

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Brightberry Brown R1282

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Because the handwriting is poor, this transcript should be used with more than usual caution.]

Virginia Albemarle County towit:

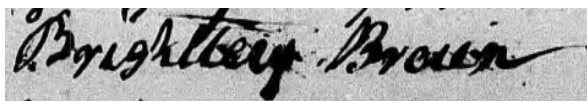
On this 19th day of January in the year 1846 personally appeared before us justices of the peace in and for said County Brightberry Brown a resident of our said County and State aforesaid aged eighty four years next 13th day of February who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States and served in the Virginia militia as follows being three tours of three months each: That as well as he can recollect and his memory is quite accurate he was drafted about the first of October in the in the year 1780 for a tour in the militia & marched in the lower Country – that said first draft was drawn as well as he can remember at Charlottesville [sic: Charlottesville] in the said County of Albemarle on the date above and he remembers the call for men for that first tour was made by one Captain William Dalton of said County under whom he served the said tour as private in the lower Country: that of said first tour he distinctly remembers one of his acquaintances Robert Rodes was the Lieutenant and that said Robert Rodes lived not far from where he the said applicant resided at the time of his revolutionary services – being in a neighborhood in said County of Albemarle called & known by the appellation of “Browns Cove.”

That said company after getting ready marched through the Southern part of Albemarle, through Louisa, Hanover, Henrico and and other counties on their way down the names of which he has forgotten if he ever knew, that he remembers however passing through the counties above named – as also through the County of Goochland. That during said tour under Captain William Dalton his company was not in any engagement & that he has no recollection whatever of his company being attached to any portion of the regular army – that at various times and at different places during said first tour under Captain Dalton his company was associated with and he thinks attached to other militia regiments but he forgets their number and does not think he ever knew the officer in general command. That nothing of a remarkable character occurred during said first tour under Captain Dalton – he however does remember that toward the close of said first tour and whilst his company were coming homeward the soldiers being without any provisions killed a fine young steer for themselves which was cooked and divided out among them – that said steer was the property of one Colonel Randolph [probably Beverley Randolph of Turkey Island in Chesterfield County] as he heard at the time and that Randolph in the morning complained heavily of the conduct of the soldiers – that said act was committed as he always believed under the most justifiable circumstances and never thought it a dishonorable act. That said Col. Randolph lived on James River but he cannot positively say in what County said occurrence took place – it was however after his company had taken up their line of march toward home. That during said first tour his company marched & and were stationed at various places in the lower Country and he remembers that early in said tour his company was carried to a place in lower Virginia called “Cabin Point” [on James River in Surry County] that he was stationed there with his company for some time but does not remember with accuracy how long – it was something like two or three weeks perhaps – that he does not know in what county said Cabin Point is located and is positive it is somewhere in the lower Country below [sic] old James Town. That his company after leaving Cabin Point was quartered at various places in and about Williamsburg and were also marched to James Town – during the latter part of said tour – That his company was at other places during said first tour but he has forgotten the names by which they were then known; that whilst in the lower Country about “Cabin Point” the time for which said company had been raised expired and he together with his associates came on home together – That one John

