

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Brown W9745

Transcribed by Will Graves

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the Third Section of the act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836
State of North Carolina, New Hanover County

On this fourth day of April 1839 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County and State above written Mrs. Lucy Brown of the aforesaid County aged 83 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 Colonel Thomas Brown of the County of Bladen North Carolina. Her husband the said Colonel Thomas Brown was appointed in the year 1775 Lieutenant Colonel of Bladen County, and in the month of February 1776 (he being under the command of General Moore) he was at the Battle of Moore's Creek. In a short time after that Battle he was promoted to the command of the Regiment Colonel Lillington being made a General. He was next in service under the command of General Ashe in South Carolina at the period of the attack on that place by Sir Peter Parker; and on his return he continued to serve at Wilmington and occasionally on the Borders of South Carolina until the month of January 1780 when I was married to him in the Town of Wilmington. But a few days after that event Colonel Brown was called with a detachment of his Regiment into service and at a Battle fought at Big Bridge he was severely wounded in the arm which nearly deprived him of its use during his life. That event took place in March 1780. He was confined but a short time and from that period to the final evacuation of Wilmington he was constantly in active service: in protecting the Country from the Enemy then in possession of Wilmington and the Country around. In the early part of the month of June 1781 Colonel Brown was taken prisoner and conducted to Wilmington and there confined until the final evacuation of the place. She will not pretend to particularize or state positively the length of Colonel Brown's active service prior to 1780 when she was married to him although she is well convinced that he was with little intermission in active service from 1776 up to 1780. But after she was married to him in 1780 the month of January, from that period to the close of the war she can speak with great certainty. From the month of January 1780, to the close of the War or I should say until the Enemy left Wilmington, Colonel Brown was in active service until he was taken prisoner in 1781. Up to that period he was never permitted to stay at home but for a few days at a time being constantly out with men protecting the Country from parties of the Enemy from Wilmington.

In conclusion she declares that Colonel Brown's active service from 1780 to the evacuation of Wilmington including the period he was a prisoner of War would amount to more than two years.

She also knows that he was in service after the Battle of Moore's Creek in Wilmington, from the month of February 1776 until the Enemy came into the Cape Fear River in the month of May of that year and after that time he was in South Carolina aiding in the defense of Charleston when visited by Sir Peter Parker, his service in that year was not less than six months. She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Colonel Thomas Brown at her father's house in Wilmington on the 13th day of January 1780 and that her husband the said Colonel Thomas Brown died on the 24th day of November 1814, and that she has remained a widow ever since; as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

S/ Lucy Brown

[Bible record:

Thos Brown Son of George Brown and [illegible name] his Wife was Born the 17th of August 1747

Thos Brown Departed this life November 23rd 1814 aged 68

Lucy Bradley Daughter of Richard Bradley and Elizabeth his Wife was Born Augt. The 21st 1756

Thos Brown and Lucy Bradley was Married the 13th of January 1780.]

[Thomas H. Wright, JP attested the declaration and the annexed Bible record.]

State of North Carolina, New Hanover County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County & State above written Mrs. Eliza Lord residing in the Town of Wilmington N. C. aged 75 years who being first duly sworn according to Law Testifies and says – That her sister Lucy Brown widow of Colonel Thomas Brown was married to him on the 13th of January 1780 at the house of their father in the Town of Wilmington this affiant being present and acting as a Brides Maid. After the marriage of Col. Brown with the sister of this affiant, she as well as her father & family were forced to fly from Wilmington to his House in Bladen County for protection; and where she continued until the final evacuation of Wilmington by the British. She can fully testify to the fact that Colonel Brown was from the first of the year 1780 to the close of the war never at home but for short periods of a few days at a time until his release as a prisoner at the evacuation of the Town. He was constantly in command of troops protecting the country from parties out of Wilmington or from depredations of Tories from the Fayetteville settlement – and she can testify to the hardships and privations of himself & family living as she did with him and participating in them. She well recollects when Colonel Brown was wounded in the arm, which rendered it nearly useless to him the remainder of his life. She has a most distinct recollection of the war. When he was taken prisoner in the month of June 1781 – and to her personal knowledge he remained in confinement until the evacuation of Wilmington by the enemy, and she well recollects his return home.

