

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Brown R1281

NC or PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Illinois Jackson County. Ss.

On this fifth day of May A.D. 1851 personally appeared in Open Court before the County Court of said Jackson County State of Illinois now sitting, John Brown, aged Forty six years a resident of Jackson County State of Illinois Benjamin F. Brown, aged forty nine years, Joshua B. Brown aged fifty three years, both residents of Perry County State of Illinois, and Vilet Steel aged fifty seven years a resident of Randolph County in said State, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on their oaths make the following declaration for the purpose or in Order to obtain the areers of unclaimed pension to which their Father, Benjamin Brown was entitled at the time of his death by the provisions of the act of Congress passed May 15th 1828, and acts passed subsequently and prior thereto granting pensions to Officers and Soldiers who served in the war of the Revolution.

That they with Samuel Brown who is a Citizen of the State of Missouri (They informed the the said Samuel Brown of their intention to make this application and he said do so. he could not be here, The said Elizabeth they have not had any direct information from for the space of one year past.) are the only Children and heirs at law of said Benjamin Brown deceased. They say that their Father, Benjamin Brown was a Soldier in the war of the Revolution for more then seven years that he entered the service some time in the year 1784 [sic] in the State of North Carolina or Pennsylvania and was most of the time in the Southern division of the Army [see endnote]. He entered the service as an Ensign in the third Regiment of Infantry, and was soon afterwards promoted to the Office of Captain of the Company to which he belong, and continued in command as Captain until the close of the war [November 1783]. He was several times a prisonr of war, was in the battles of Sullivans Island [28 Jun 1776], Charlestown [siege of Charleston, spring 1780], Cowpens [17 Jun 1781], Utau Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781], Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], Savanah [sic: siege of Savannah, [24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779], and several others and last of all was at the taking of Cornwallis [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781], and was shortly after discharged. The said Benjamin Brown died in the County of Perry in the State of Illinois on the 10th day of January A.D. 1829 and left no widow surving him. they have no documentary evidence of the facts, neither do they know of any person living by whom they can prove his said service. That he was under different Cols. Sumter [Thomas Sumter of South Carolina], was the name, of one, he was under Generals [Horatio] Gates, [Nathanael] Greene, and Washington and some others. He never made any application to the Government for a pension during his lifetime, to their knowledge. They make their application in Jackson County for the reason that one of them lives in said County of Jackson and it was more convenient for them to got there than any other place.

John hisXmark Brown

Benjamin F hisXmark Brown

Joshua B hisXmark Brown

Vilet herXmark Steele

NOTES:

Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution* does not show an officer named Benjamin Brown in the Continental line of either Pennsylvania or North Carolina. Brown may have served as a militia officer. No Pennsylvania troops joined the Southern Department until 1782, so it is more likely that Brown was with the North Carolina forces. J. D. Lewis does not list a Captain named Benjamin Brown from North Carolina (http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_captains.html). If Brown was at the siege of Charleston he would have been either taken prisoner or paroled, making it unlikely that he was at the battles of Cowpens or Guilford Courthouse. North Carolina troops were not at the siege of Yorktown.

The applicants' claim was rejected for the following reason: "They are mistaken in supposing their father served to the end of the war. We have complete returns of all the officers & men who served and his name is not found among those who returned from Pennsylvania or North Carolina."