

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hamilton Brown W1707

Nancy Brown

f47SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/6/10 & 7/31/19

[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 '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.]

[Note: The images posted on the Ancestry.com website are much more legible than those posted on Fold3.com, although both versions of the pension application present challenges.]

The State of Alabama, Greene County

On this 22nd day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Anderson Crenshaw the Judge of the Circuit court now sitting, Hamilton Brown, a resident of Greene County & State aforesaid aged about Seventy seven 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 7, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated, viz: he was in the Campaign known by the name of the Snowy Campaign,¹ this he thinks was previous to the declaration of the national Independence, under the command of General Richardson [Richard Richardson], he does not recollect what Colonel or Major but he was under the command of & in the Company of Captain Edward Lacey – Lieutenant Charles Miles & Ensign Patrick McGriff – he entered the service in his immediate neighborhood on the creek called Turkey Creek a branch of Broad River in the District now called Chester in South Carolina under the above named officers & marched to Rice Creek in a District now called Richland District about sixty miles from the place of our departure where we met our General aforesaid & the rest of the Army; from thence we marched for 96 [Ninety Six District] but before we reached 96, we learned that the Tories had abandoned that place & had gone into the Canebrakes on the waters of Inoree [sic, Enoree River] where we pursued them & took about 30 prisoners as well as he recollects – he does not recollect the term of this service but he thinks it was about two or three months. After this and as he thinks in 1776 he was out under Colonel Thomas Neille [sic, Thomas Neel] against the Cherokee Indians, Major Poke [sic, Lt. Col. Ezekiel Polk?] was in command under him & something happened that Captain Lacey did not go but Lieutenant Charles Miles commanded his company. We went to Keowee & burnt a Town called Sugar Town & another called Eastatoe & cut down some corn & went to & burnt several other Towns the names of which he does not now recollect.² It does not seem to him like he was out long this time, probably one, two or three months – soon after this he went down to one Major Summer's in the fork of Broad River & Saluda called the dutch Fork under the command of one Captain Smith [Garret Smith], Colonel Wynne [sic, Lt. Col. John Winn] commanded this expedition & its object was to secure some flower [sic, flour] the Dutch had prepared & were secreting for the use of the British. After we had secured the flour we were

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html

² The veteran appears to be referring to the expedition described in https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

ordered out on an expedition to Florida; he thinks this expedition was in 1777 though it may have been later. Under this expedition he was commanded by Captain Lacey & Ensign McGriff the Lieutenant did not go on this expedition. He recollects that they started as well as he now recollects in May & returned in the latter part of the summer or fall. Suffered much from heat, hunger & thirst & did nothing worth naming by this Expedition excepting the routing of one old Tory by the name of Brown (he had been tarred & feathered & set fire to & was always after called & known by the name of Burntfoot Brown) [Thomas Brown]. General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], an old Scotsman, commanded & a Colonel Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Captain Pollard, Doggett, Coile [?], Taylor & McKenzie were in this expedition as officers. There was a Colonel Jack of North Carolina in the expedition who bought a horse of this applicant. He does not know whether said Jack commanded as a Colonel. After his return from this expedition he was almost constantly in the service in some expedition during the whole war but more actively from the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] – until near the close of the war. That is he held himself in readiness to obey every order & call either against the Indians, British or Tories. The next expedition was to Orangeburg in Orangeburg district on Edisto River under the same Captain as well as he recollects & was stationed there about three months. Soon after this he served another tour at this same station & soon after that again he was stationed at the same place for the same time making in the whole at that station about nine months. During these three tours Captain Lacey commanded his (applicant's) company one Colonel Sent [? probably a reference to Col. John (Johann) Christian Senf] commanded part of the time, Major John Wallace commanded one Tour Major Parmer [? Palmer?] commanded part of the time one Pierce was adjutant part of the time Captain Cooper commanded that place part of the time. In our return from Orangeburg, the troops were discharged at Goose Creek by Colonel Joseph Brown; he was at this time Lieutenant Colonel of Winn's Regiment as well as he recollects. This was not long before the defeat of Charleston after which he joined General Sumter and was in many engagements though he cannot recollect the dates. He recollects being at the Battle at the Fish dam³ he thinks McGriff at this time was Captain & Lacey was promoted to Col. He does not recollect who his Lieutenant or Ensign was at that engagement. Colonel Nixon was also at this engagement – he was also at the engagement at Friday's Ferry Fort at this place the British received a reinforcement & drove Sumter & his men off at this engagement if he recollects right our Colonel Hawthorne received a wound in his shoulder. He also recollects being in a battle at a Fort called Belleville. During the time we besieged Belleville⁴ we understood that a reinforcement of British were coming & we immediately left Belleville & met them & they surrendered to Sumter without a fire from their side. It turned out to be a small force of British who were guarding some baggage wagons. We took with them 18 wagons loaded with clothing, goods &c & it is said there was some specie. This prize was put on board an American keel boat but it was soon after retaken at a place called Right's Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff] on the Congaree River. After this he crossed the River Santee & was in an engagement near Wright's Bluff⁵ where the British put us to flight & killed a great many & took some prisoners amongst whom was a brother-in-law of this applicant & Captain James Gill received a wound in his right arm & this applicant was sent home with him. The next tour that he recollects was under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] in a campaign against Orangeburg. After drawing near to Orangeburg, General Greene sent out spies & examined the strength of the place & after some days scouting about the place General Greene withdrew his forces & passed up to the High Hills of Santee but General Sumter went on with his forces down

