

62-a

1865

Bedford Brown,
Caswell Co.,
N. C.

R. Filed Aug. 29, 1865.

(1st Ex.)

Recommended by the Gov.

Pardoned Aug. 29, '65.

~~J. Grant~~

~~Loam~~



Attorney General's Office,

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Attorney General

Received from
Department of Justice
December 18, 1865
R. & 402985.

62-^a/₆

To His Excellency,
Andrew Johnson
President of the United States of A.

The undersigned Petitioner, Bedford Brown, a citizen of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy years and a few months, respectfully sheweth, that he comes within the first class of those excepted from a general pardon in the late proclamation, having acted, with two other citizens, as Agent, of the Commissioners of Loans for this District, of the late so called confederate government, which was entirely unsolicited, on his part and in entire repugnance to his Sentiments and wishes, as noncompliance with his known opposition to Secession, would have subjected him, to yet greater proscription, great as it had been from the most violent and proscriptive party which has been known in history — he acted, without taking any oath ^{of} office, the amount received for the so called confederate government, having been inconsiderable and the Agency of short duration.

Your petitioner will further state, that he was a Member of the State Senate, when the question of Secession was first agitated — that he most Steadfastly and earnestly opposed it, by speeches and votes, that he reprobated it in the strongest language — that when the State Legislature passed an act, Submitting the question of a convention to the people, he was a candidate in his County and carried it in

opposition to Secession by two or three to one — Subsequently, after
 the proclamation of the late president calling for troops, another
 convention was called and foreseeing that the State of Virginia would
 secede as it soon afterwards did — I determined to have no
 lot or part in the Secession of the State and declined being
 a candidate at the second call of a convention notwithstanding
 which I was spontaneously elected from my county, to the
 convention — to decline the trust under the circumstances would
 have subjected me to public odium and would have destroyed
 my capacity for usefulness, in aiding to restore the State to the
 Union, when circumstances favored it — with motives of this
 kind, I acted under the trust — voted for the act of Secession —
 not considering that I gave my own vote but the vote of those who
 sent me, to the convention — added to this was the desire to
 save the State from a civil war within her own borders, as the Secession
 party though in a minority had determined themselves, to hold
 a convention, declare the State out of the Union and invoke the aid
 of Secession States, to sustain them by arms. To avert this calamity
 and to maintain my influence, that I might aid, in restoring the
 Seceding States to the federal Union, were my governing motives. No
 person North or South entertained a greater aversion to a
 dissolution of the Union, than myself, nor was there any period that
 this sentiment, was not mine, during the late disastrous contest. I
 will mention, that I was again elected, to the State Senate, after the
 State seceded, against my wishes, having declined to be a
 candidate and accepted the trust and acted from motives
 similar to those, which governed me, in the convention. Detesting the

The Secession movement as ruinous to the country, and its principal actors as reckless demagogues and unscrupulous tyrants, no one rejoices more than myself, at the overthrow of the odious despotism and the re-establishment of the authority of the federal Union.

In consideration of the facts above set forth, the undersigned most respectfully petitions your Excellency, to pardon such offences, as he may have incurred, and which he asseverates, were incurred by him, by the force of circumstances and in entire repugnance to his wishes — for which act of clemency, he will be duly grateful.

With Great Respect,
your obt. Servant,
Bedford Brown

P.S. A certified copy of the oath, prescribed by the Proclamation, is herewith enclosed.
B. B.

62-a

I, Bedford Browne of Warrick

County, State of North-Carolina, do solemnly swear or affirm, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God.

B. Brown

Sworn and subscribed to this the 19 day of August,
A. D , 1865, before

For Lawson, J. P.

It is hereby certified that the above is a true copy of the original oath taken and
subscribed by Bedford Browne

For Lawson, J. P.

Thos J. Brown, J. P.

....., J. P.