

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Towns R10652

Transcribed by Will Graves

f17NC

rev'd 7/26/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6]

State of Georgia, County of Madison } Court of Ordinary Adjourned Term October 1st, 1832

On this first day of October in the year of all Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John Meroney, Noah W. Pittman, James Anderson and James Long Justices of the Inferior Court now sitting as a Court of Ordinary James Towns a resident of Captain Morgan's Company District of Georgia Militia in the County of Madison and State of Georgia aged Seventy-Six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit. He entered as a volunteer in March 1781 – as a private under the command of Captain Hunt Macon to throw obstructions in the road designed to impede the progress of the British in the march to Guilford Court House North Carolina. He entered the service in Warren County, North Carolina where he then resided. The British Army having taken a different direction from the one anticipated, the volunteers were discharged, in a short time, but what time they were on duty he does not recollect. He was afterwards called into service by draft upon a three months Tour under the command of Captain White [John White] and was transferred to the command of Captain Sessions [Joseph Sessions], the Regiment commanded by Colonel Linton [Lieutenant Colonel William Thomas Linton] all of North Carolina we joined a detachment of General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army at Chatham Court House in said State and was there stationed as a guard having served then about a month, the Army was ordered to march to the South, and his health being very bad having only partially recovered from a severe spell of sickness, employed a substitute by the name of Bird Perry to perform the balance of the tour and received a discharge, previous to the duty heretofore detailed, the legislature of North Carolina required the Militia of the State to be drafted and classed, and that he was assigned to the fourth class, and by the provisions of the same act it was permitted that if 12 drafted man should hire a man to enlist in the regular service, that those 12 months should be discharged from duty for the span of three years and that he with 11 others availed themselves of the provision, and that he has lost those evidences of duty, with other useful papers long since. He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no evidence, that he can procure who can testify to his services.

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the war department and propounded by the Court, he answereth as follows, to wit

Answer to 1st Inter: He was born in Brunswick County Virginia in the month of March 1756.

Answer to 2nd In: He has no record of his age

Answer to 3rd In: He was living in Warren County North Carolina when he was called into service, about 25 years since he moved to Greene County in Georgia and from thence to Madison where he now resides.

Answer to 4th Inter: He was first called into service by draft, then as a volunteer and again by draft.

Answer to 5 Inter: As a volunteer I recollect none of the names of officers but Captain Hunt Macon, when upon three months tour, Colonel Linton's Regiment, the officer commanding the detachment he cannot recollect; as to the circumstances of the Service, it is before mentioned that they were employed as a guard and afterwards we marched to the South.

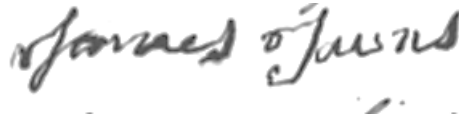
Answer to the 6th Inter: He received a discharge, first, from the officer commanding the fourth class of drafted Militia, as well as he can recollect whose name he has forgotten from Captain Hunt Macon as a Volunteer, and he thinks, from Captain Sessions, when he left the Regiment at Chatham Court House

Answer to 7th Inter: He refers you to James Long JIC, Robert Graves JIC, William Sanders JIC, Colonel Gabriel Nash, Augustus Crawford and William Meroney of this County, Armstead Atkinson and William and Robert Simson of Green County of this State and Frederick Hawk now of the County formally of Warren in the State of North Carolina.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Towns



[Benjamin Brown, a clergyman, and Frederick Hawk gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10]

Georgia, Madison County: Amended Declaration of James Towns

On this third day of August 1833 James Towns personally appeared before me James Long one of the Justices of the Inferior Court of Madison County and made oath to the amended declaration as herein Stated, to wit, In the first place as regards his being placed in the fourth class as stated in his declaration of which this is amendatory he believes it possible that it might have been in the third class and which to the best of his (now) recollection he believes to be in the year 1778 – that 12 persons including himself hired one man to serve in the regular Services for three years which man was received by the proper authority – and the 12th of three years would be three months which term of three months he thinks himself justly entitled – the Service as Stated under Captain Hunt Macon in 1781, to the best of his recollection was two months to wit entered in March and discharged in April. The services under Captain White and Captain Sessions as stated in his declaration in 1781 – this Service he entered shortly after the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] but cannot recollect the day this was a tour of three months service after Serving about one month himself his health was so impaired that he hired a Substitute to perform the balance of said Service say two months and received a full discharge for the three months – making in all seven months services for which he claims a pension – he has lost all his discharges and all the evidences of Service and from the great length of time which has elapsed since said duty was performed and the Consequent loss of memory from old age this is the best showing he can make.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this third day of August 1833.

S/ James Long, JIC

S/ James Towns

[p 3: On May 13, 1852 in Madison County, Georgia Samuel Williford of said County and state filed a power of attorney in right of his wife Martha Williford formally Martha Towns daughter

of James Towns. He instructs his attorney to have any certificate obtained to be issued in the name of James the Williford (his relationship not stated).

Gerrard Williford Seal]