In conclusion she testifies that to her personal knowledge Colonel Brown was in active service in January 1781 up to the month of June 1781, when he was taken prisoner – and that he remained in confinement at Wilmington until the Enemy finally evacuated the place. She also testifies that her sister Mrs. Lucy Brown now applying for a Pension is the identical person married to Colonel Thomas Brown in 1780, January: 13th and that she is now a widow and has never married since the death of Col. Brown.

Given under my hand the fourth day of April 1839. S/ Eliza Lord

State of North Carolina, New Hanover County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County & State above written, Mrs. Susan Wright who being first duly sworn according to Law testifies and says that she is the sister of Mrs. Lucy Brown now applying for a pension and has a most distinct recollection of her marriage with Colonel Thomas Brown the precise date she is unable to state but from a reference to the family Bible she is fully convinced it took place on the 13th of January 1780. This affiant has a perfect recollection of the period when Colonel Brown was confined as a prisoner at Wilmington, being small she was allowed to approach the Court House in which he was confined and to peep at him through the side of the house.

She fully confirms the statements of her sister Mrs. Lord in relation to the service of Colonel Brown after his marriage with her sister. She is as well convinced from recollection and traditionary evidence that Colonel Brown served the best portion of the War of the Revolution as she can be of any fact whatsoever.

And in conclusion she testifies that her sister is now a widow and has never married since the death of Col. Brown. Given under my hand this third day of April 1839.

S/ Susan Wright

[Mrs. Elizabeth Scott, 83, of Wilmington gave an affidavit relating to the marriage of Brown to Lucy Bradley and the services of Brown. Affidavit given on April 8, 1839 in New Hanover County, NC]

[Mrs. Ann McRee, 73, gave a similar affidavit to that given by Mrs. Scott. Affidavit given April 11, 1839 in New Hanover County.]

[Dr. Armand John DeRosset, 72, gave an affidavit that as a boy he lived a mile from “Big Bridge” where a battle was fought in which Col. Thomas Brown was wounded; that although he was too young to have fought in the Revolution, he knows Col. Brown was wounded at the battle and had a stiff arm from the wound suffered at “Great Bridge.” Affidavit given in New Hanover County, 6th day of April 1839.]

[Mr. Christopher Dudley, age not stated, of Wilmington gave testimony that he knew Col. Brown fought at Moore's Creek and was in service when the British landed at Wilmington in 1776 and in SC thereafter. Dudley states that a regiment of minute men was raised to protect the area around Wilmington from the British and that Col Brown was in that regiment; that in 1781 Brown was wounded at Big Bridge; and Brown taken prisoner and kept in Wilmington. Dudley never says that he (Dudley) served under or with Brown, nor does Dudley state the basis for his assertions of fact about the services of Brown. No one by the name of Christopher Dudley is listed as having filed a pension application based on services in NC. Dudley affidavit was given on April 11th 1839.]

[Note in the file indicates that Lucy Brown, widow, died on Oct. 9, 1843.]

State of North Carolina, Bladen County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County above written Richard Cheshire¹ of the said County aged 80 years who being first duly sworn according to Law testifies and says. That he was born & raised in Bladen County and in the early part of the year 1776 he marched from this County to Fayetteville under command of Colonel Thomas Brown and was near the ground when the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought and joined the troops engaged in the action the next day. This affiant was then in service in and near Wilmington when Governor Martin was in Cape Fear River still under the command of Colonel Brown in these two expeditions this affiant served six months. From that time until 1780 this affiant cannot speak of the service of Colonel Brown although he is well convinced he rendered it. In the year 1780 when the British took possession of Wilmington we were again called into service and from that time until the final evacuation of the place we were constantly in service Colonel Brown was commanding up to the time he was made a Prisoner and confined at Wilmington until the final evacuation of Wilmington in 1782.