Miller also came home with him to the said County of Albemarle and remembers that he stopped at the said Millers father before reaching his own home – that he reached home a short time after the Christmas of 1780 and had not been at home more than a week before he was again drafted for another tour of three months in the militia which he served in the lower country in and about Williamsburg that said call was made from the best of his memory early in the month of January in the year 1781 seventeen hundred and eighty one and was called out by one Captain John Henderson of said County of Albemarle & he [one or two illegible words] remembers that one John Mills whom he knew well before and after the war was the Lieutenant of said Company under Henderson – that all hands got ready and marched from Charlottesville to Louisa Court House and there remained a week or so for several companies being raised from said County of Louisa that after getting ready at that place the combined forces were marched to Williamsburg and took up quarters at that place and he understood at this time it was the head quarters of the forces in Virginia for there were a great many at that place – That his company was stationed at Williamsburg two or three weeks and were then marched lower down in Virginia to Norfolk in expectation of the enemy there in parties doing damages to the inhabitants in the country thereabout – that during their excursions his company reached Norfolk and were stationed at that place a few days and that in going to Norfolk his company passed over various counties between that place and Williamsburg the names of which he did not enquire for and cannot give – That from Norfolk his company marched to a place called Hampton on or near the Bay at which place his company were stationed for a week or such a matter to the best of his recollection – that whilst stationed at Hampton his company were ordered out to witness the execution of a deserter convicted under sentence of court martial and that it was to him a horrible sight – that six guns were fired at the same time and the body was then thrown into a hole and covered up: that he never heard the name of this deserter and remembers it had a wonderful effect on the soldiers for afterwards although half clothed and half fed they submitted without any complaint; that during said tour under Henderson his company were stationed at “Mobin Hills” [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] – and “Savage field” in the lower country and at one time marched up to where Richmond now stands [and then stood] – that at that time a great deal was said of the probability of the whole British force coming into Virginia and in consequence thereof great fears were entertained in camp. That during said tour under Henderson his company was not in any battle and as before nothing of a very remarkable character occurred that during said second tour of three months his company suffered a great deal from the severity of the winter weather – that the greater portion of said tour was extremely disagreeable and it is impossible to give any accurate description of the suffering of the soldiers. That he remembers to have heard Cap. Henderson say during their stay at Mobin Hills that he should march his men home unless in three or four days the weather moderated. That the Lieutenant of his Company John Mills was an acquaintance of his and were raised not far apart – and that at no period of said second tour was his company attached to the regular army – But his company was not a day however separated from other militia companies and at time their were associated with his company a great many other militia companies which he cannot designate by reference to the names of their officers for he had no acquaintance with any but his own – that the time for which Cap. Henderson had raised said Company expired in the lower Country and himself and associates came on home to Albemarle County – and that he had not been at long long [sic] before another call for men was made by Captain Isaac Davis [pension application S15799] and he again was drafted for another tour in the militia under the said Isaac Davis – that said company from the best of his recollection marched for the lower County sometime in the month of May 1781 and that his company marched nearly over the same ground as before and went to Mobin Hills below Richmond where they were stationed for sometime he cannot and does not say positively how long – but that his opinion is it was over 4 weeks – that his former Lieutenant Robert Rodes was again Lieutenant in said Davis company which he remembers very distinctly – that whilst stationed in the lower Country Lafayettes men passed and his company together with others retreated back as far as Orange County to keep out of the way of

the enemy. That there was no battle during that tour under Captain Davis and his company had no connexion with the regulars that he knows of – and he remembers to have seen a man hung whilst under Cap Davis for braking open a meat House as was said at that time and generally believed – that the unfortunate being was a private in some of the militia companies associated with his own but does not know what his name was or to which company he belonged – that said Captain Isaac Davis was the father Cap. Thomas Thomas [sic] representative from Orange and Greene Counties adjoining Albemarle County. that in said Company he was a private but that he had not been in the lower Country more than two weeks before the office of Sergeant Major was vacated by Major Estis and that he was promoted to that office which he held in Cap. Davis company till the tour expired – Major Estis was advanced in years and his age at the time made it optional with Law to hold the office or not as he might choose – he resolved to go home and the appointing officer directed him to select the most suitable person he could from the ranks for the vacancy and that the said Major Estis chose him the aforesaid Brightberry Brown which office of Sergeant Major he held till the tour expired for which the men were raised. That from said tour he received no written discharge & has no recollection of ever asking one from either of his tours in the war – That said tour expired at or near Mobin Hills in lower Virginia & he came on home with others to Albemarle County Virginia where he at present resides that many circumstances occurred during said tours useless here to mention.

That his reasons for delaying in this application are herewith set forth under oath and 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 whatever.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brightberry Brown". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid – before us the said justices.

Thomas R. Dunn          Chapman W. Maupin/   T. H. Brown          Charles Brown

[Certified by John Gibson, clergyman, and Benjamin T. Brown.]

On this 19th day of January 1846 personally appeared before us justices of the Peace for the County of Albemarle in the State of Virginia Mr. Brightberry Brown an applicant for a Pension under Act of June 1832 and upon examination doth in solemn form give the annexed answers to the following questions propounded to him by us the said Justices.

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

Answer. I was born in Albemarle County Virginia in the neighborhood where I at present reside on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord 1762.

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

Answer. Yes I have always had a record of my age and the same is herewith enclosed attached to my affidavit being a leaf from my family Bible and is in my handwriting – and the entries below my birth are the births of my eight children – being Milley, William, Edmund, Brightbery, Nimrod, Clifton, Suca and Horace.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live.

Answer. At the time of my services in the war of the Revolution I was a resident of Albemarle County and within a few miles of where I now live – and since the war I have continued to live in the said County of Albemarle County in the State of Virginia at my present residence

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom.

Answer. I was a drafted soldier in all my tours in the war and was never a substitute for any one

during either my three tours.

Question 5". State the names of some of the 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.

