

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Morgan Brown S3063

fn52SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/7/10 & 1/4/11

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Davidson County

On this seventeenth day of Sept., 1832 Personally appeared before John McNairy, Judge of the Court of the District of East and West Tennessee in open Court, Morgan Brown, a resident of Davidson County in the state of Tennessee, now in the seventy fifth year of his age, who being 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 the 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as therein stated. That he entered by voluntary enlistment as a sergeant in the Third regiment of South Carolina commanded by Colonel William Thompson, and in the Company of Capt. Samuel Wise, Benjamin Hicks Lieutenant. The officers in said regiment so far as now recollected, were James Mason Major, and Eli Kershaw, John Donaldson, Frances Boykin, T. Taylor, Brown, Purinhoff [sic, John Lewis Peyer Imhoff], and other Captains. This was a Regiment of mounted men who found their own horses, arms and clothing, and were paid twelve dollars and about one third per month. At the time of entering this service, he resided with his parents in Anson County in the State of North Carolina. That he continued in this regiment from the first day of May until the fifteenth of December, 1776, and that during said service he marched from Cheraw in the state of South Carolina to Camden in the same state, thence to the ten mile house near Charleston, thence to several of the Sea Islands on the coast of South Carolina and finally to Sullivan's Island and awaited the arrival of the British fleet commanded by Sir Peter Parker in June, 1776. And was engaged in the battle which took place on the Island about the 26th or 28th of the month. That after the battle of Sullivan's Island he was removed with the regiment to Charleston, where the Declaration of Independence, which had then arrived, was read and proclaimed to the troops and the people. Immediately after this scare, he was marched off with a detachment of the said regiment to Savannah in Georgia, from thence to Augusta in the same state, then to Granby in South Carolina, thence to Camden and from thence to Cheraw, the residence of Capt. Wise. Here the company was disbanded for a few weeks, the greater part of them living in the neighborhood. But he returned to his Father's house in Anson County, North Carolina, where he received a letter from Colonel Thomas Wade then a member of 1st Regiment of that State, accompanied by a commission appointing him a first lieutenant in the 9th Regiment of North Carolina, he therefore returned to his former regiment no more, but informed Col. Thompson by letter of his appointment, and received his answer expressing his highest approbation. The officers principally known to him during his service were Col. Christopher Gadsden, Col. William Moultrie who commanded in the fort of that name on the Island, Col. Isaac Huger, Col. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Major Peter Horry, Maj. Mott [Isaac Mott?], Capt. Francis

Marion, afterwards Gen. Marion, Capt. Potts, Capt. Frances Prince, and others, the most of whom were promoted in the army, and with whom he was acquainted at several periods of the war and many years since in public life, but believes there is none of them now living. He further states that he has no written document to show at this time, for this service, but he offers this testimony of two respectable soldiers now living who served in the same regiment with him during the time of his service. And that as far as he knows there is not any of the officers of the regiment now living.

That as soon as he received his commission in the 9th Regiment of North Carolina, which was sometime the latter part of December 1776 he set out recruiting men for the service and on the 24th of March following he marched with about thirty recruits—on his way to Hallifax [sic, Halifax County] in North Carolina the place of rendezvous, and where he arrived sometime in the fore part of April and joined his assignment. The field officers of this assignment were Col. __ Williams, his given name not recollected, and it is believed he never joined the regiment during the ensuing campaign Lieutenant Col. Lutteral [sic, James Luttrell] , who it is believed marched no farther than Richmond in Virginia. Major William Polk, now Genl. William Polk of Raleigh in the State of North Carolina. This gentleman marched with the regiment and commanded it during the campaign of 1777. The captain of the company to which he was appointed was Joseph John Wade, but as usual the companies were not full, a valuation and division of the officers took place, proportioned to the men recruited, who were now to march to the Northward, and the others were left to recruit and as well as he now recollects in this arrangement he was allotted to the company of Capt. Richard D. Cook, but some changes in those arrangements took place in cause of the service.

