

American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Josiah Brandon W335
Transcribed by Will Graves

Rachel fn131NC
rev'd 9/29/10

[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 Tennessee, County of Lincoln

On this the 16th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Abram Steed, William Edminson and Samuel Buchanan, the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting, Josiah Brandon, a resident citizen of the County of Lincoln and State of Tennessee aged about seventy-two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th, 1832.

I entered the service of the United States in the fall of the year 1776 or 1777, the precise time not recollected, as a volunteer under Captain Samuel Davidson of Burke County North Carolina for a three months tour of service. We were marched to the frontiers and built a Fort for the protection of that part of North Carolina. The Fort is in the limits of what is now Burke County North Carolina. We then called the place Fort Royal, now known in North Carolina by the name Old Fort at which place there is now a post office called Old Fort Post Office. At the expiration of my term of service I was discharged by Captain Davidson which has been mislaid or lost but have no recollection how or when. I enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Davidson at Davidson's Fort in Burke County North Carolina. I was then a resident of Burke County and so remained until after the close of the war.

A short time after I was discharged by Captain Davidson, I again entered or volunteered but which at this time I am unable to say. This was as well as I now recollect in the spring of 1778 under Captain Samuel Davidson had Old Fort who was still in command of the Fort which was kept garrisoned for the protection of the settlements against the Cherokee Indians. I remained during this engagement in the service of the United States, at this post under the command of Captain Davidson for upwards of twelve months, but how much longer I cannot recollect. I was discharged, if I am not mistaken, in the spring of 1779 by Captain Davidson at Old Fort. At this time I am unable to say whether Captain Davidson was a militia or regular officer. He commanded the Fort from its erection until I received my second discharge date term not less than 15 months. Shortly after this time he was relieved by Captain Cunningham

In the fall of the same year that I was discharged by Captain Davidson (1779), I volunteered as a Ranger under Captain Cunningham for a term of three months. I am certain of that length of time but am inclined to believe it was longer. He succeeded Captain Davidson in command at Old Fort at which place we first rendezvoused. From that place we were immediately marched in pursuit of the Indians. We crossed over the Blue Ridge and down the Swannanoa [River] to French Broad [River] and back to Old Fort. On this expedition we had no general engagement with the Indians. After our return a part of the company was constantly kept on partisan or ranging duty while the balance was at the Fort.

Captain Cunningham was the senior officer at this station until I was discharged but now have no recollection whether I received a written discharge or not.

In the winter of 1779, I again joined Captain Boykin's company of light Horse for the purpose of pursuing a certain Captain Cunningham who commanded a company of British and Tories in the edge of South Carolina. We took up the line of march from Brown's station, Burke County for South Carolina where we were joined on Tyger River by the command of Captain's Roebuck & Casey's Dragoons. We made immediate march for Cunningham and drove him into the British garrison at 96 where a large British force then lay. We remained in that section of the country until our term of service expired. We were then discharged and returned to our homes in Burke County, North Carolina.

The March following our campaign into South Carolina under Captain Boykin, I joined Major McDowell's Militia Corps from Burke County. He was reinforced by the command of Major Singleton from Rutherford County North Carolina. We took up the line of march for the Cherokee Nation by the way of Old Fort. We burned and destroyed several Indian towns, Stecoa [?] and the names of others not recollected. After driving the Indians back and quieting the frontiers, we returned home after an absence of some 20 or 30 days for this service I never received a written discharge.

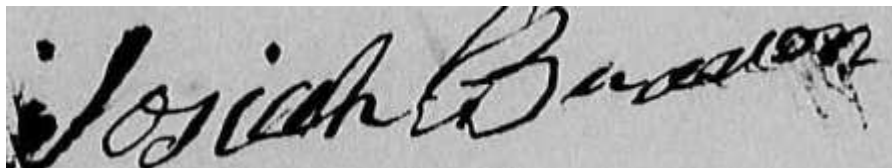
Early in the fall of the same year (1780) the Indians made on another attack upon our settlement near Old Fort and among the number who fell victims was John Davidson and his family who were butchered in the most brutal and savage manner; to quell this invasion, I again attached myself to the command of Captain Walker for three months, as a corps of spies or Rangers. During this term of service we were on duty in small detachments while the balance of the company remained at the garrison on duty. About this time or shortly after, if I am not mistaken, Cornwallis surrendered at Little York which in great degree gave peace to our frontiers. I received a discharge from Captain Walker for a three months tour of duty but that with all the other documentary or written evidence has been lost or mislaid so that I cannot use them in this application

From the foregoing declaration it will be perceived that I was in the service upwards of two years at various times. The particular length of each tour and the precise date of my service I cannot pretend to vouch for them correctly. I am now old: 72 years of age with a frail memory and have forgotten many of the pertinent events of those days and very many only remain as a dream. I have no documentary evidence of my service and will rely on this statement of ____ whose affidavits are hereunto annexed as corroborating what I have set forth in my declaration. This is all the proof I am able to adduce in support of my claim for a pension!!!

