

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Branch W5925 Elizabeth Branch NC  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Nov 2014.

State of North Carolina }  
County of Franklin }

Court of pleas & quarter Sessions, December Term A.D. 1850.

On this the second Monday of December, being the ninth day of the month, in the Year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and Fifty, personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter sessions in open Court, Elizabeth Branch a Resident of the state of North Carolina in the County of Franklin, aged Eighty years who being duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1848. that her husband the late John Branch who was a Colonel in the militia of North Carolina and went from the County of Halifax in said State of North Carolina in the Revolutionary War she further declares that she was married to the said John Branch on or before the fourteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred that her said husband the aforesaid John Branch died on the fourteenth day of March anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and six, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but that the marriage took place at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widdow and that she has never before made any application for a pension. She further declares that there is no family record of the marriage, or of the death of her said husband John Branch. Sworn and subscribed in open Court [signed] Elizabeth Branch

State of North Carolina }  
Halifax County }

On this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1853, before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid personally appeared William Cullum aged 88 years, a person well known to me and whom I certify to be fully entitled to credit, who being first duly sworn according to law doth upon his oath declare that he is wholly disinterested in the statement which he now makes As follows; That he was well acquainted with John Branch who lived and died in the County of Halifax NC at place called the Old Marsh Store, that the said John Branch was a Colonel of the Malitia of Halifax County when the Brittish army was in Halifax Town, That the said John Branch was Colonel as before stated, when Cornwallis was taken [19 Oct 1781], and when peace was made, and that he mustered under the said Col John Branch several years after peace was made, but when he was appointed Colonel he does not know, the day and date above written William hisXmark Cullum

State of North Carolina }  
Franklin County }

On this the Fifteenth day of November in the year of our Lord 1853 personally appeared before me Joseph J. Jones one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the County of Franklin and State aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth Branch of the said County and State, aged Eighty three years and seven months who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on her Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed on the Third of February A.D. 1853 granting Pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War, to wit, That she is the widow of John Branch who was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War of the Militia from the County of Halifax North Carolina. She further declares that she was married to the said Colonel John Branch in the month of May A.D. 1800 she thinks on the 14<sup>th</sup> day thereof, which marriage took place in the County of Franklin North Carolina. She further declares that her said husband died at his residence Elk Marsh in the County of Halifax North Carolina on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March A.D. 1806. That she was not married to him prior to the second of January A.D. 1800 but at the time above stated. She further declares that she is now a widow. [signed] Elizabeth Branch

NOTES:

The file includes a copy of a record of payments made to John Branch of Halifax County from 1776 to 14 Feb 1782.

The application includes a copy of a bond signed by John Branch and Thomas Brickell on 14 May 1800 for the marriage of Branch to Elizabeth Norwood. On 9 Dec 1850 Elizabeth E. Long and Ann Thomas stated that they were present at the marriage of Col. John Branch and Elizabeth Norwood officiated by William Lancaster, a Baptist minister, at the residence of John Norwood, father of the bride. Elizabeth E. Long also stated that John and Elizabeth Branch were often at the home of her father, John Thomas.

On 11 Dec 1850 James Green, about 77, stated that while he was Sheriff he was frequently at the house of John and Elizabeth Branch at a place called the Marsh Store on Marsh Swamp in Halifax County.

Elizabeth Branch's application for a pension was rejected because her marriage did not occur before 1 Jan 1800, as specified under the pension act under which she applied. On 17 Dec 1850 she successfully petitioned the US Congress for an exception.

On 18 April 1855 Elizabeth Branch applied for bounty land.

The file includes a letter from Daniel Bond of Nashville TN requesting the record of "one John Branch, said to have been an officer – I think a Colonel of Infantry or Cavalry in the Continental Army, during the Revolutionary War." Daniel Bond stated that he was "a step-son of John Branch [1782-1863], at one time Gov. of North Carolina, U.S. Senator, and Secty of the Navy under Andrew Jackson."