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishdam_ford.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thomsons_plantation.html

⁵ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_1.html

near Charleston & this applicant was in an engagement at Biggin's Church [Biggin Church] on Ashley River where we whipped the British horse & killed & wounded some of them at this place Lacey commanded as Colonel, McGriff as Lieutenant Colonel & one John Adair was Major at this place Thomas Gill was Captain & James Ramsey Lieutenant & Jesse Granger Ensign. This same Adair he says afterwards became a General & Governor of the State of Kentucky & if he is now alive would know him (this applicant) well for they were neighbors until long after the war – this applicant thinks it is unnecessary to state the balance of his services as he was in no other engagement of note until the close of the war; he however states that he was with General Sumter in all he is unsuccessful as well as successful attempts against the British & Tories from the Battle of the Fish dam until the end of the war the engagements before mentioned were in such quick succession & so many changes were made in office that this applicant cannot recollect many of the Company or regimental officers Colonel Lacey – Patten & Major Dickson [sic, Lt. Col. John Dixon?] were generally with the applicant & Captains McClure [John McClure]⁶ & Pargan [sic, Alexander Pagan]⁷ got kill[ed] one at the Hanging Rock & the other at Sumter's defeat. This applicant was born in Chester County Pennsylvania in the year that Braddock was defeated.⁸ He has no record of his age but recollects to have heard his mother said that she was pregnant with him at the time the wounded from Braddock's defeat passed through Lancaster to Philadelphia & she was advised not to look at the wounded; he was as informed by his parents born in October after that defeat which was as he is informed the 9th July 1755. He states that his father moved to Virginia & removed about six months & from thence to Turkey Creek a branch of Broad River in Chester District about 9 miles from Chester Court house in South Carolina where he made a permanent settlement at this time this applicant was about 12 years old & on this settlement except when in service he was raised & lived until as well as he can recollect 1805 when he removed to Pendleton district where he remained until February of 1822 when he removed to the County of Greene & State of Alabama where he settled on the Black Warrior River & has resided since – he states that in all his service he was a volunteer or minute man. If ever he had a written discharge he does not know where it is or what became of it; he states that he can prove his actual service for a great portion of the time by Captain James Gill who lives but about 10 miles from him but who is now in court; he can also prove by one William Stone his services to Florida & probably some other services; this Stone has lately moved to this County & but he could not get him here. He believes he can prove by Colonel Long, Major Taylor & all of his neighbors his character for veracity & good behavior and their belief in his services as a soldier of the revolution. He believes all the other questions propounded to him by the court are answered in the foregoing statement; he however here repeats that after the two or three first campaigns the country was in so much confusion & foment the battles in quick succession all the movements so sudden and precipitant; so many changes in office & so that he is not certain that he has, though he thinks he has, stated the battles in their regular succession & he believes what officers he has named commanded at the time as he mentioned, the other superiors may at times have been in command – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State (or territory in the Union). Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