Given under my hand this 17th day of April 1839.

S/ Richard Cheshire

State of North Carolina, Bladen County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County above written Mr. James Anders² aged 88 years and a Pensioner of the United States who being first duly sworn according to Law, Testifies and says – That he entered the service in 1776 from Bladen County under the command of Colonel Thomas Brown and marched for Fayetteville and was near the ground on which the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought. He joined the army the day after & was in service under Col. Brown for three months and on his return he was drafted for six months and served three months in and near Wilmington and three months in South Carolina. From that period until the commencement of the year 1780 Colonel Brown was constantly in the active service, but this affiant did not serve under him or with him again until 1780 when the British took possession of Wilmington. This affiant was then called into service and was near the ground when the Battle of Big Bridge was fought and knows that

1 FPA W25403

2 [James Anders S6516](#) FPA 6516

Colonel Brown was wounded on that occasion; from the period when the enemy took possession of Wilmington in January 1780 to the final evacuation of place this affiant was in active service and he can testify that Colonel Brown was in service all that period or I should say until he was taken Prisoner in June of that year and remained confined in Wilmington until the final evacuation of the place.

In conclusion he can testify that Colonel Brown did serve for the space of two years to the knowledge of this affiant, and also that he was married to his widow now applying for a pension at the time he was a Prisoner of War.

Given under my hand this 16th day of April 1839.

S/ James Anders

State of North Carolina, Bladen County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County above written John Darrach³ of the said County aged 81 years who being first duly sworn according to Law testifies and says. That he was drafted in the month of January 1776 and marched from Bladen County in a company commanded by Captain Colvin and the Regiment commanded by Colonel Moore and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown to Fayetteville and at the time the battle of Moore's Creek was fought we were on the opposite side of the River, and joined the Army immediately after the battle was over. In this expedition we were in service for three months and on our return we were in service at Wilmington when the British attempted to land at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and on their sailing for Charleston Colonel Brown who was then the Colonel of the Regiment marched with a detachment of men for that place where we continued from the month of June until the month of November of that year. In the Expedition into South Carolina and the period we were at Wilmington embraced a period of six months, and more. All this service was in 1776 and performed under Col. Brown whose widow is now applying for a Pension. From 1776 until the year 1780 Colonel Brown was in service repeatedly but this affiant was not with him, until that time. In 1780 the British took possession of Wilmington and we were called into service in the month of January of that year and served from that period until the month of June of that year in protecting the Country from the depredations of the Enemy and in the month of March of that year Colonel Brown was in command and was wounded at Big Bridge, and in the month of June he was made a prisoner and confined at Wilmington in January 1782 that is to say up to that time. During all the service up to the time that Colonel Brown was made prisoner he was in command. This affiant can testify that Colonel Brown was married at the time he was a Prisoner of war and that his widow now applying for a Pension is the identical person then married to him. In conclusion this affiant knows that Colonel Brown served much more than he has detailed but as he did not anticipate in it he cannot speak with certainty about it.

Given under my hand this 16th day of April 1839.

S/ John Darrach

State of North Carolina, Bladen County

The affidavit of Captain James Shipman⁴ a Pensioner of the United States taken to prove the Services of Colonel Thomas Brown. This affiant being duly sworn according to Law who testifies and saith as that he entered the service along with Colonel Brown then Lieutenant Colonel of Bladen County and marched to Fayetteville along with Colonel Brown and we were on the opposite side of the River when the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought. From that time to the close of the revolution this affiant can testify that Colonel Brown was nearly all the time in service. This affiant refers to the evidence of his own service now on file in the pension office, and he testifies that Colonel Brown rendered all the service that this affiant did, and which he believes is much less than that rendered by Colonel Brown.

³ FPA S6789

⁴ FPA W17810

In conclusion this affiant is well convinced that Colonel Brown rendered as much & as meritorious service as any man in the state of North Carolina.

