

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas C. Brown W9364

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Kentucky }

Floyd County }

On this 17 day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Floyd County Court now sitting Thomas C Brown aged seventy two years a resident of the State of Kentucky and the county afs'd who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832. He states that he entered the service of the United States in the Virginia State Troops, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he volunteered in the Town of Rumney [corrected to "Romney"], in the County of Hampshire, in the state of Virginia, in the month of October or November in 1778 (the day not recolected nor will he state which of the two months positively) in the service, under a Captain Peter Higgins Jr, his Lieutenant was by the name of Patrick Johnson. He states that he was the ensighn, but was called a Cornett [sic: Cornet, the equivalent of Ensign in the cavalry], their Company was a horse company, his Colonel was by the name of Benjamin Williams, & that the company was dirrected by the Colo. to remain in the County of Hampshire and at given periods to traverse all that section of country on the waters of the Bull Pasture, the Cow Pasture [Bullpasture and Cowpasture] & on the head waters of the South Branch of the Potomac river, and in a portion of the County of Augusta Virginia, for the suppression of the tories. He states that he was born, and reared up, and resided in the County of Hampshire afs'd, his term of engagement was for three years, under the stipulation that the Company should not be with drawn from the State, the Company afs'd was entirely a volenteer company They remained in the service during the first winter, chiefly employed in guarding the country, early next spring our Company commenced its operation in the district asigned to them, a distance around of a hundred and forty miles, and traversed the district confided to us several times during the Spring and Summer of 1799 [corrected to 1779]. during the fall after the tories began to be numerous and our Company was confined to the county of Hampshire, and in the winter following we remained at home but subject to be called out, at any time; no occurrance of importance took place till the spring following We again marched through our district as many as five times during that summer and many skirmishes took place, but no engagement took place with the tories or British till the fall, when several severe skirmishes took place with the tories. He states the Company was in the Battle at Brakes Mill on the South Branch with the Tories, on which occassion several of the Tories was killed, he does not recolect the number. He states that he not recolect the number either killed or wounded on either side. He stats that the men and himself returned to their homes & staid there without ever being called out till Spring (some time in May) to perform their usual tour of scouting owing to the severity of the winter & being bloccaded up with ice & snow. The Company again asembled & performed two or three tours around the district afs'd. He states that he was the individual who carried the express to Old Town, to Colo Mitchel [Col. Mitchell] for a reenforcement to join our company to go against the tories. no reenforcement came to the aid of the Company. The Company took a great many tories & put them in Rumney Jail, and many we deposited in Winchester Jail. We took a Majior Smith, a Tory Majior & found his commission with signed by the British officers. about the 1st October we was required to go to litle York & there remained till Lord Cornallias surrendered to the American army [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. we was then marched back to the Barracks at Winchester, and there our Company rec'd our discharges. He thinks he rec'd his discharge from Patrick Shannon, who had charge of the Barracks. He states that he saw (but

was not personally acquainted) Gen'l Layfayette [sic: Lafayette] Gen'l Washington Sen'l. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] I knew personally Gen'l Daniel Morgan. he knew Capt Lightfoot of the horse, Lieutenant Joseph Sanders of the Regular service and Captain Mathew Pigman, George Berry, Capt. Robert Higin who was taken a prisoner, and out on Parole, Capt. [illegible]

He further states that he has no documentary evidence to establish claim.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state

[signed] Tho C Brown

[James Camron (pension application W3767) stated that he had seen Brown in service.]

State of Kentucky } Ss {Amended declaration of Tho C Brown
Floyd County }

On this 13 day of June 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Commonwealths Justices of the Peace for said County, now sitting Thomas C Brown aged seventy two years of age a resident of the state of Kentucky and county afs'd. who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7th 1832

He states that he entered the service of the United States in the Virginia State troops (for three years) under the following Officers and served as he states – that he entered as a volenteer in the Town of Rumney in the county of Hampshire, in the state of Virginia in the month of October, or November the day not recollectd (nor will he state which of the two months but believes it was the first of November) in the year 1778 under Capt Peter Higgins and Lieutenant Patrick Johnson and Col. Benjamin Williams – and that he (Tho C. Brown) was the Ensign but was denominated “Cornett” this company in which this applicant was in was a horse Company. He states that the company was directed by Colo. B. Williams to remain in Hampshire and traverse at different periods the country lying on the “Bull Pastures” the Cow Pastures” Rivers, and also on the head waters of the South Branch of the Potomac River in [illegible word] for to keep down the tories. That his time was for three years, and his Company was a Volenteer one, that he remained in active service dureing the winter 1778 but was confined to Hampshire. In the Spring 1779 the in month March the company afs'd started from Hampshire to traverse the district afs'd a distance of One hundred and forty miles and traversed the same several times during that year, the fall of 1779 the tories became troublesome in Hampshire. Col. Williams gave orders for our Company to remain in Rumney all that winter to keep them down, the weather towards January became cold, and Capt P. Higgins permitted us to remain in the neighbourhood with our friends to save public expense, this we done so or the most of them – but to be ready at a moments warning this was in 1779 or Jany 1780 in the month of March all again was assembled at the place of Rendevouzs at Rumney and again traversed the district according to this applications recollection five times dureing that summer, spring, and fall dureing this several skirmishes ensued with the tories and one that the applicant will mention is the one on the 7th day of October 1780 at Brakes Mill on the South Branch of the Potomac, several tories and some British Soldiers was killed. in Decr 1780 about the 15th the weather was exceeding severe, and from necessity, want of provission they had to quit Rumney where they were stationed, and go home, and was not called out till the middle of May 1781. the Company was mustered in March, but the snows and ice was so as to prevent the action of the Company till May – and then commenced their operations several times dureing the Spring Summer & fall of 1781 but staid a good deal about Rumney He states that he was the individual that carried the express to old town to Col. Mitchel for a ree-inforcement to fight the tories – none came – the Company gave them a trial[?] in September 1781 in the North est side of Hampshire, and the tories in this skirmish was defeated, many was taken prisoners and we put them all in Rumney Jail until it was full, and put the residue in Winchester Jail, this tory band was commanded by a tory Col. by the name of Smith, but he was but a Major his commission we found with him signed by