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Josiah Brandon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josiah Brandon". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

[Elijah Brazen [could be Brazier, or Brazin], a clergyman, and John Baker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 10]

Explanatory Notes

State of Tennessee Lincoln County: May the 15th 1833

This day personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the Peace for the County of Lincoln & State of Tennessee Josiah Brandon who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that he answers the seven Interrogatories prescribed by the war Department but as he has since learned they were not inserted in

his declaration at least the Nos. 1, 2 & 7 were not

In answer to the 1st I state I was born on the 26th day of June 1761.

2nd Interrogatory. I have a record of my age which is my family Bible taken from my Father's family record which is now in my possession and from which I have made the foregoing statement.

7th Interrogatory. I again state that I am well acquainted with the Reverend Elijah Brazier & John Baker who have already testified to the foregoing declaration I am known in my neighborhood to Colonel William Moore, Colonel Isaac Holmoir [?], Isaac Bailey, ? Bright, Esqr. with many others & whose testimony he can be procured if necessary.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written.

S/ Robt. S. Holmes, JP

S/ Josiah Brandon

[fn p. 18]

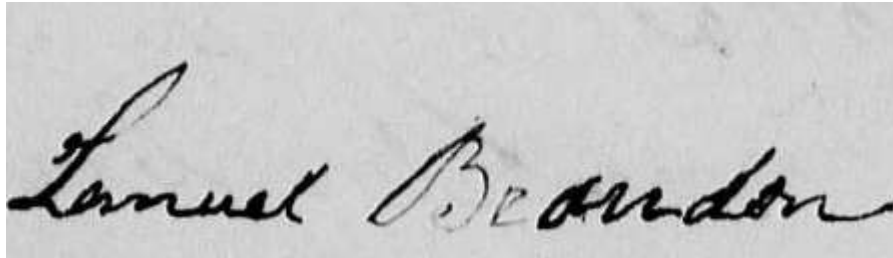
State of Tennessee Franklin County

On this 14th of July 1835 personally appeared before me Andrew Mann an acting Justice of the Peace Lemuel Brandon and states he is a son of Josiah Brandon of Lincoln County, that he was present when Colonel An. Yell was drawing his father's declaration for pension that his father stated to Colonel Yell that three weeks before the battle of Kings Mountain he entered the service of the British after having served a considerable time on the American side, that he was persuaded to do so by his father, he being then between 16 and 18 years old, that he was taken a prisoner at that place and detained about five days when he met with Major or Colonel Joseph McDowell at Burke County North Carolina who knew him and released him and he entered the service of his country in a few days again and continued firm to the cause to the end of the war. Yell said it was not necessary to mention that fact as he did not claim for it. Affiant has heard his father often speak of it with deep regret as and indiscreet act of his youth. He never kept it a secret from any person but said he had always afterwards entered the service of his country whenever a suitable occasion presented itself.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and date above.

S/ Andrew Mann, JP

S/ Lemuel Brandon

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lemuel Brandon". The ink is dark and the paper appears slightly aged.

[fn p. 12: On February 1, 1845, in Lincoln County Tennessee, Rachel Brandon, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Josiah Brandon; that she married him March 8, 1781; that her husband died November 5, 1842; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 20: on October 1, 1844 in McDowell County North Carolina, John Logan gave testimony that he knew Josiah Brandon when he lived in then Burke County now McDowell County; that he knew him before and after he married Rachel Brown; that 2 of their children were married in Burke County before he left and moved to Tennessee.]

[fn p. 23]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day came before me Jesse Burgin one of the acting Justices of the peace – for said County William Morris and after being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God deposed & saith as follows to wit I was well acquainted with Josiah Brandon in the time of the revolutionary war & for some years after. I served a tower of 3 months lacking 11 days

under Major Boykin in the American service in South Carolina & edge of Georgia with Mr. Brandon he was in my mess & we slept together – during the time we was in service Major Boykin gave me a permit to come home. I left Josiah Brandon in the service when I left it. After that Josiah Brandon & myself – served a tower against the Cherokee Indians as horseman under Major Joseph McDowell. I recollect that Major Singleton was out at that time we done considerable service that tower such as killed a number of Indians, destroyed their corn – burned their towns & houses as well as my memory serves me we were out this tower a month. Mr. Brandon during the time we were out together was as brave a soldier as any in the service & I never heard any complaints against him by his officers for any of his company. I understood that Josiah Jonah Brandon served a 3 months tower at the frontier Fort generally called the upper Fort Josiah Brandon at that time lived in this County & for a number of years after but now he lives in Lincoln County Tennessee as I understand & further this deponent saith not.

