

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of David Bruce SC2525

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/18/20

Posted online by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History at

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/> and indexed under the papers of Governor John Rutledge

Archives ID: Series: S165015 Year: 1783 Item: 00063 ignore: 000

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

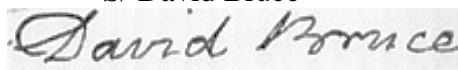
To the Honorable the President and Members of the Honorable the Senate for the State of South Carolina

The Humble Petition of David Bruce of Charles=Town Printer

Sheweth

That your Petitioner has resided Twenty four Years in Charles Town, and during that period has maintained a fair and honest Character. That he never took up Arms against the Cause of America, or received any Post, pension or Commission from the British, on the Contrary that he has been greatly distressed in his Circumstances which the Surrender of Charles Town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] to them, owing to his being an old Inhabitant and having been the Printer of a Pamphlet called Common Sense and sundry other Publications in favor of America, which he cheerfully executed though many of them did not defray the Expense of Printing, that your Petitioner printed most of the Acts of the Assembly and many other necessary Matters for the State till the Departure of Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] which was almost constant Labor for Two years and a great Expense in Paper &c for which he never received the lease Emolument, or ever was employed by the British in the Way of his Business for the above reasons. That application was made to your Petitioner to go to St. Augustine and if he would carry his Types with him a handsome Salary would be allowed from the Assembly there: which Offer your Petitioner positively refused, and receiving Two or three Letters, from a Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Child, Printers, then at Ashley Ferry, acquainting him that if he would remain with his Types in Charles Town and choose either to be Concerned or dispose of them, that they had his Excellency Governor Matthews' [John Mathews'] promise that no advantage should be taken and a generous price given if he should dispose of them, this added to the fixed good opinion he always entertained of the People of this State and not conscious of his having Committed any Crime, emboldened him to remain and put himself on your Honors Mercy, hoping they will determine so favorably in his Case as to restore him again to the enjoyment of his property and the privileges of a Citizen, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray

S/ David Bruce



28 January 1783

He at the desire of Colonel H Laurence [sic Henry Laurens] and General Gadsden [Christopher Gadsden] Printed at his own Expense a large Pamphlet in favor of America, called Common Sense with Several other Publications all intended for the good of America and which is well known had the desired Effect.

He was employed for almost two years in Printing the Acts of Assembly, Proclamations &c until the Fall of Charlestown in May 1780, to which period he always conducted himself as a peaceable, quiet Citizen, and Friend to America. After the reduction of the Town he was much Censored by the British for being the Printer of the Pamphlet called Common Sense &c insofar as they never employed him in the way of his Business during their Stay here on that Account. And the only Crime that was or can be produced against him, was the Signing of General Clintons [Henry Clinton's] Address for which he was put upon the List of Confiscation, and 5 Negroes which was all he had, were Sold by the Commissioners and himself sent to Goal [jail] where he Died.

S/ Robert Bruce

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robt Bruce". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Charleston
18th February 1784

“Tuesday morning 13th of March 1783

Died Mr. David Bruce Printer in the 52nd year of his Age, 24 of which he resided in Charlestown, his sudden death is much regretted by a Numerous Acquaintance as an inoffensive and truly honest Man. The next Evening his remains were interred in St. Michael's Church yard, followed by a Number of respectable Inhabitants.”