

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Enos Browning W9753 Jane Browning VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Nov 2019.

The Declaration of the Heirs of Enas Browning – In Order to Obtaine the bennifit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

State of Virginia County of Washington – On this 3d day of December 1853 personally appeared in open Court, John Browning son and Heir of Enas Browning de'd, a resident of the County of Wyoming and State aforesaid [now West Virginia], aged 59 years – who in due and solemn form of Law, doth, on his Oath, declare, and make the following declaration, In order to to obtaine the bennefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed the 7th of June 1832. – that his Father Enos Browning was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, – that he enlisted in the Virginia Continental line for five years, or during the War, – that he did so enlist in the County of Culpeper, state aforesaid, and that he was under the Command of Genl. [Nathanael] Greene, that he served to the end of the War, in the year 1783 – that he was honorably discharged, and that his discharges was was burned in his House, when it was consumed, that proof of service is filed, in the Bounty Land Office, on which proof Warrant Issued to, and was received, by said Enas Browning for one Hundred Acres, for service in the war of the Revolution – that the said Enas Browning, and Jane his Wife, were married in 1777 or 8 – record of which was consumed, when his discharge was burned, that the said Enas Browning never applied for Pension, and that he departed this life in the County of Washington in the year 1815. That his Widow Jane Browning departed this life in the County of Logan [now West Virginia], in the year 1843 about the 15th of Nov'r. that the said Jane Browning at her death, left the following named Children, who are still living (Viz) Edmund Browning – their first born Child, now aged seventy five years, Francis Browning, James Browning, John Browning, and Jacob Browning, the Heirs very respectfully ask, with the proof of service, on file in the Bounty Land Office and the proof now adduce, that dicission in their case, conform with the letter, and spirit of the 2^d. and 3^d. Sections of the act of the 7th of June 1832 & 36 that the said Enas Browning never did during his natural life apply for pension, – the Heir Claim pension, in right of the widow Jane Browning their Mother, on that Clause of the same, where it is enacted, If marriage took place, before the termination of the soldiers service in 1783 she shall obtain from the 4th of March 1831 else 4th March 1836. – the parties were married in 1777 or 8. – the last service of the said Enos terminated at the peace of 83 at which time, his Eldest Child Edmund Browning on his return home was a small boy able to walk, in consequence the Heirs claim full pension pr. annum, in right of the widow from the 4th day of March 1836 – to the day of her death, on the 15th of Novr. 1843 making twelve years full pension pr. annum – the affidavit of Francis Browning [pension application S6731] now enclosed, marked letter A, shows, not only the date of marriage – but state of cohabitation and legallity of marriage by reputation – the said Francis being upward of One Hundred years of age, of sound mind and memmory – And being the kinsman of the said Enos his – Afs.[?] opportunity, and natural affection, has stored up the facts he has deposed to, in the Chamber of memory which cannot be forgotten. John hisXmark Browning

State of Virginia }
County of Russell } SS On this day [23 Jun 1855] personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for this County aforesaid, Francis Browning, a resident of said County aged One Hundred and One years, Who in due and Solemn form of law, doth, on his Oath, declare, that Enos Browning returned from the revolutionary War in the year 1782, that he served long enough, in the Virginia Continental line, to entitle him to Bounty land, & was award to his children by the State of Virginia since his death, that his oldest child living is Edmund Browning who is now 72 years of age, that the said Enos and Jane his wife, who was Jane Trim, were married about the close of the war in North Carolina, by a Magistrate, which accounts for the marriage not being found in Clerks office, but that they were truly married and were legally husband & wife, acknowledging each other as such, and acknowledging their children as their

lawfully begotten Issue, and that the Bounty land of said Enos Issued from the Virginia Land Office in the names of his children whoe were his Heirs at Law, (to wit) Edmund, Francis, James, John, & Jacob Browning
Francis hisXmark Browning
[On 15 Nov 1850 Francis Browning stated that Enos Browning had served two years.]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). These documents are also in [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) incorrectly indexed as Enos, Browning.]

State of Virginia

Russell county to wit This day appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Francis Browning aged eighty years, a citizen of said county and made oath in due form of Law that he was well acquainted with Enos Browning during our revolutionary war, who enlisted into the Virginia Militia on the continental establishment [sic: see endnote] about the year 1777 or 1778 and continued in the service under General Greene and served at the seige of ninety-six [Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] until he was discharged in the year 1782; when he returned to his family in Washington County Virginia.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in said county the 17th day of December 1833

[signed] Francis Browning

State of Virginia }

Russell County to wit } This day personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said county Jesse Vermillion [W6362] aged eighty one years a citizen of said county and made oath in due form of Law that he was well acquainted with Enos Browning before, during, and since, the Revolutionary War; that although he did not see said Enos Browning in the service, he is as well satisfied that he served in the army of the Revolution as if he had seen his service, they having at the time both lived in the same neighborhood. and the said Jesse Vermillion further states that when on his return from a tour of service in the south he stopped at Camblin [probably Camden SC] in order to see Enos Browning who he understood was then there in the army, but for want of time failed to find him

Sworn and subscribed to before me in said county the 17th day of December 1833

[signed] Jesse Vermillion

Logan County Va. Jan'y the 14th 1834.

