

Brevard, Joseph ^[1]

Brevard, Joseph

by Max Williams, 1979; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, July 2023

19 July 1766–11 Oct. 1821



Joseph Brevard (1766-1821). Image from Archive.org.

^[2]Joseph Brevard, *Revolutionary War* ^[3] soldier, jurist, and congressman, was a native of *Iredell County* ^[4] and a long-time resident of Camden, Kershaw County, S.C. A younger brother of *Alexander Brevard* ^[5], Joseph was of *Huguenot* ^[6] and Scotch-Irish extraction. While little is known of his early education, he wrote a beautiful hand and quoted Latin with facility. He entered the Continental Army at age seventeen and became a lieutenant in the Tenth North Carolina Regiment before transferring to the Second as regimental quartermaster.

Joseph Brevard settled in Camden, S.C., at the end of hostilities and there soon gained a reputation for industry and integrity. He was sheriff of the Camden District (1789–91), and in 1791 was appointed commissioner in equity for the Northern District of South Carolina. In 1792 he was admitted to the bar and entered partnership with William Falconer, then the most eminent lawyer in the northern part of South Carolina. Brevard was elected circuit court judge in December 1801 and served ably until forced by poor health to resign in December 1815. A noted legal scholar whose opinions were characterized by industry, learning, and eloquence, Brevard compiled three volumes of reports and an *admirable digest of the statute law* ^[7] to 1814. Upon his resignation as judge he resumed his legal practice in Camden. In 1818 he was elected a member of the Sixteenth Congress (4 Mar. 1819–3 Mar. 1821). He was a member of the House Judicial Committee; and, while he was not active in debate, he upheld the Constitution, opposed raising the tariff, and supported the admission of Missouri as a slave state. He was not a candidate for reelection in 1820 and was defeated in a special election in March 1821.

In March 1793, Brevard married Rebecca Kershaw, a daughter of Colonel Eli Kershaw, a revolutionary soldier who died a British captive. The Brevards had four children—Alfred, Edward, Eugene, and Sarah Aurora—before their union was ended by the death of Rebecca in 1802. Joseph Brevard was buried in Camden's Quaker Cemetery.

References:

Annals of Congress.

Biog. Dir. Am. Cong. (1961).

Brevard-McDowell Papers (Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).^[8]

John Belton O'Neill, *Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of South Carolina* (1859).^[9]

John H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina* (1851).

Additional Resources:

"Brevard, Joseph, (1766 - 1821)." *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. Washington, D.C.: The Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000808> ^[10] (accessed July 22, 2013).

"Quaker Cemetery: Joseph Brevard." *Bloomsbury* (blog). Bloomsbury Inn of Camden, South Carolina. November 4, 2011. <http://bloomsburyinn.blogspot.com/2011/11/quaker-cemetery-joseph-brevard.html> ^[11] (accessed July 22, 2013).

Kirkland, Thomas J., and Kennedy, Robert MacMillan. "Chapter XVII: Joseph Brevard." *Historic Camden*, Part 1. Columbia, S.C.: The State Company, 1905. <http://books.google.com/books?id=UQTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA321#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[12] 321-326. (accessed July 22, 2013).

The Anderson Galleries. "Unique South Carolina Manuscript, 1791." *Books from the Library of William P. Church of Providence, R I and from Other Collections*. New York: The Anderson Galleries. 1919. 42-43. <http://books.google.com/books?id=GJwRAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA7-PA42#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[13] (accessed July 22, 2013).

Image Credits:

"Joseph Brevard 1766-1821." *North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati*. Boston : [Riverside Press]. 1907. 54. <https://archive.org/stream/northcarolinasoc00davi#page/54/mode/2up> ^[2] (accessed July 22, 2013).

Subjects:

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#) ^[14]

[Biographies](#) ^[15]

[Judges](#) ^[16]

[Lawyers](#) ^[17]

[Military personnel](#) ^[18]

[Public officials](#) ^[19]

Authors:

[Williams, Max R.](#) ^[20]

Origin - location:

[Iredell County](#) ^[21]

From:

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[22]

1 January 1979 | Williams, Max R.

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/brevard-joseph>

Links

^[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/brevard-joseph> ^[2] <https://archive.org/stream/northcarolinasoc00davi#page/54/mode/2up> ^[3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/american-revolution> ^[4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/iredell> ^[5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/brevard-alexander> ^[6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/huguenots> ^[7] <http://books.google.com/books?id=OE4UAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[8] http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Brevard_and_McDowell_Family.html ^[9] <https://archive.org/stream/biographicalsket01onea#page/80/mode/2up> ^[10] <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000808> ^[11] <http://bloomsburyinn.blogspot.com/2011/11/quaker-cemetery-joseph-brevard.html> ^[12] <http://books.google.com/books?id=UQTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA321#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[13] <http://books.google.com/books?id=GJwRAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA7-PA42#v=onepage&q&f=false> ^[14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/us-revolution> ^[15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> ^[16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/judges> ^[17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/lawyers> ^[18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/soldiers> ^[19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/public-officials> ^[20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/williams-max-r> ^[21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont/i> ^[22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>