

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Owen R7843

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 Aug 2012.

[The present pension application has the same file number as that of Edmund Owens who served from North Carolina.]

State of Georgia Greene County, On this the thirteenth day of August in the year eighteen hundred & thirty two, personally appeared before the Honorable the Inferior Court of the county and state aforesaid John Owen in the seventy seventh, year of his age, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the regular service of the United States under Capt Young 1<sup>st</sup> Leut John Erskin, 2<sup>nd</sup> William Erskin, our company was attached to a Reg't. commanded by Col Davis [sic: William Davies]. He does not recollect at the time that he entered the service, but believes it was about two years before the Capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. Our company rendezvoused at Little York & joined the Reg't of Col Davis – we were marched from Little York to Chesterfield Court House At Chesterfield Court House he with twenty four others were detached under the command of Capt. Greer and was marched to the American Magazine at Westham where we remained about three months engaged in moulding bullets, preparing cartrages, &c. after this we moved the magazine from Westham to Gochland Court House, & from thence to Albermarle Ct. House [sic: Albemarle Courthouse], to prevent its being taken by Col Tarltons Light Horse [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, Jun 1781]], the magazine was afterwards taken to the seige of York, & he with the twenty four men were marched to Richmond, Va, where they remained until the end of the war engaged in guarding prisoners.

He further states that he was not discharged until the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1781 after Cornwallis had surrendered at Little York

And this deponant further states that before he entered the regular service of the United States, he was frequently called upon as a minute man & performed service at different times in this capacity and for three year, under Capt John Billups & Capt Richard Gregory (a certificate from whom is herewith annexed) He thinks that he was engaged for something like six months in this line of service. He further states that he was living in Gloucester County Va at the time that he entered the ser[vice]

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed this the day & year aforesaid John hisXmark Owen

Georgia. Oglethorpe County 17<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1832.

Captain Redd. Dear sir. I received your letter by Major Moore, & in compliance with your request, do certify that John Owen acted as a soldier in the militia of Gloucester County Virginia during the whole of the revolutionary war, and without pay from the State. In the year 1780 I took command of the company of which John was a member, and do not recollect that he every was deficient in his duty, as a soldier. Indeed from the exposed situation, in which we lived, on the Chesapeak [sic: Chesapeake], we all acted as minutemen, having our own arms & amunition in readiness for immediate service, besides frequently performing garrison duty. Yours very respectfully/ R'd. Gregory.

Georgia }  
Greene County }

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of the county & state aforesaid John Owen being duly sworn deposeseth & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of

his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades, he served as a private in the regular service eighteen months, & as a minute man under Capts. Billups & Gregory as much as two years & for such he claims a pension.

This deponant further states that it is impossible for him to give a more minute or detailed account of his service than what is contained in the declaration he has heretofore submitted to the Department, not having any documentary testimony, or liveing witness except Capt Richard Gregory whos certificate is annexed to said declaration. Deponant further states that he is very poor & infirm & has to rely on the Bounty of a kind friend for a subsistance

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 7<sup>th</sup> Oct'r 1833                      John hisXmark Owen

State of Georgia     } SS.  
County of Greene    }

On this the ninth day of March 1835 personally appeared before the Honorable Angus M. D. King Judge of the Superior Court of said County, John Owen a resident of Haralsons district, in the County and State aforesaid aged eighty years on the 25th day of February 1835, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832

