

Description: John Osburn War of 1812 Pension and/or Bounty Application File  
(WO-7253, WC-2374)

Repository: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, DC  
Format: Original Pension and Bounty Land Application Files

These images were photocopied or digitally photographed at NARA by Lee K. Osborne or photocopies were ordered from NARA and then scanned by Lee K. Osborne. (This depends on the individual file. At this time, I do not recall which were done in person at NARA, and which were ordered from NARA.)

Images posted at the Osborne Origins website at:  
<http://www.osborne-origins.org/pensions/war1812/john-2374.pdf>

# DECLARATION OF WIDOW FOR PENSION.

ACT OF FEBRUARY 14, 1871.

State of Tennessee }  
Giles County } ss:

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy one, personally appeared before me, Stans A. Aymith Clerk of the County Court, a Court of record, in and for the County and State aforesaid Martha Osburn aged 89 years, a resident of 9<sup>th</sup> Civil District, County of Giles and State of Tennessee; who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of John Osburn, who served the full period of sixty days in the military services of the United States in the war of 1812, and who was the identical John Osburn who was enrolled in Captain Nathan Harms's Company, Co. Robert W. Dyer's Regiment, Gen. John Coffee Brigade Gen. A. Jackson's Division at Hayttville, in the State of Tennessee, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1814, and was honorably discharged at \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 1814; that

her said husband served in the Creek War. She states that on account of his services she has received under act March 3<sup>d</sup>, 1855 a land warrant for 160 acres number 29,915 issued to her on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1856 - and that with her application for said warrant she filed proof of her said marriage. She states that there is no record evidence of her marriage except that in their family Bible and that she is the only one now living that she knows of who were living at the time of their marriage. She was acquainted with the Justice who performed the ceremony, died in summer of 1805. that she was married under the name of Martha Benson to said John Osburn

4 on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1805, by Nat Britton Justice of the Peace at Cane Fork Smith County in the State of Tennessee there being no legal barrier to such marriage; that her said husband died at said 9<sup>th</sup> Civil District Giles County on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1840; and that she has not re-married since his death; that at no time during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States did she or her said husband adhere to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid or comfort, or exercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that she will support the Constitution of the United States; that she is not in receipt of a pension under any previous act; that she makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the act approved February 14, 1871; and hereby constitutes and appoints with full power of substitution and revocation, **NATHAN ADAMS, Pulaski, Tennessee**, her true and lawful Attorney, to prosecute her claim and obtain the pension certificate that may be issued; that her Post-office is Pulaski County of Giles, and State of Tennessee; and that her domicil or place of abode is said 9<sup>th</sup> Civil District

Martha <sup>her</sup> X Osburn  
mark

ATTEST:  
Jacob M. Bass  
Suman Birdsong

## State of Tennessee - Giles County :

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1871 personally appeared before me Hans H. Lynette Clerk of the County Court of said County of Giles and State of Tennessee -

Frances Brooks aged 63 years a resident of ~~the~~ County of Yallabusha County, Mississippi - to me well known whom I certify to be a woman of truth veracity and entirely disinterested who being duly sworn according to law states that she has been intimately acquainted with the family of claimant & her husband John Osburn ever since she has been able to recollect - for many years lived in the same house and for at least 15 years in same neighborhood - Was well acquainted with the children of said John & Martha the claimant. She states that from her earliest recollection they said John & Martha Osburn were regarded as man & wife & lived together as such. Affiant states she knows said John & Martha had a child older than herself - the name of which was William - He died sometime in the year 1863 - She cannot give exact date - She states further she was well acquainted with the handwriting of said John Osburn & also the Family Bible of said John & Martha Claimant - that on page of said Bible marked: "Family Record. Marriages - appears in the hand~~th~~ writing of said John Osburn the following entry "John Osburn and Martha Osburn was married April the 4<sup>th</sup> 1805"