From Halifax he marched with a Line of North Carolina to Petersburg in Virginia, from thence to Richmond, thence to Fredrickburgh and then to Georgetown on the Potomach [sic, Potomac] in the State of Maryland, where the troops were inoculated for the small pox, and when recovered to Baltimore & Philadelphia. Here the troops drew pay, arms and clothing. And after being reviewed by Congress, and celebrating the first anniversary of the independence on the fourth of July, 1777, they were marched to Billingsport in the State of New Jersey, thence again to Philadelphia. From this place they were transported in shallops to Trenton, where they encamped until past the middle of August, then marched to Philadelphia again and from thence to Wilmington in the State of Delaware. And from this place by various marches and maneuvers to Chadd's Ford on the Brandywine, where on the 11th of September were engaged in the Battle which was fought there by the American army commanded by Genl. Washington with the British army commanded by Lord Howe, and retreated to the town of Chester on the Delaware bay that night. That immediately after he was sent with a detachment to reinforce the guard of 250 British and German prisoners to Bethlehem on Lehi [sic, Lehigh]. This expedition took up his time until the morning of the day before the Battle of Germantown, when he was immediately order[ed] to take command of an Ensign and thirty men, have the tents struck, and convey the baggage, and the sick and invalid of the brigade to Pinebecker's [sic, Pennypacker's] Mills that night and wait there for orders . Next day the battle was fought and our retreating army reached the place to which the baggage had been ordered. The day following we visited our wounded General Nash [Francis Nash of the North Carolina line], who was yet alive, and on the morning of the next day attended his funeral. From this place the army moved to Hatfield Township, from whence it was understood they would go into winter quarters at the Valley Forge.

Having now been engaged in the service of the United States during two severe campaigns, the greater part of the time in long and laborious marches with hard and harassing duty. And the loss of men in the late battles, and by sicknesses, leaving a number of supernumerary officers, together with the greatly impaired state of his own health induced him to resign. For this purpose he waited upon the commander in chief Genl. Washington and stated to him his situation and intention, which being appraised, he directed one of his aides to write a discharge, and certificate of his service, which to the best of his recollection bore date the 14th day of October, 1777.

That on or about the 20th day of July 1780 at the special instance and request of the Baron

DeKalb, then commanding the southern army, he entered the service of the United States again, with the commission and appointment of Assistant Commissary of Purchases, to the Southern Department. That immediately on his appointment he repaired to Guilford County in the State of North Carolina where he used every exertion in his power to purchase and provide supplies for the army. That having collected a quantity of Beef, Flour and Brandy, was about to send them as directed to a place called Anderson's Crossroads, on the way to Camden, South Carolina, when the news arrived of Gen. Gates' defeat [the defeat of the army under the command of Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden]. The next day the General himself arrived at Guilford Court house and shortly afterwards General Smallwood with the Maryland line. Much of the supplies now collected were delivered to the troops but a continued succession of small parties coming in with no Issuing Commissaries or quartermasters, rendered it absolutely necessary for him to issue small quantities of provisions to these exhausted sufferers. This inconvenient and laborious duty was represented to the commander in chief and also to the Commissary General of Issues who instead of sending a Commissary of Issues, saying that he could not find a proper person to send that would undertake the duty. Therefore with much labor, and all the diligence in his power he performed the duty of both offices from the date of the said appointment until he left that Station, being ordered to the [illegible word, could be "Cheraw"] in South Carolina where General Green [sic, Nathaniel Greene] had taken winter quarters at Hick's Creek. That on the first of January 1781, General Greene issued a commission appointing him Superintendent of Transportation. The duties of this office were important, and laborious, they did not only consist in transporting provisions to the Army now encamped near the River, but in collecting all the boats and watercraft within twenty miles above and below, and to keep them secure from murdering parties of the British and Tories who abounded in that part of the country. And also to aid Colonel Kosciusko [sic, Thaddeus Kosciuszko] the engineer general of that department, in building boats intended to be moved with the Army on wheels. For these purposes he was allowed the command of fifty men from the militia beside workmen for the boat yard. That in these three last named offices he served as Assistant Commissary of Purchases five months and 11 days at \$60 per month; as Commissary of Issues, he served three months and 16 days at \$40 per month; and as Superintendent of Transportation, he served three months at \$60 per month. That the authenticity of these appointments, and acknowledgment of the services rendered, were admitted and allowed at the Treasury of South Carolina after the War, on presentment of his accounts, which with the proof and vouchers were received and allowed by the Continental Commissioner of Accounts, and it is presumed remain filed in his office, as will more fully appear by an exemplification from the Treasury under the Seal of the State herewith shown.

Interrogatories by the Court

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Anson County, North Carolina on the 13th day of January 1753.

2nd. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer: My age is supported in a large family Bible now in my possession, with the names of my ancestors from their first landing in America in the month of 1633.

3rd. Where were you living when called into service; where have you been since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now?