S/ William Morris¹, X his mark

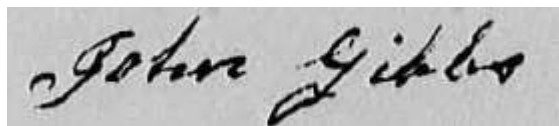
[fn p. 25]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day came John Gibbs Senior² before me & being duly sworn deposed and saith as follows. I was first acquainted with Josiah Brandon in the year 1780 or 1781 I am not certain which I was sent from the station on muddy Creek to the upper or frontier Fort about 14 or 15 miles from the muddy Creek station & continued at the upper Fort 2 weeks & then returned back to the muddy Creek station & Josiah Brandon was then in the American service at the upper Fort. I continued some time at the station on muddy Creek & was sent back to the upper Fort now known by the name of the old Fort & stayed there 2 weeks longer Josiah Brandon was still at the Fort & in service during the time that I was at the upper Fort Josiah Brandon & myself & a number of other man went to the West side of the blue Ridge as spies against the Cherokee Indians & during my acquaintance with Josiah Brandon he stood fair & unimpeached as a soldier. I was acquainted with Josiah Brandon for a number of years after the time he lived in this part of the country he has moved from North Carolina a number of years ago & settled in Lincoln County Tennessee State and I understand & believe & further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed the 5th day of December 1835 before me

S/ Jesse Burgin, JP

S/ John Gibbs

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Gibbs".

[fn p. 47-8: letter dated November 14, 1835, from Huntsville Alabama, from Byrd Brandon in which he refers to Josiah Brandon as his father.]

[fn p. 73]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County: This day personally appeared before me William Gayle an acting Justice of the Peace of said County John Wiseman Esquire and made oath that Josiah Brandon told him that at the Battle of Kings Mountain South Carolina that his father & himself were fighting for the King and his father was killed & he taken prisoner by the Whigs and A long time. Sworn to and subscribed before me September 15th 1835

S/ Wm Gayle, JP

S/ John Wiseman

[fn p. 78]

State of Tennessee Franklin County

¹ [William Morris S7252](#)

² [John Gibbs S8556](#)

Personally appeared before the undersigned one of the acting Justices of the peace for the County and State aforesaid, George Davidson of said County, aged sixty-nine years in the present month of October, who being first duly sworn upon the holy evangelist of Almighty God deposeth & saith

That he has been personally acquainted with Josiah Brandon whose name has been placed on the Pension Roll of Tennessee, under the act of 1832, for many years – that they were schoolboys together, and has known him up to the present time, he was also acquainted with Brandon's family during the Revolutionary war. Mr. Brandon's father and the father of affiant lived in the same neighborhood in the State of North Carolina during the revolution. Affiant states that he understood at the time that the father of Josiah Brandon was killed at the battle of Kings mountain and was then with the British, affiant also understood at the time that Mr. Josiah Brandon, was taken prisoner at the same time, – and that he was afterwards released & returned home. Mr. Josiah Brandon, was then a very young man, under age & under the control of his father –

Affiant further states that after Mr. Josiah Brandon's release and return home, he served a tour of duty under the uncle of affiant Samuel Davidson, who commanded a company at the Old Fort, on the head of Catawba River, in the County of Burke NC against the Indians. Affiant states that it was the general understanding in the neighborhood at that time and up to the present time as far as his information extends that Mr. Josiah Brandon, performed several other tours of duty against the British & Indians and was a good Whig, and an ardent the friend of the American cause: and that no censure was ever imputed to him on account of his having been engaged in the battle of Kings mountain on the side of the British, by any person who was acquainted with the circumstances. Affiant further states, that Josiah Brandon has never denied, nor does he yet deny the fact and as above stated his character never served with in the slightest degree from the above circumstances.

S/ George Davidson

subscribed and sworn to before made this 23rd day of October 1835

S/ John Dougherty, JP

[fn p. 84]

To the Honorable Louis Cass Secretary of the War Department of the United States, and his Successors in Office. The Memorial of Josiah Brandon, of the County of Lincoln, in the State of Tennessee, Respectfully represents into your Honor;

That sometime in the year 1776, as your Memorialist believes, he entered into the Service of the American Colonies, under Captain Samuel Davidson, at a temporary Fort, called Davidson's Fort, in the County of Burke, in the State of North Carolina; from whence the said Davidson, took his forces, marched higher up the Catawba River, and built a Fort, then called the upper Fort but now called the "Old Fort," In this company your Memorialist continued in the service of the said Colonies, to fight against the Cherokee tribe of Indians, for three months, when he was legally and honorably discharged.

