

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Brothertin (Brotherton)

fn30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/23/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 13]

State of Tennessee Greene County: For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act for the relief of certain Surviving officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved on the 15th of May 1828 I William Brotherton of the County & State aforesaid do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution and was in the following battles & skirmishes to wit -- At the 15 Mile House on the North side of Charleston & with eight men in the advance guard took 10 prisoners and at the 10 Mile house this applicant & 7 others on the advance guard took 12 prisoners or thereabouts -- And at the 5 Mile House this applicant with 6 others and Captain John Reed attacked 30 odd British dragoons killed 7 & took 25 prisoners -- Applicant states further that he was engaged in 25 battles and skirmishes during the War of the Revolution the times and places he cannot at this distance of time pretend to state with any degree of accuracy But applicant states that he was out in the Army from the time it commenced in the South until the end & during that time he was generally in the advance guard being young strong and active with a good horse & being a good swordsman was almost always chosen by his officers for the advance guard which was the reason why he was in such a number of skirmishes & Battles during the War of the Revolution. He states further that in one of the Skirmishes with the British he attacked in single combat one of the British Officers who wore a three crooked hat, over through him and boned [?] off his hat and feathers which he has to this day. This Applicant will not attempt to State positively the length of time he served in the Army but believes that it was more than two years. He will not now attempt to State positively the length of time for which he entered the Army the lapse of time has made much inroads on his memory he would not at this distance of time attempted giving the exact history of his transactions in this matter But that he served to the end of the War he well recollects and was discharged by Colonel Wade Hampton. This applicant states positively that he never received one single cent for his pay for all his Services during the said war and was entitled to the reward of \$80 agreeable to the resolve of Congress passed the 15th May 1778 -- This Applicant States that his Captain was named John Reed & his Colonel was Wade Hampton of the Cavalry -- He States that he was a private Soldier in said Company & Regiment -- Applicant further states that he was not on the 15 day of March 1828 on the Pension List of the United States

S/ William Brotherton

Sworn & subscribed before me this 27th day of October 1828

S/ Leonard Starnes, JP

[Capt. Peter Harman & Jacob Carter gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 19]

State of Tennessee Greene County: Personally appeared before me Thomas Smith a Justice of the peace for said County Thomas Brothertin & William Woodside and made oath that William Brothertin now a resident of Greene County and State of Tennessee enlisted in the State of North Carolina Rowan County in the first Regiment of Caveltry [sic,Cavalry] commanded by Colonel Wade Hampton Belonging to the Brigade commanded by General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] of South Carolina in the month of April and in the year 1782 and continued in the service of the United States until the war was ended and in said Regiment where he was regularly Discharged

S/ Thomas Brothertin

S/ William Woodside

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 20th day of September 1828

S/ Thos. Smith, JP

[fn p. 20]

"The name of William Brothertin cannot be found among those of the South Carolina line, to whom Certificates for the gratuity of Eighty Dollars were issued.

3rd Auditor's Office

6th May 1829

S/ [illegible signature]"

[fn p. 16]

State of Tennessee Greene County: This day Robert Dobson aged 65 years personally appeared before me Leonard Starnes one of the Acting Justices of the peace for the said County and made oath in due form of law that he was well acquainted with William Brotherton who is now an applicant for a pension during the war of the Revolution. That he is the same William Brotherton who served in the War of the Revolution on the Continental Establishment. That said brother to and entered in a company of Cavalry or Dragoons commanded by Captain John Reed. That said that Brotherton was in the service a considerable length of time but for what time affiant cannot now state positively. Affiant is positive that he remained in service until the End of the War -- before he was discharged -- Affiant further states that the said Company of Cavalry or Dragoons was on the Continental establishment -- and that said William Brotherton was by all who knew him is deemed a very gallant Soldier and a term patriot in the cause of his country against the common enemy. Affiant further states that he cannot at this distant day say positively or what period he enlisted but believes that he enlisted for a definite period or in the alternative for during the War and did remain. Affiant is positive that he did remain in service to the The end of the War -- and was Honorably discharged. Sworn and subscribed before me this first day of September 1829.

S/ Robert Dobson

S/ Leonard Sterns, JP

State of Tennessee Greene County: This day with William Brotherton the Applicant for a pension personally appeared before me & made oath in due form of law that he enlisted as stated in the declaration now on file in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury of the US and if the time is not there stated as was intended. He begs leave to make the following amendment by stating that he enlisted in the said Company & Regiment as stated for the term of ten months or during the War in the spring of the year before the taking of Lord Cornwallis and served to the end of the War. Affiants states positively that he entered for the Term of ten months or in the alternative to

the end of the War and he states positively that he served to the end of the War which from the time of his enlistment to the time he was discharged was at least 11 or 12 months. Sworn and subscribed before me this first day of September 1829

