

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Pence W398 Elizabeth Brittan NJ  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of New Jersey } Ss  
Monmouth County }

On this twenty first day of November A.D. Eighteen hundred and forty three, Personally appeared before the subscriber, one of the Judges of the inferior Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Monmouth Elizabeth Britton a resident of the Township of Upper Freehold in the County and state aforesaid, A person of credibility and truth In the eighty seventh year of her age Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4 1836 And the Act explanatory of said act passed March 3<sup>d</sup> 1837. That she was married to William Pence Who was first a militia man in the service of the united States in New Jersey And afterwards to the best of declarants recollection He enlisted in What was called Maj Lees [Henry Lee's] Legion of horse some time in the winter of seventeen hundred and seventy nine (1779) That he was home A number of times at Allentown where they resided and where applicant kept house. That the last time he was home was in the year 1782 that he never returned and as applicant heard and believes that he was either killed in battle or died in the service.

She further declares that she was Married to the said William Pence on the seventh day of November In the year of seventeen hundred and seventy eight. By Robert Willson esquire That she had A certificate of Marriage and also record of it. And the birth of her child by the said William Pence all of which was destroyed with the dwelling and property of her second husband in the year 1809 in the County of Cape May and state of New Jersey. That she had a son by the said Pence whose name was William and who died in Allentown Monmouth County six years ago leaving a wife and children. she also declares that she knows of no one living who was present at their said marriage Nor does she know of any record evidence in the world That her husband the aforesaid William Pence died in the Army or in battle after the year 1782 As she believes and has heard as he never returned That she was afterwards Married to Daniel Britton [Daniel Brittan, pension application S34070], Who was a private in the 2<sup>d</sup> Jersey Regt. of the Revolution and drew a pension of 96 dollars till his death, and also a Private in the 15<sup>th</sup> Jersey Infantry in the late War [of 1812], in which he received a wound in the neck At the battle of Plattsburgh [11 Sep 1814] of which wound he afterwards died and that her children by the said Britton received a land Warrant for 160 acres of land. That the said Daniel Britton died on the seventeenth day of May 182[?]. That she was a widow on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1836 and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Elizabeth herXmark Brittan

Copy Office of Sec'y of State/ Trenton Jan'y 10 1842  
Dear Sir [William Halsted, House of Representatives],

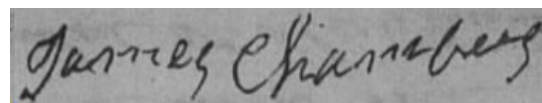
Mrs. Elizabeth Britton asserts That her first husband William John Pence enlisted at a place called New Mill, Burlington County under Capt Zebulon Pike [S36737] in the Revolutionary Army he belonged to the Horse. Served to the end of the war or six years as she says. Came home and again went off in the Horse to the west and died while there or was killed by the Indians it may have been in Nov. 1791 in St Clairs defeat [Arthur St. Clair's Defeat, 4 Nov 1791]. She was married to John Spence before he enlisted under Pike some where in Cape May or in the lower Counties In 1791 or 2 she again married to William Pence before he enlisted under Pike some where in Cape May or the lower Counties, in 1792 She again married Thos Daniel Britton who was a Revolutionary Soldier a few years before the close of the Revolution. (Thos) Daniel Britton enlisted in the late war under Capt. Charles Carson of the 15th Infantry, rec'd a wound in the neck at the battle of Plattsburgh which caused his death, her children by Britton rec'd a warrant for 160 acres of land. She is very aged and infirm, and almost suffering only for the charity of her neighbours, one of whom (Capt David Fisher) has called and made the above statement. will you

oblige Mr. Fisher so much as to go to the dep't and ascertain about the service under Capt Z. Pike. Mr. Fisher says she thinks was in the Light Dragoons but she is not certain. the proof is such a distance off, that unless the records at the dept contains the facts, it is useless for her friends to go to any expence in the prosecution of her claim She desires under (the first husband) to make the application. She resides about 3 miles from Allentown and 2 from John B. Mount Esqr. (Mem'r. Legislature) Will you ascertain it the first opp'ty  
 Respectfully Y'r Ob't Serv't/ Charles G. McChesney

State of New Jersey } Ss  
 Mercer County }

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1843 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Jacob Hall [S34909] of East Windsor in said County in the Eighty third year of his age a person of credibility and truth who being duly sworn according to law on his oath saith that he well recollects Elizabeth Walton (now Britton) who was a cousin to dep[onen]t and married William Pence about the time he enlisted in Capt. [Nathaniel] Bowman's Company of the 2<sup>d</sup> Jersey Reg't for the war. he was then in the 9 months service. his said cousin married William Pence about a week before dep't enlisted. they then kept house at Allentown and he remained all night with them Some time afterwards the said William Pence enlisted in Maj Lees troop of horse. dep't. was wounded in the battle of Springfield in [23] June 1780 in the shoulder and received a furlough. he then visited his cousin Elizabeth Pens in Allentown, She then had a son called William, named after her husband who was then absent in the army Some time about the end of the Revolution or a little time after it was reported he well recollects that Billy Pence as he was called was killed in battle in the South. he never returned, as dep't has always lived in the same neighbourhood since except for a year or two. the said Elizabeth Pence afterwards married Daniel Britton who was wounded in the late war with England at Plattsburgh of which wound he died. her son William Pence by her first husband lived in Allentown till his death a few years ago. he left a widow and a number of children. the said Elizabeth Britton is now a town charge, is very feeble and suffers much with Rheumatism. She has not married since the death of her last husband Daniel Britton who died of his wound in the last war. dep't thinks she well deserved a pension as both her husbands died in the defence of their country. And further saith not. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before me/ John B Mount JP  
 Jacob hisXmark Hall

State of New Jersey }  
 Monmouth County } Ss on this twenty second day of November A.D. 1843 Before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said County, personally appeared James Chambers [S34199] a resident of the Township of Freehold in the county and State aforesaid a person of credability and truth, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith I am in the eighty first year of my age That I seved in Maj Lee's Legion of horse as a private in the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution for which service I now receive a pension from the United States That I knew William pence who was also a private in Maj Lee's Legion That we belonged to the company Commanded by Capt Rudolph [Michael Rudolph BLWt945-300], knows that William Pence died while the Legion was encamped at Williamsburgh in Virginia in the Spring of 1783 the disease that he died off was called "measels [measles], it raged to a great extent throughout the camp and in many cases proved mortal recollects hearing pence speak of his family in the state of New Jersey but does not know exactly where they lived. After the War had ended some years I became acquainted with one William Pence who resided at Allentown in this County and was called the son of the above named William Pence I have not seen him for several years and believe that he is dead



NOTE: On 14 Feb 1844 Amy Anderson, 53, stated that on 1 June 1822 she married the late William Pence, only child of William and Elizabeth Pence. She stated that she had six children with William Pence, Jr., and the following four were still living: John, David, George, and Abigail Pence.