That he was born in the year 1755 at New Point Comfort Glocester County, Virginia. He first served (as a minute man) the year he does not distinctly recollect, and served at intervals, at least three months, this service commenced at the time Dunmore landed at Gwinns Island [sic: Gwynn Island, 9 Dec 1775], and was under the command of Captain Billups. towards the close of this service was commanded by Captain Gales, we were wile in this service attached to the command of Col [Sir John] Peyton, and remained on the Chesapeak Bay. In the year 1780 he enlisted for eighteen Months as a regular soldier, in Glocester County (Va) and was attached to Captn Youngs Company, at Little York, & was in the regiment commanded by Col Wm Tavis [sic], which was under the command of Gen Steuben He remained a few days at Little York, in the latter part of the fall of the year & was then marched to Chesterfield Court House, under the command of the same officers and remained there until the Spring He was then marched to Osborn's Ware Houses, on James river [20 mi below Richmond] for the purpose of attacking [Gen. Benedict] Arnold, who burnt the place before our arrival [27 Apr 1781]. He was then selected with twenty four others, & remained with them at Chesterfield Court House, to prepare Cartridges. The invalids of Steuben's Command remained with this detachment. After being selected to prepare Cartridges he was placed under the command of Captn Greer, he was about a month employed at this place. He then marched under Captn Greer to the magazine at Westham, seven miles from Richmond, & was delivered over to the command of Captn Ambrose Bohanan [sic: Ambrose Bohannon], under him John Brooks was first lieutenant and Wm Brooks [William Brooks] was 2ond Lieutenant. He remained here not less than six weeks. He then marched under the same officers with ammunitions &c to Goochland Court House, where he remained not less than two months, he then marched to Albermarle Court House, & remained there until the corps to which he was attached was compelled to retreat by the arrival of Tarltons Cavalry in the neighbourhood. He was still under the same Company Officers. He then marched towards Sheannah [Shenandoah?] Court House, & on the way, the corps was met by the public waggons belonging to the main army, & delivered the ammunitions &c up to them. He then marched under the same company officers, to Richmond & remained there to guard the prisoners until after the surrender of Cornwallis at Little York, & there served out his time of enlistment. He was a private, & during the period of the service aforesaid, he was engaged in no civil employment, & for this service he claims a pension. He has no record of his age, & he does not know any person within a convenient distance of the Court, by whom he can prove his service. His discharge was placed in the care of Col Cary [possibly Wilson Miles Cary] with whom he lived (10 years after leaving the army) at the close of which time Col Cary died & the discharge was misplaced. that he never afterwards received it.

By reason of defect of memory from old age, & lapse of time, he does not know precisely how long he served but according to the best of his memory, he served as a minute man at different periods not less than 3 months and as an enlisted soldier 18 months

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, or an annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state

John hisXmark Owen

Interrogatories by the court, & answers of the applicant.

1st Int. Where, & in what year were you born?

1<sup>st</sup> Ans At New Point Comfort, in Gloucester County Virginia on the 25th of Feby 1755

2. Int. Have you any record of your age? & if so, where is it

2<sup>nd</sup> Ans. I have no record of my age, it was left in Virginia

3rd Int. Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the revolutionary war? & where do you now live

3rd Ans. In Gloucester Co Va (since the war) in Virginia, afterwards in Clark Co Ga, and for 20 years past in Greene County Georgia

4th Int How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? if a substitute for whom.

4<sup>th</sup> Ans. I first served as a minute man (in the Militia) I afterwards enlisted and served 18 months & never served as a substitute.

5th Int State the names of some of the regular officers with whom you served, such continental & militia as you can now recollect, & the general circumstances of your service

5th Ans As a minute man I was under Captns Billups, Gates & Col Peyton. Under my enlistment Col Wm Davis & Gen Steuben (the Captns were as named in the statement of my service I cannot say positively what others, the regiment to which I was attached was known as the Virginia Regiment

6th Int Did you ever receive a discharge from the service?

6th Ans I did.

7th Int State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood, & who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a revolutionary soldier

7<sup>th</sup> Ans. Captn Wm Redd, Maj'r Oliver Porter, Major Thomas Stocks, the Rev. E Bradshaw & others

John hisXmark Owen

[4 April 1835]

Georgia } Personally came before me John Wilson a Justice of the Peace of Harelson's  
Greene County } district in the County and State aforesaid John Owen, who being duly qualified  
deposeth, and sayeth that he has never been apprised of the existence of any act of Congress for the benefit of the soldiers in the (revolutionary) war between Great Brittain and the United States (that he recollects of) previous to the act of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. And that some two or three (or perhaps more) years after he was discharged, that he walked to Richmond Va. from Gloucester County (or that part which was known as Mathis Co [sic: Mathews County, formed in 1790]) with the expectation of receiving pay for his services, that there he was only furnished with a certificate of the amount due him, for such services – that a short time afterwards he found employment on board of a vessel and that he followed such employment for near ten years, that his certificate for pay as a soldier was lost during this time, and that he never after making application at Richmond applied again for pay, and that if his depreciation pay in 1783 was never paid to any other individual as agent for him &c that it was entirely without his knowlege – he further asserts that he has never received any pay or been in the least benefitted, by any act of Congress for his services during the Revolutionary war.

John hisXmark Owen