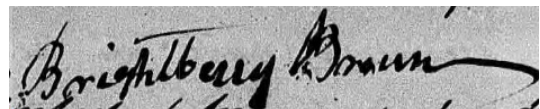
Answer. During my first tour our troops were not associated with any of the Regular army and I therefore cannot give the names of any of the regular officers. Their were with our company various militia regiments during the first tour but being a private only I had but little opportunity of forming acquaintances out of my own company and from the long lapse of time cannot refer to any particular regiment of militia men who were with us. I well know however that there were with us various regiments and also at different times whilst stationed on James River and in the lower Country below old James Town. Nor were we attached to any portion of the Regular army during my second tour in the militia – during our last tour I remember that whilst stationed at Mobin Hills General Lafayette's company [sic] passed by – and our company followed his as far up the Country as Orange County to keep out of the way of the enemy then in pursuit of us as I leand at the time. During said second tour in the militia I remember the soldier suffered a great deal for want of provision and on one occasion in the lower country I gave a negro \$50 in continental money for a cake of bread baked in the ashes. This was whilst we were stationed in the lower country about Williamsburg – according to the best of my memory. Of my associates in arms during my tours in the war I remember very well John Mullen, Peter Massie, Daniel Maupin (elder) [pension application S5733] and Cuff Daniel Maupin, Isaac Davis, James Lewis and others all of whom are now dead and I have no recollection at this time of any of my associates being alive who were with me in service.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer. I never received from either of my tours a discharge from the service and do not remember to have ever called for one – others may have received written discharges but I have no knowledge of any thing of the kind and think my officers discharged their men verbally.

Question 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.

Answer. I have lived in my present neighborhood ever since my infancy and all my neighbors without any exception old & young can speak of my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. I refer to Rev'd. John Gibson whom I have known for 40 years and Chapman W. Maupin Esq'r. whom I have also known for more than 40 years and Doc'r. Chas. Brown whom I have known for near 60 years and to Thomas H. Brown Esq'r. whom I have known for over 50 years as also Tarleton Brown [Tarlton Brown] whom I have known for about same length of time all of whom can speak of my character for veracity and their belief of my revolutionary services. I also refer the Department to Valentine W. Southall of of Charlottesville whom I have known for 20 years past.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brightberry Brown". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Chapman W. Maupin and Charles Brown stated that Brightberry Brown had been a member of the Methodist Church for over 60 years.]

Virginia: At a Court held for Albemarle County the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 1852.

The Court, doth certify, on the motion of Horace Brown executor of Brightberry Brown deceased, late of the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia, the following facts were satisfactorily established by the oaths of Thomas H Brown and Michael Sandridge, two credible and disinterested witnesses, that the said Brightberry Brown was said to be, whom the witnesses believe to have been, a revolutionary soldier or officer, that in his life time he applied for a pension as such but that the application was never granted in his lifetime, and has never been allowed since his death. That the said Brightberry Brown died on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 1846 at his residence in the County of Albemarle and State aforesaid, leaving the following children and heirs at law surviving him to wit – Horace Brown, who is his executor, Clifton Brown, William Brown, Edmund Brown, Brightberry Brown, Amanda Brown, who intermarried with George Brown.

NOTES:

Brown stated that the reason for not applying earlier for a pension was that he thought the act of 1832 applied only to Continental soldiers. His claim was denied because the declaration was not made in open court, and there was no testimony from persons who served with him or who were in a position to know of his service. In the file is a newspaper obituary for both Brown and James Dunn (pension application S8359) from the northern part of Albemarle County apparently submitted as a rebuke to the Pension Office for doubting Brown's service. The file contains several testimonials to Brown's character, including one dated 19 Jan 1846 by Dr. Charles Brown, age 70.

Brown's original family record is transcribed below.

Sarah Brown my mother born January 1724.

Brightberry Brown the elder Born February 13<sup>th</sup> 1762

Suca Brown Born June the 21<sup>st</sup> 1766

Milley Brown was born November the 7<sup>th</sup> 1788.

William Brown was Born August the 1<sup>st</sup> 1790.

Edmund Brown was born April the 7<sup>th</sup> 1792

Brightberry Brown was Born Nov'm 17<sup>th</sup> 1794

Nimrod Brown was born April the 5<sup>th</sup> 1797

Clifton Brown was born August the 6<sup>th</sup> 1799

Suca T. Brown was born Sept. the 17<sup>th</sup> 1803

Horace Brown was born April the 14<sup>th</sup> 1807

Suca T. Brown Daughter of Brighton & Suca Dec'd August the 14<sup>th</sup> 1805

Amanda Brown born January the 16<sup>th</sup> 1809

Brightberry Brown & Suca his wife was Married Jan'y 10<sup>th</sup> 1788

Milley Brown & Thomas H Brown Married Oct'r. 1<sup>st</sup> 1807. The latter born April 16<sup>th</sup> 1785

Horace Brown & Lucy E. his wife married Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1833 The latter born May 6<sup>th</sup> 1814