And that on another blank page of said Family Bible under the head of "Births" in the handwriting of said John Osburn there are the following entries "William Osburn was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December 1805 -  
 Frances Osburn was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1807 -  
 Benjamin Osburn was born on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1809 -  
 James Osburn was born April the 26<sup>th</sup> 1811  
 Elizabeth Osburn was born on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1813.  
 Mary Osburn was born November the 29<sup>th</sup> 1815  
 Peter Osburn was born 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1817  
 Lary Osburn was born October 11<sup>th</sup> 1821  
 Margaret Osburn was born November the 5<sup>th</sup> 1823  
 John A. Osburn. was born May the 11<sup>th</sup> 1825  
 Affiant states positively she was well acquainted with all of said children - knows that they were regarded & known by the lawful children of said John & Martha Claimant.  
 Affiant further states that she was present at burial of said John Osburn - has been often at his grave - that he is buried on the place he owned next before his death, the same on which his widow Claimant now lives -

and slaty as a fact that said John Osburn is dead & that Claimant Martha has not married since his death is still a widow, and she states further that she affiant is entirely disinterested in this claim.

James Brooks

And also personally appeared before me said Hans H. Byrnett Clerk appeared Jacob Miller Bass aged 47 years a justice of the peace for said County of Giles and Freeman Birdsong aged 60 years - both residents of 9<sup>th</sup> Civil District of said County - & men of probity, truth and fully entitled to credit & disinterested who being duly sworn according to law - They the said Affiants state that they were acquainted with the handwriting of John Osburn deceased & know the same - that he was the husband of Claimant Martha. They state that in the Family Bible of said John & Martha which Bible is now before them on a leaf of said Bible marked at the top "Family Record" Marriages" appears in the handwrite of said John Osburn dec'd. the following entry "John Osburn and Martha Osburn was married April the 4<sup>th</sup> 1805" and in same book on leaves marked at top "Family Record" under heads marked "Births" appears entries of births of children precisely in the language - dates, month and figures as stated in the foregoing affidavit of Francis Brooks on this sheet & that said copy is true & exact & further that said original entries of births of said children are all in the hand write of said John Osburn deceased. Both of affiants state that they were raised in the neighborhood of said John - one about 2 - the other in about 1 mile of him for many years in his life time - Affiant Bass tended school for some time in about 300 yards of said John's residence. Both of affiants state that they were well intimately acquainted with all of the children of said John & Martha the Claimant, except James who died before their moving to the neighborhood - that their names are correctly stated in the deposition of said Francis referred to.

Affiant Birdsong states that he is certain that William Osburn, Frank Osburn & Ben Osburn - children whose ages are given as above are all older than himself - & he has always regarded them so.

Both of affiants & said children of said John & Martha have lived together in same neighborhood for a great many years - raised pretty much together - been intimate as friends & neighbors - and they have no doubt of the truth of their ages as stated.

They state that said John & Martha the Claimant were during their entire acquaintance held as man & wife & were such to time of his death.

They state that they were present at the funeral & burial of said John Osburn deceased - saw him after he was dead - & further that his widow Martha the Claimant has not remarried but is still a widow. And lastly that they are entirely disinterested in this claim.

Freeman Birdsong  
Jacob M. Bass

**WIDOW'S PENSION CLAIM.**

WAR OF 1812.

Act of February 14, 1871

— 0 —

Mrs. *Martha Osburn*

WIDOW OF

*John Osburn*

Capt. *Farmers* Co.

of *Giles Co. Tenn.*

*Nathan Adams*

**CHARLES C. LUKER, Attorney,**

*Washington Tenn.*  
**Widow's Pension Co. Tenn.**

Also personally appeared *Jacob Miller Bass* and  
*Freeman Birdsong*, both residing at *9<sup>th</sup> Civil District*  
in the County of *Giles*, and State of *Tennessee*, persons  
whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say: That they were present  
and saw *Martha Osburn* the claimant *make her mark* to the foregoing declaration; and  
they have every reason to believe, from the apperance of said claimant and their acquaintance with her, that she is the  
identical person she represents herself to be; that her husband, the soldier named in her declaration, died at or about  
the time and place stated therein, their knowledge of his death being derived from *the fact that they were*  
*present at his funeral burial*

and they know she has remained a widow since his death; that no time during the late rebellion against the authority of  
the United States did she, or her said husband, adhere to the cause of the enemies of the Government, or give them  
aid or comfort; and that they have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

