

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Townsend R10663

fn15SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[The digital image of this application is extremely faint -- rely on the following transcription with great caution.]

State of Alabama County of Coosa

On this the 25th day of October [illegible] personally appeared before me, Ebenezer Pond, Judge of the County Court of said County the same being a Court of Record, Samuel Townsend, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Eighty Nine [? text very faint] and 6 months who being duly sworn 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 the time he entered the service, he resided in Camden District of the State of South Carolina that he has 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 May 1778. This was as a horseman and private 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 to put down the Tories who were plundering and devastating the Country. Our direction lay down Sandy River towards the Congaree, and we returned back to our own settlements by the way of Waynesboro : During this short campaign, nothing of interest occurred, further than the killing of one Tory who refused to be taken, and the wounding of another, and the capture of several who were suspected, but were discharged upon the pledge of remaining at home, and having no intercourse with the enemy. In this tour he was a volunteer. After this as a drafted soldier he was under Colonel William Bratton at the siege of the Congaree Fort, which was taken, with about 200 prisoners, of Tories principally & some few British. William Hanna was his immediate commanding officer -- his Captain. This Regiment was also from Camden District, and the Fort was on Congaree River near Friday's ferry. He was drafted for 3 months, but the infirmities of his memory prevent him from saying whether he served it all out or not.

After this he was engaged as a volunteer in scouring the Country for Tories, for about 3 weeks, under cap major James Moore, of the militia of Camden District. He went in the direction and region of country on water Reedy River. He again afterwards (but at what precise time he cannot possibly say) volunteered under Colonel Lacey to keep down the Tories and prevent their inroads. They were out at least 3 weeks. On another occasion went as a volunteer under Captain Hannah, to the relief of Captain George Delap [?] who was then engaged in fighting against the Tories in the Waxhaw settlement, on the East side of Catawba River, some 50 miles from his residence. Before they reached there however an engagement had taken place in which the Patriots were defeated. It was on that occasion that General Andrew Jackson together

with his brother were taken prisoner, the former then a mere boy. When we reached the place we solve nothing but the smoking ruins of the Church which the Tories had set fire to -- We immediately returned & we were too late to be of service. He was engaged in many scouting parties which it is unnecessary to mention, in addition to the foregoing.

Again in May 1781 (to the best of his recollection) he went as a drafted soldier down upon the Edisto River. He served as a Sergeant in this tour, William Hanna was his Captain, and General Samuel Henderson was chief in command. The region of country, to which they went, was about 150 miles from the residence of applicant. Headquarters were at Tyler's plantation on Edisto River. The services performed during this campaign were of no particular interest. The principal object was to prevent the enemy and Tories from penetrating further to the interior of the State and to give security to the defenseless settlements, the women and children of which were brought into camp -- and which being chiefly the families of Tories, were wagoned off to Charleston by command of General Henderson. In this campaign, he served out his full 3 months and remained till relief came, at which time he got his discharge where the discharge is now or what became of it, the applicant is utterly unable to say, and it cannot now be obtained. By whom this discharge was given the applicant cannot now say, but is well assured it was by one who had competent authority to get it. From this period until the evacuation of Charleston, by the British in 1782, and the final close of the war, he was occasionally engaged in scouting parties, and those the service was not archer was, was always ready to answer to the call of his country and kept his horse for that express purpose. That during the periods of time above mentioned he was employed 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 for the last 4 years, in consequence of his extreme old age, and bodily infirmity, he has not gone from his own house, in 4 years that he now lives in a newly settled Country distant from the scenes of his services, and he is not able to say whether a solitary witness to his services even survives excepting his own brother,¹ who was an actor with him on some of the foregoing occasions. 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 them who know me, and 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 Sampson W. Harris, Honorable William L. Yancey, Honorable James E. Belser, Honorable E. Pond, James Loftin, Jeremiah Loftin and Joseph Parker, all living not far from me, and some of whom have known me nearly 30 years. Applicant further states on oath that he was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia on the 20 day of February, 1755. This is the information received 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 the occasion when they plundered his father's house as above stated he lived in Camden South Carolina when he went into the service of the United States. He afterwards the precise time not recollected moved to Wilkes County Georgia thence he moved to Greene County at the end of one year -- Went from there to Clark County and afterwards to Jasper County. His memory is so frail particulars as to dates, that he does not know how long he lived in Green and Clark -- but lived in Jasper 8 years. In 1816, he moved to Montgomery County Alabama, where he resided till 1835 when he removed to his present place of residence in Coosa County. The Declarant further states, that by reason of old age, the consequent loss of memory, he cannot positively swear as to the precise length of his services; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the

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periods before mentioned in this declaration --; for which service 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 –

S/ Samuel Townsend, X his mark

S/ Ebenezer Pond, JCCCC

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