

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Browning R1357 Margaret fn75NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/11/10

[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 North Carolina Orange County

On this the 31st day of August 1838, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid at his own residence, he being too infirm to attend Court to make this Declaration, William Browning, a resident of the aforesaid County aged eighty years, who being first duly qualified according to law maketh on oath the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832:

This Deponent in the first place stated that from old age & bodily infirmity he cannot attend Court to make this Declaration.

That he entered the Service of the United States on or about the 15th day of June 1781, when there was a draft for three months militia to guard the public Jail in the Town of Hillsboro when this applicant volunteered and as private of militia entered the United States Service, and was attached to a Company of Militia (Infantry) of which Simmons was Captain and ___ Lieutenant, Colonel William Lytle was our Superior Officer.

We were ordered to guard the public Jail in the Town of Hillsboro, and entered upon that duty at the date above mentioned, and was engaged in that duty till about the second week in September following, when Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] surprised and captured said Town the precise date this Deponent does not know, but remembers that his three months tour of duty, wanted but a few days of being completed. This Declarant with the other troops in said Town were carried off as prisoners to the Town of Wilmington, in this State, there kept in confinement by the enemy till the 24th day of December following, "Christmas Eve" – when this Declarant was paroled and returned home, being in all six months & ten days from the time he first entered the service, till he was paroled and returned, home.

That he was born in the year 1758, he understands, in Orange but that he has no record of his age.

That he was living in this County in the war of the Revolution and has lived there ever since –

That when he entered the Service he volunteered

That he knew Colonel Mebane, Colonel William Lytle, Captain John Clendennin, General Butler, Colonel Taylor, Colonel Farmer & others.

That he never received a discharge, having been made prisoner before the expiration of

his tour of duty.

That he was released from imprisonment by parole.

That he is acquainted in his neighborhood with William Pratt Esquire, James Pratt and others –

That he made an effort to get proof of his revolutionary Services about three years ago, but he could not then find any person that can testify to his Services, therefore deferred it till recently when he learned that James Pratt and Anna Scarlet were knowing to his Services and to his being made prisoner by the enemy in September, 1781.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ W. N. Pratt, JP

S/ William Browning, X his mark

[fn p. 21: on August 31, 1838 in Orange County North Carolina, James Pratt, 77, gave testimony that he has known William Browning since their boyhood; that he has always understood and believes that William was a private in the militia, captured at the town of Hillsboro in the fall of 1781, taken to Wilmington as a prisoner and paroled on Christmas Eve; and that William Browning was reputed a good Whig during the revolution.]

[fn p. 22: On September 12, 1838 in Orange County North Carolina, Anne Scarlet, 77, gave testimony that she has been intimately acquainted with William Browning since her earliest recollection; that she well remembers that sometime in the summer of the year she thinks 1781 he was a soldier in the US service; employed in guarding the town of Hillsboro, taken prisoner by Colonel Fanning, taken to Wilmington and kept some time as a prisoner and returned home. She also states that she heard her deceased husband Thomas Scarlet say that he saw said William Browning in the United States service during the revolution.]

[fn p. 54]

State of him Carolina Orange County

This day personally appeared before me, Thomas Jones, one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County, Barnabas Lashley¹ of said County, a United States pensioner who being first duly sworn according to law deposed & saith as follows: to wit – That in the fall of the year 1781, this affiant was in the United States service as private of Infantry, and was with others engaged in Guarding the Town of Hillsborough in said County; and while so employed the said Town was surprised and captured by Colonel Fanning: this deponent with all the other troops in Town, was made prisoners; he was paroled by the enemy however, before they reached the Town of Wilmington & he returned home.

The affiant further state if upon his said oath that William Browning of the aforesaid County was a private Soldier in the United States Service, at the same time, employed in Guarding said Town of Hillsboro. Browning was a private in Captain Simmons Company, was also made prisoner with us, & taken as this deponent understood to Wilmington, & was not released from his captivity until the Christmas following and further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed this the 8th day of March, 1841 before me

S/ Thomas Jones, JP

S/ Barnabas Lashley, X his mark

¹ [Barnabus \(Barney\) Lashley S8819](#)

State of North Carolina, Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that William Browning a private Soldier in Captain Taylor's Company of the 10th Regiment, entered the service on the __ day of __ 17__ for the term of 3 years. Mustered January 1779 promoted to Sergeant in April 1779.

Given under my hand this 16th day of April 1849

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

Abraham Shaperd was Colonel of the 10th Regiment. –

[fn p. 9: on May 28, 1849, in Orange County North Carolina, Margaret Browning, 77, applied for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of William Browning; that their marriage took place prior to the 2nd of January 1800; that her husband died April 8, 1840.]

[fn p. 7: on October 3, 1849 in Orange County North Carolina, John Piper gave testimony that he was present when William Browning married Margaret Rhodes; that the marriage took place prior to the year 1800, he thinks in the year 1798.]

[fn p. 19: On October 22, 1849 in Orange County North Carolina, Mrs. Jennet McCauley, whose maiden name was Jennet Blackwood gave testimony that she was married to John McCauley on April 12, 1798 and that Margaret Rhodes married William Browning in the same year.]

[fn p. 44: copy of a marriage bond dated April 12, 1798, issued in Orange County to John McCauley & William Blackwood issued to secure the marriage of John McCauley to Jennet Blackwood.]