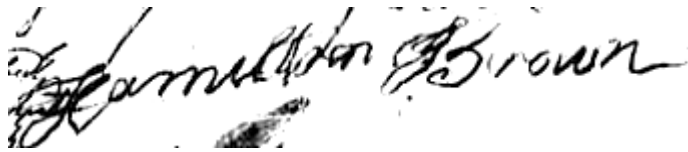
S/ James Yeates, Clerk

S/ Hamilton Brown

⁶ mortally wounded at Hanging Rock on August 6, 1780

⁷ killed at Fishing Creek on August 18, 1780

⁸ July 9, 1755



[p 10]

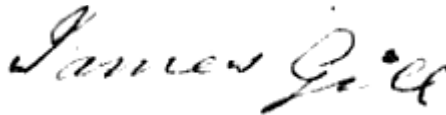
The State of Alabama, Greene County

James Gill⁹ being duly sworn in open court in due form of law saith that he has known Hamilton Brown whose name appears to the above declaration for a pension ever since this affiant was a small boy at least 60 years & he states that he was with said Brown in the service of the United States at the engagements at Friday's ferry, at Belleville at the taking of the wagons in said declaration mentioned & at the engagement near Wright's Bluff and at Biggin's Church [Biggin Church] & he verily believes the said Brown served as long as he has stated & in the manner he has stated; he, this affiant, was also with said Brown in the Dutch Fork – this affiant had the assistance of said Brown in getting home from the Battle near Wright's Bluff where this affiant got a severe wound in the right arm; he further states that said Brown was ever since the war been an industrious honest man & one he believes worthy of full faith & credit on his oath.

Sworn to in open court the day & year aforesaid in open court.

Attest: S/ James Yeates, Clerk

S/ James Gill



[John H. Gray, a clergyman, and John N. Thompson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12]

The State of Alabama Greene County} Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in & for said County Hamilton Brown [illegible interlineation] who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following Grade; for three years and five months I served as a private soldier in the service of the United States in the war of the revolution and for such service I claim a pension

Sworn to and subscribed

before me this 8th day of

June 1833

S/ Wm M. Murphy, JP

S/ Hamilton Brown



[p 13: On November 30, 1849, in Greene County Alabama, Nancy Brown, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act as the widow of Hamilton Brown; that she married her husband December 25th 1798; that he died at Eutaw in Greene County Alabama in March 1843; and that

⁹ [James Gill R4023A](#)

she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 46: In a filing dated July 29, 1848 the widow states that her name prior to her marriage was Nancy Purnelle.]

[p 19: In a petition dated April 10, 1850, the widow stated she was born in Chester district South Carolina in the year 1781; that she married Hamilton Brown on Christmas day 1798 in Chester district South Carolina; that the ceremony was performed by Colonel Joseph Brown of Chester district; that she is unaware of any written record of her marriage; that her husband died near Eutaw in Greene County in 1843; that she was married nearly four years before the birth of her first child, Betsy, and her next child Alexander was born almost four years after Betsy and then there was three years between Alexander and James; that Betsy was born just at the end of the year 1802 – and Alexander in 1806. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 20: In an affidavit dated April 10th, 1850, Catharine Keaton gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Hamilton Brown late of Greene County Alabama, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she was his daughter by a former wife (not named); that she is acquainted with Nancy Brown the widow of Hamilton Brown and affiant's stepmother; that affiant is now 60 years old; that she was present and witnessed the marriage of Hamilton Brown and Nancy, now his widow. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 21: In an affidavit dated April 8th, 1850 given in Greene County Alabama, John McShaw, 68, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Hamilton Brown and his widow, Nancy while living in Chester district South Carolina; that affiant was sitting up with Bob Owens when he died in March 1799 in Chester district South Carolina; that Hamilton and Nancy Brown were also present at the time that Bob Owens died; that Hamilton and Nancy Brown had been married a short time prior to the death of Bob Owens; that Catharine Keaton is the daughter of Hamilton Brown by a prior marriage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John McShaw". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text of paragraph 21. The name "John" is written in a large, flowing script, followed by "McShaw" in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature ends with a small vertical line.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing March 4th, 1848.]