

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Townsend R10661

fn23SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Alabama County of Coosa

On this the 25th day of October 1844 personally appeared before me Ebenezer Pond Judge of the County Court of said County the same being a Court of Record John Townsend a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged eighty-two years and ten months who being first sworn duly according to law doth on his oath make the following oath and 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 at one time he entered the Service [indecipherable word] in Camden District of the State of South Carolina that he has now no means by which to determine the precise period of time when he first entered that service but believes to the best of his recollection that it was in the month of November 1777. This was as a private footmen under Captain Richard Sadler whose commander was Colonel Thomas Neil [sic, Thomas Neel] of Camden District in command of a Militia Regiment this tour continued about 7 weeks the object of it was put down the Cherokee Indians who were plundering and devastating the country our erection was to the mouth of Tugaloo [spelled Tugular] River and I returned to the settlement same route during this short campaign nothing of interest occurred. In this tour he was a volunteer. After this still as a volunteer under Captain Richard Sadler whose commander was Colonel Andrew Neil [sic, Andrew Neel]. This tour continued about 2 months and the object of it was to guard Orangeburg against the British and Tories -- nothing of interest occurred during this campaign. After this he was a volunteer under Captain William Hanna whose commander was Colonel William Bratton this tour continued about 4 or 5 weeks during this tour he was at the Siege of Fort Thompson on Santee River, from thence to Congaree and there joined in the sieging of that Fort from thence he returned to Camden South Carolina his residence. After this he was a volunteer under Colonel Edward Lacey of Camden District in command of a Militia Regiment this tour continued about 3 weeks and the object of it was put down the Tories who were plundering and devastating the country our erection was down Sandy River towards the Congaree [River] and we returned back to our own settlement by the way of Wainsborough [sic, Winnsborough?]. During this campaign there was nothing of interest occurred further than the killing of one Tory who refused to be taken and capturing of several others who were suspected but were discharged upon the pledge of remaining at home and having no intercourse with the enemy. In this tour, he served as a private horseman. This applicant further states that he is quite certain that he had one discharge and is of belief more than the one: that he had one from Captain Richard Sadler and that he could now show them but for the burning of his house in Madison County Alabama, which circumstance places it entirely beyond the reach of this deponent to state what were their dates how many or

who they were all from that from officers properly authorized to grant them. From this period of time until the evacuation of Charleston by the British in 1782 in the final close of the war he was occasionally engaged in scouting parties and though his services was not ordered but was always made to answer to his Countries call and keep his horse for that express purpose that during this period of time above mentioned he was engaged in no civil pursuit except what attention he could give his domestic matters during the intervals of service. The applicant further states under oath that he now lives in a newly settled country remote from the scenes of his services and he is not able to say whether a solitary witness to his services excepting his own brother¹ who was an actor with him in a campaign under Colonel Edward Lacey and several scouting parties, he hopes that no man who knows him will doubt his veracity or his standing as a man of truth and does not believe any man can be found who will doubt. Among those who know me well I doubt not vouch for my truthfulness and their belief in my services as a soldier of the Revolution. I would mention the names of the Honorable James E. Beller, Hon. Wm L. Yancy, Hon. E. Pond, Coll. R. Rose, Col. Abel Hagerty and Wm Kennedy all living near me some of whom have known me for 40 years. The applicant further states on oath that he was born in Camden District South Carolina on the 26th day of December 1761 -- this is the information from his parents, but there is no record of his age existing the family Bible which contained it having been taken by the Tories during the Revolution on an occasion when they plundered his father's house, he lived in Camden District South Carolina when he went into the service of the United States he afterwards about 1783 moved to Wilkes County Georgia and remained there 10 or 11 years from there he moved to Abbeville County South Carolina and remained there about 4 years from thence he moved to East Tennessee Knox County and lived there 10 or 11 years, from thence to Wain [sic, Wayne] County Kentucky remained there 4 or 5 years from thence to Madison County Alabama and remained there one year from thence to Limestone County Alabama and lived there one year from thence to Madison County Alabama and remained there 2 years and again moved to Limestone County Alabama remained there about one year, from thence to Franklin County same State, Alabama, and remained there about 3 years from thence to Hamilton County Illinois and remained there about one year thence to Franklin County Alabama precise time not recollected thence to Union County Alabama and remained there but a short period of time from thence to Montgomery County Alabama and remained there one year from thence to Coosa County Alabama present residence.

The applicant further on oath states that by reason of old age, the consequent loss of memory cannot precisely swear as to the precise length of his service yet according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods before mentioned in this declaration for which he claims a pension and in conclusion hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ Ebenezer Pond, JCCCC

S/ John Townsend, X his mark

[Daniel Rowe, a clergyman and Peter Parker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ Samuel Townsend R10663