Answer: When I entered the service I lived with my Father in the county where I was born. Before the end of the war, I settled in South Carolina and continued there until the year 1795. From that date until the year 1807, I resided in the state of Tennessee. From 1807 to the year 1820 I lived in the state of Kentucky. And after that time until the present, I have been in Tennessee and am living in Davidson County 3 miles north of Nashville.

4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

Answer: I entered the service first by voluntary enlistment as a sergeant. Afterwards by promotion to a Lieutenant in the line, and then by commission as Assistant Commissary of Purchases to the southern army, Assistant Commissary of Issues to the same and Superintendent of Transportation.

5th. State the names of some of your regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: The principal officers of those regiments with whom he was most acquainted in the campaign of 1776 were Col. William Moultrie who commanded the fort of that name on Sullivan's Island afterwards Genl. Moultrie. Col. Christopher Gadsden, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Isaac Huger, Capt. Francis Marion. These all rose to the rank and command of Generals. Afterward Majors Peter Horry and __, and Capt. Francis Prince, Capt. Polk. These are the chief now recollected besides those of the regiment in which he served and who are heretofore named in this declaration. The Third Regiment arrived in the vicinity of Charleston and was stationed on Sullivan's Island where they had no opportunity of acquaintance with the troops from other states who were stationed on the mainland. In the campaign of 1777 the principal officers who marched to the north and where he did were Genl Francis Nash; Col. Thomas Polk, Col. Alexander Martin; Col. Hogan [sic, James Hogun]; Colonel Archibald Lytle, Col. Mebane [Robert Mebane], Majors William Polk, Walker, Haines [or Harris], Nelson and Ramsey. Captains Smith; Richard D. Cook; Clement Hall; W. Blount; Robert Hayes; Hadley; Anthony Crutchin and McCrary. Lieutenants Anthony Sharp; Thomas Clarke; John Long; __ Campbell and __ Stewart and many others whose names are now forgotten in the long space of fifty five years.

6th. Did you ever receive a commission, and if so by whom was it signed, and what ever became of it?

Answer: When he entered the service in the Line of North Carolina he received the commission of first lieutenant on 9th Regiment, signed by Richard Caswell then Governor of North Carolina bearing date, to the best of his recollection, the 15th day of December, 1776; the letter accompanying bearing that date induces him to believe so. That afterwards, at Philadelphia, he received a commission of the same date and time signed by John Hancock president of Congress. That during his time of service at Guilford he made his principal residence at the house of Mr. Jo[?] McNairy a gentleman who lived near the court house and where, when he was called to Cheraw, he left a number of his valuable paper and letters; then thinking he should return in same short time, and which papers as he was informed and believes were destroyed by the British in time of the battle of Guilford courthouse, Mr. McNairy's house being next the range of the battle ground, and was entered and rifled at the time of the action. That the said commission, with some others and the discharge and certificate issued by General Washington as herein before mentioned were among them.

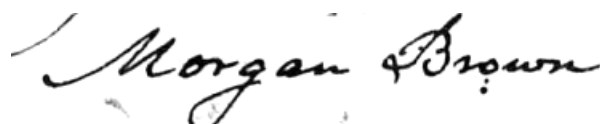
7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?[sic]

Answer: In the county where I now live, I have been known to General Andrew Jackson, the President, near forty years; to the Honorable John McNairy, Judge of the district of Tennessee upwards of fifty two years. John Overton and Thomas Crutcher Esqrs. near forty years. I am also known to the Honorable John Bell member of Congress, the Honorable John Catron Chief Justice of the state and the Revd. Oliver B. Hayes, William Lytle, Andrew Hayse, Ephraim H. Foster, Doctor Boyd McNairy, Doctor Felix Robertson, Doctor James Roan and Jesse Wharton Esquire. To them with the highest respect and humble confidence I cheerfully refer for the character of my veracity.

Sworn to in open Court 19th Sept, 1832.

S/ Morgan Brown

S/ N. A. McNairy, Clk



He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever he pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State to his knowledge or with his consent. Sworn to and written the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Morgan Brown

Sworn to in open court 19th Sept, 1832

S/ N. A. McNairy, Clk

[O. B. Hayes, Jesse Wharton, John Bell, Ephraim H. Foster gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 19]

State of Tennessee Montgomery County: Before Jeremiah P. Bellamy Esquire one of the justices of the peace for said County Personally appeared James Baggett¹ now in the seventy seventh year of his age and being first duly sworn saith on or about the first of October 1775 he was acquainted with Morgan Brown who then entered as Sergeant in third Regiment of South Carolina Commanded by Colonel William Thompson and in the company of Captain Samuel Wise they being mounted man and called the Regiment of Rangers and to the best of his recollection the said Brown served in the said Regiment until the last of the year 1776 when he left said Regiment as this deponent understood being promoted to office in another Regiment.