In the early part of the succeeding spring of 1777, your Memorialist again entered into the service of the said colonies, under the same Captain Davidson, and was taken to the said upper Fort, and there served another tour of three months against the said Cherokee Indians and, then incidentally [?] entered or continued in the service of the said colonies against the said Cherokee tribe of Indians, under the same officer for two succeeding tours of three months, making in all his (your Memorialist's) service of the said colonies under the said Captain Samuel Davidson the term of twelve months at least.

At the time your Memorialist 1st entered the service of the said Colonies, he was of tender years, some 15 years of age, or thereabouts. Your Memorialist would further represent to your Honor that some time after the termination of the above named service, how long you will Memorialist does not now recollect, he again entered into the service of the said American colonies under a man by the name of Captain George Cunningham, as your Memorialist believes, as a light horse volunteer, under whom your Memorialist continued in the service of the said colonies, at the same upper Fort before

named, and in what was called scouting parties in the Indian Country for 3 months or more, when your memorialist was again Honorably discharged – Your Memorialist never received any other pay for the whole of the above named services but his rations of victuals.

Your Memorialist must respectfully beg leave now to state an additional set of facts and circumstances relative to his Revolutionary career, for which he feels a deep and aluding [?] regret. He however hopes that when the whole truth is disclosed he will not only receive an acquittal at your hands but also a justification in the mind of every good man, [indecipherable word or words] any intentional departure by your Memorialist, from the line of [indecipherable word] patriotism and true love of country. Your Memorialist has the consolation to know that he has never skulked from or secreted the whole facts, from anyone whenever occasion seemed to require their development, and he is gratified to be able to say that he feels a full and entire acquittal, at the forum of his own conscience from any intentional error or guilt – .

These all the facts above alluded to: The greater part if not the whole of the states of South Carolina & George had been overrun and subdued by the English forces, and parts of North Carolina, were strongly held by them. Your Memorialist's father had been before the said Revolutionary War of America commenced, and was at that time an officer under the Crown of England, and your Memorialist was still under the age of twenty-one years and under his Father's control. About this time which your Memorialist thinks was in 1780 Colonel Ferguson who was in the British service made an inroad into North Carolina and finally settled his head quarters and place of defense at Kings Mountain near the line between the two states of North and South Carolina, as your Memorialist believes. At this time your Memorialist's father had the command of a company, in the service of Britain, and partly by persuasion and partly menaces, he compelled your Memorialist to join his Company and to march to join the said Colonel Ferguson. Your Memorialist from familial obedience and [2 or more indecipherable words] reluctantly agreed to and did march with his said Father to join the said Ferguson. Your Memorialist's father, with his company, formed a junction with the said Colonel Ferguson some 6 or 8 days before the Battle of Kings Mountain. Your Memorialist and his father were in the Battle of Kings Mountain and fought on the side of the British Crown. In that Battle your Memorialist's father received a mortal wound of which he soon expired and your Memorialist was taken prisoner and was marched off with the other prisoners by a place in Burke County North Carolina, called the Quaker Meadows. On the 5th or 6th day's march from the Battleground, your Memorialist became very much afflicted in his ankles so that he could march no further, and he was then discharged from being a prisoner upon his parole of honor by Major McDowell of the North Carolina Troops & not to be molested, but to remain as a peaceable citizen until regularly called on to serve his Country –. So that your Memorialist was a prisoner only a few days and not a "long time" – Your Memorialist had been in the service of the American colonies before that time under the said Major McDowell and was known to him – Your Memorialist was then carried home by his widowed mother, where, in a short time, he recovered from his indisposition & he remained there as a peaceable citizen until sometime in the winter succeeding the battle of Kings Mountain a Major Boykin came into the neighborhood where your Memorialist lived and called for volunteers, to turn out, to march against a certain notorious Tory Captain Cunningham, and who was considered a desperately bad man and who had come to the upper parts of South Carolina, on a plundering and killing expedition. Your Memorialist joined the said Major Boykin as a volunteer in the service of the said colonies of America and they pursued the said Cunningham & his forces, within 12 miles of Ninety Six which, was strongly garrisoned by the British forces under Lord Rawdon. In this company, under Major Boykin, your Memorialist continued for 3 months, when he was honorably discharged from the service. Your Memorialist then returned home again. In some few weeks after the return home of your Memorialist the aforesaid Major McDowell of the North Carolina Troops came into the neighborhood of your Memorialist and called for volunteers to march against the Cherokee Indians again who had then lately been killing & murdering man women & children in the upper parts & on the frontiers of North

