

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Aaron Brister W17341

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Feb 2012.

State of New York }
Ontario County } SS

On this 27th day of April 1818 before me Stephen Phelps a Judge of the Court of Common pleas in and for the County aforesaid Personally appears Aaron Brister aged 56 years resident of the town of Palmyra in said County who being by me first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the Late act of Congress Entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary war that he the said Aaron Brister enlisted in the town of Dumfries in Prince William County and State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Helm in the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel [George] Weedon for two years in 1776 and that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the expiration of the aforesaid term of time when he was discharged from service at Philadelphia that he was in the Battle at York Island [Battle of Harlem Heights, Manhattan Island, 16 Sep 1776] and White plains [28 Oct 1776] and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services

Aaron hisXmark Brister

State of New York }
Ontario County SS }

On this nineteenth day of August 1820 personally appeared in Open Court being a Court of Common Pleas in and for said County and constituted a Court of Record by proceeding according to the course of the Common Law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount and keeping a record of its proceedings and recognized as such court by the Laws and judicial decisions of said State Aaron Brister aged sixty two years resident in the town of Palmyra in said County who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows. for the term of one year and nine months in the Company Commanded by Capt. Helmes in the 3^d Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Weadon commencing in the spring of the year 1777. and that he made application for a pension on the Twenty seventh day of April 1818 and that he received a pension Certificate No. 3494. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the Eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed viz:

Three fourths of an acre of land in possession	}	over and above what is due
by verbal contract with a small house thereon	}	toward it
towards which there is due One hundred dollars.	}	\$100.00
One Hog and 4 small pigs		4.00
1 Three pail kettle		3.00
1 Tea kettle 1.00 1 Spider .25		1.25
1 kettle .50 1 Frying pan .75		1.25
2 Barrels 1.00 2 Tables (Old) 1.00		2.00
4 Chairs 1.00 1 Hoe .50 1 Old axe .50		2.00

6 cups & saucers .25	8 plates .50	.75
A few other articles of crockery &c.		<u>1.00</u>
		\$115.25

Aaron hisXmark Brister

And I do further swear and declare that I am by occupation a day laborer and that by age and bodily infirmities (being lame in both my knees) I am able to perform but very little labour and that my family consists of my wife Betsey aged 46 years [sic: see below] my son James aged 10 years my daughter Mina aged 8 years, and my daughter Betsey aged 6 years.

Aaron hisXmark Brister

NOTES:

On 28 Sep 1843 Betsey Brister, 78, applied for a pension stating that she married Aaron Brister, sometimes called Alexander Brister, in 1778 while he was in service, and he died in Aug 1821. Supporting her application is a deposition from Susan Stuart who had known Aaron and Betsey Brister since childhood, who stated that Betsey Brister was the mother of 10 children, the first, Aaron, having died in infancy, and four still living: Lucy Jarvis, age 55; Robert, 38; Mina, 33; and Betsey, 31 "and upwards." A document in the file states that shortly after the war Aaron and Betsey Brister moved to Bath in Steuben County NY, where they lived for more than 30 years before moving to Palmyra. There are documents in the file from Robert Brister of 12 Broad St., New York, referring to his parents, Aaron and Betsey Brister.

The widow's claim was first denied for lack of proof of the marriage, whereupon her agent wrote on 11 Sep 1844 as follows: "The parties at the time of the marriage were slaves and no licence was issued or record made of it, as it was never done in such cases."

The 1820 federal census for Palmyra in Ontario (now Wayne) County NY lists Aaron Brister as a "Free Colored Person" over 45 with one male and two females under 14 and one female between 26 and 45.