

Pension Application for Benajah Brown

W.21021 (Violetta Dustin—former Widow)

Province of Canada

County of Elgin SS.

On this thirteenth day of August A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me D. T. Hughs, a Judge of the County and division Courts within and for the county and Province aforesaid at the Court house in the Village of Aylmer in the County & Province aforesaid, Walter Brown aged sixty four years a resident of the township of Malahide in the aforesaid County and Province, who I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit and who doth on his affirmation (he being one of the persons called Quakers) make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled “an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows and the several acts and resolves of the Congress relative thereto.

That he is a child of Benajah Brown an officer in the Revolutionary War and Violetta his wife, he further affirms that he has repeatedly heard his said father and mother converse on the subject of his military service in the said war, he further affirms that according to the best of his knowledge and belief the said Benajah Brown volunteered at some place in the County of Westchester in the State of New York in or about the month of August A.D. one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight and served in the company commanded by Captain Ebenezer Scofield as a sergent, and was after wards appointed Lieutenant and served in the company commanded by Captain Samuel Lewis in Col. Thadeuius Crane’s Regiment of the Westchester Militia and continued in actual service in said war till its close in 1783 or there abouts but his principle reliance for proof of said service is on the records which may be found in the military archives relating to the said war, he further affirms that he had seen the original record of marriage of the said Benajah Brown & Violetta, that the said record was on a leaf contained in a Bible which he was informed and believes was given to the said Violetta at the time of her marriage to the said Benajah Brown by her father Col. Beinton Paine that the said Benajah Brown and Violetta Paine were legally married in the State of New York according to said records on the eighth day of September AD one thousand seven hundred and eighty four, that several years after their said marriage and within this deponents recollection they removed from the State of New York to the Province of Canada that in the year AD 1805 his said father was drowned in crossing a lake near Burlington that in the year AD 1806 his widow Violetta brown was again married to one Soloman Nicholas, and by him had one son whose name is Sylvenus who is still living he further affirms that the said Solomon Nicholas died in the year A.D. 1814 and in the year following (1815) his said mother was again married to one Paul Dustin but she had no child or heirs by the said Dustin. He further affirms that the said Paul Dustin died at Waslingham in the Province aforesaid in the year A.D. one thousand eight hundred and twenty three.

He further affirms that the said Violetta was never again married but continued to be a widow as above stated from the year AD 1823. He further affirms that the bible above referred to having become worn and detached in several places and a new one was obtained about the year A.D. 1826, at which time he (deponent) was requested by his said mother and did transcribed from the original record as above (which is not in existence to his knowledge) on the leaf hereto attached (said leaf being from an old bible in the presence of this court) in the presence of his said mother and by her direction and that the name is a true record of the marriage & births of the said Benajah & Violetta Brown & their family as he was informed by her and verily believes and that portion which is marked in brackets was written by him (deponent) as above stated, that a few years after the above transaction his said mother took the said bible now present in court to her daughters & sister to this deponent who is now the wife of Genl Harper and that portion of which is marked with a cross was written after the said bible was taken out of his possession and by whom he does not say, he further affirms that his mother the said Violetta died in the township of Malahide in the County of Elgin & Province of Cornwall on the fifteenth day of October AD one thousand eight hundred and forty four, that there were living at the time of her

said death of her children the following to wit: Elizabeth now wife of William Brown who resides in the township of Berta in the County of Welland Province of Cornwallce Walter (this deponent) Brenton P. Brown now residing in the township of Dearham County of Oxford Provence aforesaid Stella wife of Eli Brown. Electy wife of Samuel Harper, Benajah M. Brown residing in the township of Malahide County of Elgin and Sylvenus Nicholas now residing in the township of Norwick in County of Oxford & Province of Cornwallce aforesaid he further affirms that his said mother never made application for or received a pension a pension in virture of the service in the said war of her first husband the aforesaid Benajah Brown. (Signed) Walter Brown

D.J. Hughes, Judge of the Division and County Court of the County of Elgin of the Province of Canada.

Letter in folder dated September 2, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Benajah Brown who was born October 23, 1762, served in the Revolutionary War and died January 25, 1805.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, W.21021, based upon the service of Benajah Brown in the War of the Revolution.

Benajah Brown was born October 23, 1762, place not stated, nor are the names of his parents shown. His father and family were living in Westchester County, New York during the Revolution.

While residing in New York, Benajah Brown volunteered sometime in August, 1778, served as sergeant and lieutenant in Captains Ebenezer Schofield's and Samuel Lewis' companies, Colonel Thaddeus Crane's New York regiment until the close of the war.

Benajah Brown married September 8, 1784 in Westchester County, New York, Violetta Paine; she was born September 16, 1767 and was the daughter of "Colonel" Brinton Paine of the state of New York, the name of her mother is not given.

Several years after their marriage, Benajah Brown and his wife, Violetta, moved from Westchester County, to Tioga (later Chemung) County, New York and later moved to the Province of Canada.

Benajah Brown was drowned, January 25, 1805 in crossing a lake near Burlington. His widow, Violetta, married in 1806, Solomon Nickols, by whom she had one son, Sylvanus, born April 23, 1807. Solomon Nickols died in 1814, and the widow married in 1815, Paul Dustin, by whom she had no children, and he died in 1823.

The widow, Violetta Dustin, died October 15, 1844 at the house of her son-in-law, Samuel Harper, in Malahide, Elgin County, Province of Canada.

The children of Benajah Brown and his wife, Violetta—

Elizabeth born January 1, 1786, married William Bowen in 1800.

Polly born January 1, 1787, died in 1789.

In 181 Clarisa born April 12, 1789, married Marvel White in 1802, she died July 24, 1805.

Walter born April 8, 1791.

Electa born January 18, 1794, married Thomas Dowlen in 1810 married Roswell Spenser in 1833 married Samuel Harper in 1843.

Brinton P. born August 1, 1797.

Stella born January 24, 1799, married Eli Brown in 1817.

Harriet born April --, 1802, married Abram Brown in 1818, she died October 2, 1832.

Benajah M. born January 24, 1804.

The following children were allowed the pension due their mother, Violetta on account of the service of her husband, Benajah Brown, Elizabeth, wife of William Bowen, of Welland, Canada, Walter Brown of Malahide, Canada; Electra, wife of Samuel Harper of Elgin County, Canada; Briton P. Brown, of

Oxford County, Canada; Stella, wife of Eli Brown of Elgin County, Canada; and Benajah M. Brown of Elgin County, Canada.

Sylvanus Nickols was a resident in 1855 of Oxford County, Canada.

Polly Teall in 1855 was the widow of Nathan Teall, she was then eighty-three years of age and living in Geneva, Ontario County, New York; she was the younger sister of the widow, Violetta Dustin. H. N. Teall, son of Polly and Nathan Teall, was living in 1855 in Geneva, New York.

George C. Paine, brother of the widow, Violetta, was seventy –five years of age in 1855 and living in “Horse Heads”, Chemung County, New York.

Marvel White in 1856 was seventy-five years of age and living in Middlesex County, Canada; it is not stated that he was identical with the one who married Clarisa Brown.

The names Oscar O. Brown and Robert G. Bowen appear in 1854, but no relationship to the family shown; and one James Brown in 1855 was Justice of the Peace in Elgin County, Canada, it is not stated that he was related to the family.