

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Brown W403

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee.

On this 26th day of September in the year 1819 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for said state at Carthage Smith County personally appear'd James Brown aged about Sixty Five years resident in the County of Smith West Tennessee 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 & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War"

That he the said James Brown enlisted for the term of Four years sometime in the Spring of the year 1776 as he believes in Orange County in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt Francis Taylor of the 2nd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. James Armstrong on the continental Establishment that He continued to serve in said corpse or in the service of the united states until sometime in the faul of 1780 he believes about four months after his said term of service had expired when he was discharg'd from service at Charleston in S. Carolina by Genl. Benjamin Lincoln. [See endnote.] that during his said term of service he was in the following Battles towit first at Norfolk [2 Jan 1776] Virginia Second at Guins Island [Gwynn Island, 8-10 Jul 1776]. and last at Stono [Stono Ferry SC, 20 Jun 1779]

That He is very poor and in reduced circumstances so much so as to stand in need of the assistance of his country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power to produce of his said services than what he has here produced That his discharge has been destroy'd by accident so that he can not now produce it. And the said James Brown doth hereby relieve and relinquish all claim to every other pention granted as allowed by any other act of Congress except the one above alluded to under which this application is made

James hisXmark Brown

State of Tennessee } Personally appeared before me this 27th day of December 1820 James Brown The
Smith County } man who made application for a Pension under the act of Congress for the relief
of the officers and soldiers who served during the revolutionary war, Being duly
sworn says that when he was examined by Judge Jacob C. Isaacs on the 26th day of October 1819 he was
under the impression the Col. James Armstrong commanded the Regt. inasmuch as he was the Col. who
conducted the Troops from Orange Court House in Virginia to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] the
place of Rendevouz. that there a Col. [William] Woodford took the command and that it was under s'd.
woodford he served and not under Armstrong. that his Ignorance was the only cause of mistake. The
christian name of Woodford he does not recollect. Sworn & subscribed the date above

James hisXmark Brown

State of Tennessee } February Term 1821.

Smith County Court } On this 19th day of February 1821 personally appeared in open court,
being a court of record for the County aforesaid, James Brown aged seventy years, a resident of said
County, who being first duly sworn according doth on his oath declare that he served in the
Revolutionary War as follows, he listed in 1772 [sic] for four years, under Capt. Francis Taylor, in the 2^d
Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo Woodford, on the Continental establishment, that he served four
years in said regiment, and was discharged from the service at Charleston in South Carolina. That he was
in the Battles at Norfolk, and Gwinns Island in Virginia, and in the battle of Stono, in South Carolina that
he made a declaration before Judge Isaac's but for want of precision or something else in his declaration,

was not entered on the pension roll. And in pursuance of the act of the 1st of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 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 person 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 to wit. eight head of hogs, one pot, one dish, and three plates, – has a wife and six children, is by occupation a farmer, and that he is so old and infirm that he cannot support his family & himself thereby, that his children are young and incapable of contributing to their support

NOTES:

Gen. Benjamin Lincoln was captured at the surrender of Charleston SC on 12 May 1780. He therefore could not have discharged Brown, and Brown could not have been discharged in that city, in the fall of 1780. Lincoln commanded at the Battle of Stono Ferry, but Virginia Continental troops are not known to have been at that battle.

Brown's service was certified on 23 Sep 1819 by his sister, Ailse Sutton, aged about 62, living in Smith County.

On 11 Sep 1838 Mary Brown, 69, applied for a pension stating that she married James Brown on 20 Aug 1790, and he died 22 June 1832. One George Sutton stated that James and Mary Brown were married in Morganton in Burke County NC. On 14 July 1841 John Sutton, about 70, stated that James Brown and Mary Ramsay both lived 15 to 20 miles northwest of Burke Court House before they married, and that the oldest son, Spicer Brown, was born in 1791 or 1792. On 11 Sep 1841 Spicer Brown stated that he was a little over 53 years old. On 5 Oct 1841 the Commissioner of Revenue for Smith County stated that Spicer Brown had been exempt from the poll tax after 1839, when he became 50. On 1 Oct 1841 Mary Brown stated that she was about 75 and was married at about age 21. On 30 Apr 1849 Mary Brown was said to be 85 and living in Macon County TN (separated from Smith County in 1842).