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Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Descendant of Sgt. Isaac Brown
Before the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
On S. 2495, the National Liberty Memorial Act
June 27, 2006

It is with great pride that I introduce to you this afternoon my patriot, my ancestor my fourth great-grandfather Sgt. Isaac Brown. Sgt. Isaac Brown was born a free black man in Charles City County, Virginia. He was a fourth generation resident with his forbearers having been indentured servants. Isaac enlisted in the Continental Line on January 1, 1777. He assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of Sergeant in the 7th, 11th, and 15th VA Regiments.

Sgt. Brown served in the Company of Capt. William Smith, commanded by Lt. Col. John Cropper. He also served in the battles of Guilford Courthouse, Seige of Fort Ninety-Six and Eutaw Springs in the Company of Capt. Charles Porterfield, General Wordford's Brigade commanded by Col. Daniel Morgan. He received the balance of his pay for service on April 5, 1783.

At least three members of the Brown family fought as soldiers in the Revolution. Abraham, one of these participants, became a property owner in Charles City six years before the Revolution with the purchase of 150 acres of land for the sum of 96 pounds. Freeman, another participant, owned 40 acres. Isaac owned 270 acres of land in Charles City. At the time of his death, he owned 75 acres. His land abutted Greenway the property of the Tyler family.

On May 19, 1829, Sgt. Brown appeared in Superior Court of the State of Virginia to make a formal declaration under the Acts of Congress of the United States of March 18, 1818 and May 1, 1820. At the time, he was 69 years of age and had made several informal inquires into the provisions of the Acts. His age was greatly felt and his farm was no longer able to support him in comfort. The Court adjourned and found deficiencies in his declaration.

On July 16, 1829, he once again appeared in Court to make a declaration to correct the errors and deficiencies of the previous declaration to no avail. On July 24, 1829, VA Senator John Tyler, who later became the 10th President of the United States, wrote a letter on Sgt. Brown's behalf indicating that all the deficiencies pointed out in a letter of June 2, 1829 had been corrected. He also requested that the decision be made known to him as soon as convenient. When the pension was finally issued, July 27, 1829, there was a notation on it that said, " send a copy to John Tyler."

The intervention of Senator Tyler resulted in the issuance of the pension, however, the compensation awarded was that of a private, \$8 dollars per month or \$96 per year. Also, it only gave him credit for having served for 18 months from the fall of 1780. In other words, he never received recognition for having been a noncommissioned officer nor credit for his service from January 1,1777 - 1780. The Muster Rolls reflect he enlisted for the duration of the war.

Sgt. Isaac Brown left a legacy of service to this country:

His great grandson, Robert Walker Brown (my great grandfather) enlisted in the 1st U.S. Colored Infantry at Fort Pocahontas May 19, 1864 several days before the battle there. Robert Brown was married twice and had 21 children. His widow received a pension check of \$36 each month from the U.S. government for his Civil War service until her death in 1952.

Robert Walker Brown's grandson, John Edward James (my father), served in World War II. He was on the front lines for 37 months and experienced five campaigns.

It is time for a memorial symbolizing the service and critical role of people of color in the founding of our nation. It is time for the history books, from which our children learn, reflect these significant contributions. It is time for this acknowledgement so that acceptance can take place.

It is time! It is time! It is time! Thank you.