

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Aris Brown W8386

Joanna Brown

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 Dec 2017.

State of South Carolina }
District of Pickens } SS.

On this second day of November 1846 personally appeared before the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas for the district and State aforesaid, at Fall Term 1846 Mrs. Joanna Brown (widow of Aris Brown) aged as near as she can tell, about 84 or 85 years; 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 4th 1836: That she is the widow of Aris Brown who resided in the State of Virginia, in Mecklenburg County, and there entered the service, (she thinks) in the militia [sic] of that State, but she cannot now recollect under what officers, except General Washington, she has often heard him speak of Washington, and thinks her husband was on of his life guard. she is positive she always understood that he held some small office, a part, if not during the whole time of his service, tho' she cannot say what office it was, perhaps a Sergeant or or Corporal, she recollects too, that he said he had a good deal of writing to do while in the service; she was married to him during the War, and he was out on duty several times after their marriage, she cannot say with precision how long he served, of course, but thinks he must have served, from the best recollection she has, at least Five years off and on, and must have been in actual service at least two and a half or three years; it is impossible for her, at her advanced age, and with the troubles she has had, to relate with any precision the services of her husband, altho' she has often heard him relate what he done and suffered during the War; she has no recollection about the discharge of her husband, but thinks he had one or more, but does not know what has become of them, supposes they are lost, as she has now nothing of the kind. she thinks he was never in a battle. She further declared that she was married to the said Aris Brown in the County of Mecklenburg in the State of Virginia, by a Clergyman by the name of Cragg, was published in church previously, as was the custom in that day in that state, in the Fall of 1779 as near as she can calculate, as she was at her marriage near seventeen years of age; she has no record of her marriage, nor never kept one, as she was unable to write herself, and her husband lost his health shortly after their marriage, and was subject to fits of insanity ever afterwards, until his death, caused as was supposed, by exposure in the army.

She had ten children, they are now scattered, it was over two years after she was married before her first was born, and over two years between the births of each one of them, and her fourth child, a daughter, was married at the age of Twenty two or twenty three, on the 27th March 1812, as per record, which is the only record she has of her family, either of births or marriages.

When she first made a declaration for the same purpose, before the Ordinary on the 4th February last she had no documentary evidence of her husbands services, nor did she know of any, but her agent now informs her that he has obtained evidence in the Executive Department of Virginia, of three years service of Aris Brown as a Corporal in the 2^d. Virginia Regiment, which she is confident is her husband, and the proper certificates are herewith submitted in her behalf. she has no documentary evidence of marriage; that her husband the aforesaid Aris Brown, died on the [blank] day of August 1822; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof herewith submitted. After their marriage they remained in Virginia until after the second child was born, and then removed to Spartanburg District in this state, where they lived about thirty years, and then removed to Pendleton, now Pickens District, where she has lived ever since, she has now almost lost her memory, and can scarcely tell any thing of value, but hopes allowance will be made.

Joanna herXmark Brown

[The following excerpt is from a letter to an unnamed son of the signer:]

Saratoga Spring Franklin County OK/ March 16 1846

Dr Son I had the pleasure of Reading your Letter to your Brother in which you Requested him to obtain what I knew Relative to the Revolutionary sevices of your uncle Arias Brown. This I know of a certainty that he was living with my father and enlisted for three years in the Continetal sevice he went and was gone for that length of time and Returned and after he came back he took another tour for three months in the place of John Simmons who was drafted he went and was at the Siege of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep 19 Oct 1781] after which he returned again.

[A paragraph unrelated to Aris Brown not transcribed here; signed] Thomas Edmondson

P.S. let me know if your aunt Joana Brown is with you if not where she is

[The signature in the following appears to be that of the Thomas Edmondson of the previous document.]

State of Arkansas }

County of Crawford }

City of Fort Smith }

And now on this day personally came and appeared before me Samuel Edmondson one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County of Crawford and city of Fort Smith, Thomas Edmondson a citizen well known as a man of probity and respectability & maketh the following statement on his oath in due form of law

In the year AD 1776 in the State of Virginia Aris Brown a native of the state of Virginia County of Mecklenburgh, joined the Continental Army, in the war then waged by the U.S against great Britain under the command of Thomas Thredgill Capt in the service of the colonies, the now United States he served the term of three years as a regular soldier, and then returned to his home and remained the space of one year or thereabouts at the expiration of which time he again joined the service as substitute in the place of John Simmons for the term of three months in the year AD 1781 and until after the Siege of York Town in the state of Virginia. He the said Aris Brown married as the deponent remembers in the year 1779 to one Joanna Crocksin in the State of Virginia. The marriage service was performed by Parson James Cragg a Protestant minister, they were married in the County of Mecklenburgh. Some years after their Marriage they moved to the county of Spartanburgh South carolina. I lived a neighbour to them in the year AD 1808 they lived then and afterwards as man and wife raised a large family. I saw them lawfully married The exact period of Aris Brown's decease I am unable to state but think that it was between the years 1816 & 1820 at least deponants acquaintance ceased with him only from information about that time he the said Aris Brown performed an arduous and honorable duty in the countrys service and so fair as my knowledge extends never received his wages as a soldier

[signed 31 Mar 1847] Thos. Edmondson

South Carolina }

Spartanburg District }

Personally came before me Mrs. Agness Thomson & saith, upon her oath, that she was born in Spartanburg District in the year A.D. 1769 – that during the revolutionary war she with her parents removed to North Carolina – just after the close of the war they returned to this Dist. – about the year 1783 or '84 – she further deposeth that about the year A.D. 1786 Aris Brown & his wife Joanna Brown came to this country from Virginia – that they had two male children at that time – both small – named John & William & that Mrs Brown had a daughter born to her about a month after they came to the Dist. – her name was Nancy. She further deposeth that Aris Brown & his family lived some two years about two miles from her father's (Mr Thos. Collins) that about the year 1788 or 1789 Brown bought land joining her fathers & that he resided there until Mrs Joanna Brown had her last child – She says she was intimate with the family from that time until she married A.D. 1778 – that the children not above named were called as follows – Betsy – Katy – Polly – Joanna & Polly who died before she named her other daughter Polly – She further saith that she is not certain about the time Brown and his wife left the country; but she knows they remained

several years after she was married – that she recollects he joined the Presbyterian Church at Nazareth about four years after she was married – (1798) –

Sworn to before me this the 13th September 1847

Agness Thompson

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) filed as Brown, Arrise. The federal pension file contains a copy. the online file of Aris Brown also contains misfiled documents pertaining to other applicants.]

I do hereby Certify that arris Brown enlisted the 2^d September 1777 and served three yrs as a Corporal, the full term of his enlistment as a good & faithfull soldier in the 2^d Virginia Regiment

18 May 1784

J Holmes [Joseph Holmes] 2^d V.S.R.

A Copy Teste Cha. Jones Ck. A. Office

NOTE: The first declaration by Joanna Brown made on 4 Feb 1846 is not transcribed here because it is less detailed. After her claim was rejected by the Pension Office, Joanna Brown successfully petitioned Congress for a pension. The file includes numerous other supporting statements from neighbors. The file also includes a letter dated 28 Oct 1851 from Godfrey Isbell of Red Clay GA claiming to be an heir of Aris Brown.