Given under my hand this 15th day of April 1839.

S/ James Shipman

State of North Carolina, Bladen County

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County above written the Honorable John Owen of the said County who being first duly sworn according to Law testifies and says. Being on a visit to the State of Mississippi a short time since he was requested by the Widow of Colonel Thomas Brown (Mrs. Lucy Brown) to call on her son residing in that State for any papers in his possession belonging to Colonel Brown which would aid in establishing her right to a Pension for the Services of her husband in the War of the Revolution and I testify that the accompanying paper much mutilated bearing the signature of R. Caswell was from among the papers of Colonel Thomas Brown now in the possession of his son and Executor Thomas Brown now of the State of Mississippi and placed by him in my hands as the commission of his father and I also testify that the said paper has been in my possession up to the present time, and that it has undergone no alteration since it was placed in my hands. In conclusion I can testify that the entry made in the family Bible which is now appended to the Declaration of Mrs. Brown is in the proper handwriting of Colonel Thomas Brown.

Given under my hand this 17th day of April 1839.

S/ Jno Owen

State of North Carolina, County of Bladen

The amended affidavit of John Darrach taken to establish the Revolutionary Services of Colonel Thomas Brown of this County. This affiant being first duly sworn according to Law, Testifies and says. That as stated in his former affidavit he was mustered into service in January 1776 and commanded by Captain Colvin, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown & Col. Robinson. We marched for Fayetteville and served for three months in that section of Country; we returned to Bladen and thence to Wilmington to prevent the place from falling into the hands of Governor Martin we reached Wilmington on the first of April and there Colonel Brown took command as Colonel of the Regiment called minute men we were in service between Wilmington and the mouth of the River from April to June, when we were marched for Georgetown & thence to Charleston SC: where we were discharged on the 15th of July 1776. Colonel Brown remained and commanded a detachment of men who took our places until the 20th of November of that year. I have to say as my old friend Mr. Anders has in his affidavit that I declined to specify the service we rendered under Colonel Brown from the year 1776 to 1780 because it was often during that period for short times; being minute men we were frequently called into service for 10 or 20 days and then discharged: this was very frequently the case; but I have never considered it service such as I could now venture to state or estimate. I have in my former affidavit only Testified to the service I rendered under Colonel Brown for periods of three or more months at a time. In the month of January 1780 the British took possession of Wilmington; and I was called into service under Col. Brown and from the 20th of January in that year to the month of July I was constantly in service under Col. Brown until he was made a Prisoner of War on the first of June of that year. I was with him at Great Bridge when he was wounded in the month of March, and I know that he was confined as a Prisoner of War until the final evacuation of Wilmington in the year 1782.

To the following periods of service rendered by Colonel Brown this affiant can speak with great certainty as he served with him --

1st : He knows that he served three months in the expedition to Fayetteville when the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought.

2^{ndly}: He knows that in the month of April between the first & 10th of the month that he marched to Wilmington and served there until the month of June and then marched through South Carolina where

he remained until the 20th of November of that year.

3rdly: He knows that he served with and under Col. Brown from the 20th of January 1780 to the first of June of that year when he was made a Prisoner of War and confined at Wilmington to the evacuation of the place in the month of January 1782.

S/ John Darrach

State of North Carolina, County of Bladen

The affidavit of James Anders of the said County taken to establish more fully his Knowledge of the Revolutionary services of Colonel Thomas Brown. This affiant being first duly sworn Testifies and says. That he was raised near to Colonel Brown and knew him before and during the Revolution and has continued to live near to him up to his death.