the British Genl. the Company remained here till the 10th day of October 1781 and all the Malitia Companys was directed to go to Little York to the siege the Company went and this applicant was there, at the surrender of Lord Cornwallias. after this the Company was ordered to the Barracks at Winchester and having now remained here till the first of November he thinks 1781 he was discharged by a man of the name of Patrick Shannon commander of the barracks – having now served my country three years. he returned home to Hampshire. He saw (but was not personally acquainted) Gen Layfayette Gen Stephens Washington, and he thinks Gen Linkhorn [sic: Benjamin Lincoln] Gen D. Morgan he knew him Capt Lightfoot of the horse, Lieutenant Joseph Sanders, of the Regular Service, Captain Mathew Pigman, Geo. Berry Capt Robert Higgins who was taken prisoner and out on parole and Capt Ben. Casey. his whole term afs'd he served as the ensighn of Capt Higgins Company. his Commission he left in Hampshire and supposes the same is lost and he has no documentary evidence to establish his claim – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Questions Propounded And Answered –

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born

Ans I was in Hampshire County Virginia on the day of August 1761

Qu 2^d Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Ans. I have not any written record but know the same from reccollecting what my mother told me was my age.

Qu 3^d. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you ow live

Ans I was living in Hampshire County Virginia when I was called into service, and lived there many years after, and removed to this county thirty five years ago or more, and I now in this County (Floyd County Kentucky)

Q. 4. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volenteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Ans I volenteered for three years in a horse Company and was Ensign thereof.

Question 5. State some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental Reigiments as you can reccollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I never served under any Regular Officers, but our own. to wit Col. B Williams, Higgins and Johnston was state troops. at York a great many officers was there Gen Layfayette was there, and Gen Stephens Joseph Sanders. And Mathew Pigman, and many others that is forgotten as to the no. of the continental Rigt. they were all numbered and known by the numbers but he cannot state any particular no's to reccollect them seems to him imposable after fifty two years has passed by – the circumstances of my services is given in the declaration But that he entered as a Volenteer, in Capt Higgins horse Company in November 1778 that he was Commissioned Ensign thereof his Col was B. Williams. And that the district of the Bull Pastures and Cow Pastures and part of Augusta was assigned to our Compay to supress the tories that he entered for three years that he served three years, either in Camp service, or in the Garrison twice he went home, and once for some time from about Christmas or about thereof – he remained at home, on account of provisions that he served in all thirty three months active Camp service, that dureing the service he was in several skirmishes with the tories. one at Brakes Mill, and one on the north east side of the county and with Maijor Smith a tory. he was at the siege of York when Cornwallias surrendered to Gen Washington and that afterwards he was discharged by Patrick Shamon at the Winchester Barrack this was in November 1781 the Company of Capt Higgins all was disbanded at the same time. These are the general circumstances of his services he served. This whole time as the Ensign, under Col. B Williams Capt. Peter Higgins, and Lieutenant Patrick Johnson –

Question Did you ever receive a Commission, and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans I did receive the Commission of Ensign it has been forty years since he saw it having left it in Hampshire. he got his Commission so soon as the Compay was reported to the bord of war, at the seat towit Virginia, and that after he came back from the first tour he rec'd a second Commission this was in the Spring of 1779: the first was signed with name of a man I have forgoten the second I received was signed by a man by the name of Henry [Gov. Patrick Henry] he thinks. this last Commission was sent to him by Col. Williams who had got it out of the office at the bord of war. he does not pretend to be certain on this subject, having never thought it would be important to recollect anything about my Commission, the great length of time has impaired my memory so that I cannot recollect little particulars he is certain he left the commission in Virginia having no recollection of ever seeing it in this state amongst his papers – and cannot account for it otherwise than afs'd.

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Ans. I refer the War Department to the Hon'ble John Graham (the former Judge of this Court) to H. B Mayo Esq. P. Master to Col. T. W Graham and to Maijor D. D. Harris (the present Senator in the Legislature) to Gen. Alex. Lackey, to John Friend Esq'r. and to Rev'd Dudwith Stone, and the Rev'd Inatrian Howard Luckitt –

State of Kentucky } Ss. (New Proof)
Floyd County }

The affidavit of James Harris [pension application W8892] a man of Eighty years of age who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth, and saith, that at the close of the Revolutionary War in 1781 at the Seige of York this affiant became acquainted with Thomas C Brown, then an ensighn in a horse company in Capt Higgins horse company from Hampshire County Virginia, he was denominated the Cornett of the same. he was in the State troops and so was his Company. This affiant saw him in the service before the seige and after and also at the ~~Winchester~~ Albemarle barracks he was there in the service as a Cornett as to his Col. this Affiant is not positive but rembers Johnston and Higgins and Thomas C. Brown verry well. The length of time he served this affiant cannot state, but he understood that he had been in service for some time as a volunteer. And further this deponant saith not.

[signed] James Harris

NOTE: On 31 March 1855 Thomas C. Brown, 95, applied for bounty land. On 14 July 1857 Mary Brown applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas C. Brown on 15 Dec 1831, and he died 17 April 1857. The file includes a copy of the license issued on 14 Dec 1831 in Floyd County KY for the marriage of Thomas C. Brown and Mary Brown. On 24 Oct 1877 Mary Brown, aged "70 or 80," applied for the restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War.