Sworn to before me the 15th of September 1832

S/ James Baggett

Test: S/ J. P. Bellamy, JP

[fn p. 21]

State of Tennessee Montgomery County: Before Jeremiah P. Bellamy Esquire one of the justices of the peace for said County Personally appeared Peter Houbberd [sic, Peter Hubbard²] now in the 77th year of his age and first being duly sworn saith on or about the first of October 1775 he was acquainted with Morgan Brown who then entered as Sergeant and the third Regiment of South Carolina Commanded by Colonel William Thompson and in the Company of Captain Samuel Wise they being mounted man and called the Regiment of Rangers and to the best of his recollection the said Brown served in said Regiment until the last of the year 1776, when he left said Regiment as this deponent understood being appointed or promoted to an office in another Regiment.

Sworn to before me the 15th day of September 1832

S/ Peter Hubbard

S/ J. P. Bellamy, JP

[fn 28]

Mr. Morgan Brown Jun^r

Sir you are hereby Informed you are, by my Influence [appointed] to the Lieutenancy of my Brothers Company, if you Except [sic, accept] the commission youl [sic, you will] pleas [please] to use Industry to recruit as fast as posable [possible] and gitt [get] a good Serjant [Sergeant] or two if posable you can I shall soon be home I hope

I am Dear Sir your

Humble Servant

S/ Thos. Wade [Thomas Wade]

15th Decr. 1776

¹ [James Baggett S39159](#)

² [Peter Hubbard S31154](#)

M^r. Morgan Brown Jun^r Sir you are hereby Informed
you are, by my Influence to the S^{er}vantant^y of
my Brothers Company, if you, Rec^{ev} the
the Commission you, Pleas to use Ind^{ust}
my to Rec^{ev}te. as fast as possible and
giv^e a good S^{er}vant or two. if possible you
can I shall soon be home I hope
I am Dear Sir yours
Humble Serv^t
Thos Wade
15 Aug 1836

[fn p. 11: on June 22, 1850, in Davidson County Tennessee, Morgan Vance appeared in court and gave testimony that he was well acquainted with the veteran and during his life; that the veteran died on February 23, 1840 in the vicinity of Nashville in Davidson County Tennessee in his place of residence; that the veteran left no wife surviving him; that he left surviving him five children is sold heirs as follows to wit: Elizabeth married to William Thompson (they lived in Davidson County Tennessee); Sarah married to Frederick W. Huling (they lived in Louisiana); Rebecca married to Charles Neal (they lived in Indiana); Morgan W. Brown who is the United States District Judge for the State of Tennessee and lived in Nashville; Catherine S (now deceased having died on December 15, 1849 in Shelby County Tennessee), married to William A. Cook and left surviving her Mary R. , married to Seth Wheatley; , Morgan B. Cook, William S. B. Cook; George W. Cook and Elizabeth Cook who intermarried with Samuel W. Ayres; that the above named Mary R. Wheatley died since the death of her mother on December 23, 1849 leaving the following infant children surviving her: Catharine Wheatley, Arthur Wheatley and Mary Wheatley.]

[fn pp. 44-45 are what appears to be originals of some of the accounts rendered by the veteran when he acted as commissary.]

[fn pp. 49-52 is a letter from the veteran to the pension commissioner addressing objections to his application.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$441.15 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending February 23, 1840 when he died. The services listed are for a Lieutenant and Commissary.]

[Note: Leon Harris points out that there is a very interesting 'reminiscence' attributed to Morgan Brown in which he gives a vivid account of his early life and some of his experiences during the Revolution, specially the first battle of Charleston in the summer of 1776. This account was printed in the October 1859 issue of *Russell's Magazine* posted by Google Books on the Internet at

http://books.google.com/books?id=RFoAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA64&lpg=PA64&dq=%22Our+rifles+were+in+prime+order%22&source=bl&ots=3 CGg7mG L&sig=r0SbPC58McyFURZG98RblI5hCAQ&hl=en&ei=TWYjTZuVLC Pflgfq3JDKCw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CBkQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Our%20rifles%20were%20in%20prime%20order%22&f=false

[viewed 1/4/11]