S/ William Brothertin

S/ Leonard Starnes, JP

State of Tennessee Greene County

On this 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Court of Law and Equity for Greene County Tennessee William Brotherton a resident of said County aged 73 years on the 18th ultimo, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in Iredell County North Carolina under the following named officers and served as herein stated. To wit, he volunteered under Captain Jacob Nichols and Ensign William Dobbins who forthwith marched him to Salisbury where he joined General and Major Rutherford and Colonel Frank Lock's [sic, Francis Locke's] Brigade of NC militia in the fall of the year 1778 as well as he now recollects. General Rutherford marched him from Salisbury on to South Carolina he went through Camden and does not recollect of passing through more towns but on to within about 10 miles of Charleston to a place called the Two Sisters [Two Sisters Ferry] where they quartered the greater part of the winter, while they laid there Colonel Lytle had orders to raise about 300 Infantry to go to Georgia, he volunteered under him and encamped on Briar Creek [sic, Brier Creek] about half a mile in the rear of Gates¹ Army in order to guard the Bridge, they were there about 5 days when they heard the firing of Gates [sic, Ashes'] Army and the British, they were [word obliterated] as soon as possible and conducted to the ground to "see the fun" as Lytle expressed himself but when arriving in sight they saw the Army discomfitted [discomforted] and fleeing as there was no chance for victory the Colonel wheeled them to the right and told them to shift for themselves, the next day [he] Joined General Rutherford's Army coming down the River (the name he does not remember) and continued with the Army on the road to Charleston until discharged, he received a written discharge signed by Colonel Locke, he then went home after having been out upwards of 6 months -- --

About one or 2 months after he returned, he was drafted for three months under the same officers except the General R. and went to South Carolina he passed through Camden and then all towards Georgia, they had no fighting this tour, they were hunting the Tories principally.

After he had been home about 2 weeks he volunteered under Captain David Caldwell and was out in the scout for Tories about 6 weeks when he was discharged and went home and stayed about one week and volunteered under Major Rutherford and Captain Nichols again to scout for Tories; while they were encamped at Beatties Ford on the Catawba River they were attacked by Cornwallis' Army and their Major killed when they retreated to Salisbury pursued by the British, on to the 7 mile Ford on the Yadkin [River] where they joined General Morgan, who was there defeated,² he made his escape and being within 25 or 30 miles of home, he went there and staid a few days when he went on to Salisbury and joined the Army of General Rutherford and continued with him until discharged.

¹ The events described by this veteran indicate that he confused Horatio Gates with General John Ashe. Ashe commanded the troops at Brier Creek

² I have not guess as to what action, if any, he is referring to—I am unaware of General Daniel Morgan ever being engaged in any action in North Carolina in which Morgan's forces were 'defeated.'

He had been at home about a week when he volunteered under Captain Nichols for a month (in fact was gone more than 5 weeks) to go down to the forks of the Yadkin. Two companies were ordered there after the Tories and Nichols was one, They found at the Shallow Ford a considerable number of Tories, cooking their breakfast, they surprised them and kill perhaps 15 or 20 took some prisoners and the rest made their escape with empty stomachs, they are lost was but 3 or 4 killed and wounded. He was discharged there and went home and remained about 2 weeks when he enlisted under Captain John Reed who marched them to the Enoree River in South Carolina where they joined the Army of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and Colonel Wade Hampton at Head Quarters, they remained there perhaps one or 2 months and was with General Sumter's Army during all his maneuvering in the South he was in 25 skirmishes with the sword [?] these three being the principle [principal] They had a skirmish at the 15 mile house prisoners [were taken] but no person was killed and at the 10 mile house took prisoners but no killed and then went by direction of their pilot a back way to the 5 mile house where on coming to the road they discovered a squad of Tarleton's dragoons within about thirty yards. Captain Reed ordered a charge having but eight men with him being in the vanguard, he Captain and his 8 men charged through the ranks, returned, when the British surrendered and 25 prisoners were taken. In that action this applicant knocked the hat off of a British Officer, jumped from his horse, picked it up and put it under his arm, then remounted and there kept it until the enemy surrendered, this applicant after knocking the hat off of the officer's head with his sword cleft his head in twain and left him with the slain. Besides the prisoners taken in this action there were 7 killed. On the side of the Americans the pilot alone was killed. After the Battle the prisoners were paroled when they fearing Tarleton's Dragoons would be upon them made their way up Ashley River to a Was[balance of the word obliterated] where they dismounted and every man sat and held his horse until morning. The next morning the 2 colonels went over through a field to a house inhabited by a woman who told them that two Sloops had landed a small distance up the River with British Soldiers and they were in the cornfield getting roasting ears and beans, the Colonels wheeled their horses and waved their sword for their men to go up, and when they got to the Bank of the river the front were ordered to dismount and run into the vessels, they did so, this applicant with them they found but one soldier in the vessel who snapped his gun at them, he was then killed. They then left the vessels and all surrounded the field and took about 30 prisoners whom they paroled, they were then marched to head quarters and remained until peace was made. He enlisted for 10 months but served nearly 12 under this enlistment, making in all something upwards of 2 years. He lived in Iredell County North Carolina, during the war and after its close until the year 1798 when he removed to Greene County Tennessee where he has since resided.

He states there is no Clergyman residing in his neighborhood, he has no documentary evidence (though he always received his discharges but they are all lost) and knows of no person now in this Country, to testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court this 5th day of September 1832

S/ V. Lewis, Clk

S/ William Brothertin

[Leonard Starnes and John Gass, Jr. gave the standard supporting affidavit.]