 expeditions mounted against Florida by Whig forces. All 3 were unsuccessful to say the least. From the information provided in this petition, it is not possible to say in which expedition Major Browne participated.

and thirst & cold the Remembrance of which fills my aged eyes with Tears. The money often Passed in Review but could draw neither aid nor comfort from it). I will close the Memorial with an observation of the venerated Doctor David Ramsey Deceased when in conversation about this Money who added that the legislature of this state had omitted taking in these Bills like unto other States the Doctor replied “And a great shame for them they had not done it.” I have 18 children living and am palsied in my hands and feet, of course, stand in need of many necessaries [sic] that this money might bring me and want nothing more from the Public (but one of my sisters Maryan Hanna [spelled Mary Ann Hannah in another version of this petition] by name is seriously suffering from Pecuniary aid in the mountains of Greenville my motion is that if nothing can be gotten for the money so often mentioned above that Maryan Hanna the placed on the Pension List) (Major Browne commanded a Company of Riflemen in the Battle at Fort Moultrie [June 26, 1776] whilst a Captain.

S/ E. Browne

18th November 1828

[Note: The petition was rejected on the basis that the petitioner sought payment for Continental money.]