Carolina. Your Memorialist joined the said McDowell after having equipped himself as a light horse volunteer, in the service of the said American colonies and the said McDowell with his men marched and rendezvoused at the same place before named as being called the "upper Fort". In a very few days said McDowell with his whole squad marched into the Cherokee Nation and there they did much real service to the United States. After having thus taught those Indians a lesson of prudence[?] by devastating their country for a [indecipherable word] the said McDowell with his men marched back to the said Fort and was there legally and honorably discharged from said service. The length of time occupied and this last named tour your Memorialist cannot precisely recollect, but he does not think it was as long as 3 months. In some 3 to 6 months after this last named service closed, your Memorialist was again called by a militia Captain by the name of Sumpter in the American service annual Memorialist again entered the service of the United States, equipped himself and marched again to the same upper Fort and there he met with a Captain Walker with whom your Memorialist enrolled himself, in the service of the United States of America, and with the other forces under said Walker's command assisted in keeping and protecting the said Fort and the said Frontier from the depredations of the said Cherokee tribe of Indians, for a full tour of 3 months when your memorialist was again honorably discharged &c – Your Memorialist most respectfully avers that the whole of the 3 last named tours of service under Major Boykin, Major McDowell & captains Sumter and Walker above set forth, were performed for & on behalf of the United States and were performed after the Battle of Kings Mountain, commencing in the same year of the battle. The foregoing closes all the leading facts, relative to the revolutionary services of your Memorialist – Your Memorialist would most respectfully represent to your Honor that some years ago he had a conversation with a certain Moses Chambers, relative to his revolutionary services, he stated to him Chambers about the facts above stated in relation to your Memorialist's revolutionary career and he also told him (Chambers) that he deeply regretted that he had ever for the shortest period been led astray, and explained to him (Chambers) fully the cause of your Memorialist's being thus forced into the service of the British Crown for the short time before mentioned –

Your Memorialist does not recollect ever to have had any conversation with John Wiseman on the aforesaid subject of any kind but it is possible that he may have done so. Feeling no guilt in the matter your Memorialist did not pretend to keep it a secret from anyone when it came in the way to tell it. If, however, you will Memorialist did hold any such conversation with said Wiseman about the matter he is certain almost that he told him (Wiseman) all the circumstances before related and explanation thereof. At the request of your Memorialist, by his son, Mr. Gale the justice has furnished him with copies of the affidavits of Chambers and Wiseman taken in said matter and the originals of which are filed in the pension office. If these be true copies of the Testimony taken and filed by them in the pension office, they have totally suppressed every exculpatory fact in relation [to] this matter, and have that by imposed a false impression upon your mind. Then if this be the fact your Memorialist begs leave to say most respectfully that the suppression of any material fact in such a case is as vicious as the suggestion of a falsehood, and that these men must stand before you convicted of a malicious falsehood to the great injury of your Memorialist. Your Memorialist does not know of anyone who was present at the conversation before named except himself and the [indecipherable word] before mentioned and he cannot therefore prove the said conversation or explained it in any other way but by his own oath as set forth herein or by a cross examination of Chambers and Wiseman in whose veracity he can hold no confidence.

Your Memorialist begs leave further to represent on to your Honor in further explanation of this matter that before he sent any papers by way of application for a pension in the 1st instance he informed Colonel Yell (who attended to the preparation of your Memorialist's papers preparatory to his application for a Pension) through his friend Colonel William Moore of said County of Lincoln of all the facts in relation to his having once fault on the side of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War; and proposed to state the same freely in open court, so that the whole facts might appear and Colonel Yell

said it was not necessary as such as that performed no part of this service for which the laws allowed a pension, and it was therefore not made a part of your Memorialist's original application.

Your Memorialist hopes that, by the foregoing explanations and facts, your Honor will be fully satisfied, that your Memorialist, possessed Revolutionary merit sufficient to give him an equal place in [indiscipherable word] & advantages with that meritorious class of Patriots who spent the prime of their lives in the service of their country – Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honor that he may be reinstated on the pension Parole & that the same may be again awarded to him as heretofore.

S/ Josiah Brandon

[fn p. 98: Nathaniel Branden testified on February 1, 1845 in Lincoln County Tennessee, that he is the son of Josiah and Rachel Brandon and that there were 4 children older than him in his family.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 2 years service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]