The petition of Jane Browning to His Excellency John Floyd Governor of the State of Virginia, and the executive council, respectfully sheweth that your petitioner is the Widow of Enos Browning, who, served as a soldier for several years during the War of our revolution and who she understands was entitled to bounty land from the State for these services; not haveing received his bounty, or indeed scarce any remuneration for these services; she therefore prays that your Excellency and Council will be graciously pleased to Grant her such Land as her husband was entitled to, by Law, She is now very old and poor; depending intirely for support; on the charity of her relations; which induces her to make this application, which she doubts not will be instantly accorded to her and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c

Jane Browning

This day personally appeared before James M McFarland a justice of the peace in & for the County of Russell Francis Browning & made Oath, that when he moved to the County of Russell (then Washington County) Enos Browning's family resided in said County, & he Francis Browning was informed that said Enos Browning was then in the service of the Revolutionary War and that said Enos Browning did not return home to his family untill some time after the 1st of Jany 1782 he further says he believes Enos Browning enlisted in the Virginia line Given under my hand this 16th day of Jan'y. 1840

The petition of Jane Browning of the County of Logan to His Excellency the Governor and

Counsel of State of Virginia. Humbly sheweth, that her late husband Enos Browning, enlisted in the year 1777 into the Virginia Militia, in the line establishment for the State and served, she believes, 4 or 5 years.

your petitioner is advised that her husband was entitled to Land bounty for his services in the War of the Revolution and which her late husband never received.

Your Humble petitioner being extremely poor; and now over ninety years of age; respectfully prays that you will be pleased, to grant her, a Warrant for such Land as her husband might be entitled too; for his services as aforesaid and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray. &c. &c.

Jane Browning

Logan County to wit

Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for Logan County Edmund Browning son of the above Jane Browning; and made oath that he can recollect the return of his father, in Washington County; from the War of the revolution; and that he had been absent several years; Given under my hand this 3^d day of Feby 1840

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 1st day of December 1787, in the name of Enos Browning as a Soldier of Infantry for £30.8.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Andrew Cowanand was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this [the rest missing]

The evidence in this case does not shew when Enos Browning entered the Service – Claim rejected DC [Gov. David Campbell]

Rejected Feb. 20 1840

This claim is allowed for a service of three years as a soldier in the Continental line. March 4 1840 DC

NOTES ON THE FEDERAL PENSION FILE:

The statement that Enos Browning “enlisted into the Virginia Militia on the continental establishment” makes no sense. Virginia militias were never on Continental Establishment. Since militia tours were generally for three months each, it appears that Browning served in the Continental Army.

On 21 Sep 1840 in Logan County (West) Virginia it was certified by the oath of Susanna Vance that Enos Browning died about 1817 leaving the following children: Edmund, Francis, James, John; and Jacob, and that his daughter Betsy had died unmarried about 1830 leaving the following children: Josiah, James, Lucinda, Harley, and Grey. In 1826 Edmund Browning was appointed guardian of Lucinda, Caleb, and Grey Browning, children of Elizabeth Browning.

On 30 Nov 1853 Francis Browning declared that Enos Browning and Jane Trim were married in 1777 or 1778 in Caswell County NC where he also then lived. Caswell County was formed from Orange County in 1777.

On 2 Oct 1854 John Vance and David Robinson of Logan County stated that the children of Jane Browning were named Henry, Charles, Caleb, Betsey, Francis, Edmund, James, John, and Jacob Browning, that she died about Nov 1842 at the Left Hand Fork of Island Creek in Logan County, that Caleb and Betsey were dead, and that Henry and Charles were believed to be dead.

On 15 May 1854 in Logan County Reese Browning, with Isaac Browning, Jesse Browning, and Edmund Browning as securities, was named administrator of the estate of Enos Browning. On 4 Sep 1855 Vincent Browning was made administrator of the estate of Jane Browning.

On 5 Feb 1856 Caleb Browning, 38, stated that his grandmother, Jane Browning, had died on 15 Sep 1842, and that her children Edmund, Francis, James, John, and Jacob were still living.

The federal file includes a letter from James T. Browning of Saltville VA dated 26 July 1858 to the Secretary of War alleging that the agent who handled the pension had charged \$350 out of the \$450 awarded.