This affiant was first in service at Fayetteville under the command of Colonel Robinson and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown as stated in my former affidavit we were drafted for three months. This service commenced between the first & fifth of January 1776, on our return from the expedition to Moore's Creek we were marched to Wilmington and Colonel Brown took command of the Regiment; we were in service at that place and down the River to its mouth for nearly three months more viz. in the month of June we were marched first to Georgetown and thence to Charleston SC: where we continued for the period of our enlistment which expired on the 15th of July. We were then suffered to return home; but Colonel Brown remained with the men who took our places, and remained in South Carolina until about the 20th or 25th of November. In my former affidavit I have said that from the close of this service in 1776 up to the year 1780 that I did not serve with Colonel Brown nor could I specify the service he rendered the reason is that we were minute men and called out upon short warning and were repeatedly called out for short periods of 10 & 20 days some times longer and sometimes shorter and at this distant period of time I cannot venture to state with precision the commencement or termination of these short periods of service. They were I well know frequent and in some of them I was serving; for instance I was with Colonel Brown when he fought the Tories at the Town of Elizabeth and killed and took a number of them; but in this expedition we were out but a few days. But on the return of the British to Cape Fear and their taking possession of Wilmington in January 1780 we were all called into Service and continued to serve near Wilmington up to the month of July of that year. Between those periods viz in March Colonel Brown was wounded at Big Bridge and was taken a Prisoner of war between the first and fifth of June of that year and confined in the Court House at Wilmington until the Enemy evacuated the place on the first of January 1782.

To the following periods of service and facts connected with it I have the clearest recollection and knowledge of as I served all of it with Colonel Brown. First I know that Colonel Brown was in service when the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought for three months. Secondly he was in service from the first of April 1776 for nearly 3 months in and near Wilmington and the balance of the time he served at Charleston until we were discharged on the 15th of July at that place, and thirdly I know that Colonel Brown remained at Charleston until the 20th or 25th of November in the same year.

Fourthly I know that Colonel Brown was in active service in and near Wilmington from the 20th of January 1780 up to the first of June when he was taken a Prisoner in a skirmish and from that period to the final evacuation of Wilmington in January 1782 he remained in close confinement as a Prisoner of War. That Col. Brown rendered much more service than is here detailed this affiant is convinced of but as his memory does not serve him to state it he declines to do so, But in relation to the service here specified he knows he rendered it. In the expedition to Moore's Creek I was under the command of Captain James Anderson; and the balance of the service was under Captain James Shipman. Witness my hand seventh day of June 1839.

S/ James Anders

State of North Carolina, County of Bladen

The amended affidavit of Captain James Shipman taken to prove the Revolutionary services of Colonel Thomas Brown. This affiant being first duly sworn according to Law, Testifies and says. That in his former affidavit he referred to the evidence now on file upon which he was granted a Pension; his reason for it was that he did not like to speak of transactions of such long standing in the absence of memorandums to refresh his memory-- for fear that his recollection he now should be in conflict with those papers. But as he is informed that it is necessary that he should speak separately the service rendered by Colonel Brown he will proceed to do so to the best of his utility. I entered the service as a volunteer in January 1776 and marched to Fayetteville under the command of Captain Colvin and was near the ground when the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought. We were in service on that expedition for three months, and on the first of April of the same year we marched down to Wilmington and Colonel Thomas Brown who was Lieutenant Colonel at Fayetteville was then made the Colonel of the Regiment in the place of Colonel Robinson and we were then drafted as minute men to serve for six months; I was then commissioned as a Captain and served under Col. Brown for three months from the first of April 1776 in and near Wilmington; and, then marched to Georgetown and thence to Charleston South Carolina where I served with Colonel Brown until the last of November as well as I now recollect the 25th of the month. From the conclusion of that service to the year 1780 the Regiment was out in various expeditions sometimes for short and sometimes for longer periods of Service; but at this time it is out of my power to state them. In the month of January 1780 we were called into service to protect the Country from the Enemy then in possession of Wilmington and I can testify that from the middle of January 1780 up to the first of June 1780 I served under the command of Colonel Thomas Brown as a Captain and at that time he was made a Prisoner of War and confined to the Court House at Wilmington until the evacuation of the place in 1782. I feel well satisfied that I rendered much more service under Col. Brown than is here recited but I cannot trust my memory for a detail of it.

Given under my hand this eighth day of June 1839.

S/ James Shipman