*Jacob M. Bass*  
*Freeman Birdsong*

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this *4<sup>th</sup>* day of *October*

A. D. 187 *1*; and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, &c., were fully made known and explained  
to the applicant and witnesses before swearing; and that I have no interest, direct indirect, in the prosecution of this  
claim - *Further that the contents of the affidavits of said F. Brooks, said*  
*Jacob Miller Bass & said Freeman Birdsong on this sheet marked 1 + 2 were fully*  
*made known & explained to them said applicants before swearing & that afterwards they*  
*were duly sworn & said Brooks, Bass & Birdsong subscribed to them before me on*  
*the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1871.*

*Wm. H. Agnew*  
*County Court of Giles Co.*

State of Tennessee Giles County: On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April AD Eighteen hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Giles and State aforesaid Martha Osburn aged 72 years a resident of Giles County in the State of Tennessee who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of John Osburn who was a private in the Company commanded by Captain Nathan Farmer in the Regiment Tennessee Mounted Volunteers commanded by Colonel Robert St. Dyer in the Creek War AD 1814; that her said husband was mustered into the service of the United States at Fayetteville in the State of Tennessee about the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January AD 1814 for the term of three months and continued in actual service in said war for the term of two months and two days and was honorably discharged at \_\_\_\_\_ in the Creek Nation on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March AD 1814. She further states that she was married to the said John Osburn in Smith County in the State of Tennessee on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April AD 1805 by one Mat Britton a Justice of the Peace and that her name before her said marriage was Martha Benson: that her said husband died at the County of Giles aforesaid on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November AD 1840 and that she is now a widow.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act approved March 3<sup>d</sup> 1855. This is the first application for bounty land for said services. She further states that she knows of no record evidence either public or private of her said marriage and that she cannot produce any. Direct the warrant to Nathan Adams, Palaski Giles County Tennessee

Martha <sup>for</sup> Osburn

We Early Benson and Thomas C. Baugh residents of Giles County in the State of Tennessee upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by Martha Osburn in our presence and that in view from the appearance and statements of the applicant that she is the identical person she represents herself to be.

Early Benson

Early Benson

Thomas B. Baugh

The foregoing declaration and affidavit were sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above written and I certify that I know the affiants to be credible persons: that the claimant is the person she represents herself to be and that I have no interest in this claim.

Wm C Brown

State of Tennessee Giles County: On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1855 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Early Benson aged 66 years and Thomas B. Baugh aged 48 years residents of Giles County aforesaid and men of truth and sobriety and fully entitled to credit who being duly sworn according to law declare that they were well acquainted with the said John Osburn and Martha Osburn his wife for more than ten years in the life time of the said John - Affiant Benson states that he has known the said John Osburn for more than thirty years. That he was present at the house of Ben Benson on Casey Fork River in Smith County Tennessee on the night of the marriage of the said John Osburn with the said Martha - He said the ceremony pronounced by said Mat Butler declaring said John & Martha Osburn husband and wife - that they have lived together from the year 1805 to the year 1840 as husband and wife. That they were so regarded by all their acquaintances - He states that he lived near them and in their neighborhood for about ten years - Affiant Baugh states that he lived in about two or three miles of the said John Osburn during the latter part of his life and in his neighborhood for about ten years. That he was intensely acquainted with him his wife Martha all the time and knows that they lived together as husband and wife and were so regarded by all their neighbors - Affiants state that they had a large family of children as the fruits of their said marriage - Affiants state that the said John Osburn is dead and that he died about the time stated in the foregoing declaration - Affiant Benson was present at his burial in Giles County aforesaid on the farm where he then resided & where said Martha now lives. They further state that the Martha Osburn whose declaration is on this sheet of paper is the identical person who is the widow of the said John Osburn & that she is still a widow. And they further state that they are entirely disinterested.

Early Benson

Thomas B. Baugh

Sworn to & subscribed before me on the day and year above written & I certify that I am not interested in this claim.

Wm C Brown

