

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Owens R7846

fn28SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/22/10

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Declaration of Benjamin Owens in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832

State of Arkansas County of Conway: SS

On this 31st day of July 1838 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Probate, now sitting, Benjamin Owens a resident of the County of Conway and State of Arkansas aged seventy-three years on the 13th day of May last, 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated –

That about the first of March 1785 he volunteered in the service of the United States for 30 days in the company of Captain Robinson. This Company was not a volunteer Company, but some of the men of the Company were sick, and unable to perform duty, and there was a call for men to fill their places and thus it was that he first entered the service. He volunteered in Fairfield District South Carolina where he resided, and from there he was marched to Orangeburg South Carolina, the headquarters of General Winn. After a short stay at Orangeburg; a Sergeant and a man were detailed, and ordered to escort and guard the ammunition wagons from Orangeburg to the saw mills on Edisto River on their route to General Greene's Army. This duty was considered hazardous by Major Wallace who had command of the company to whom he the said Benjamin Owens belonged as aforesaid, and for that reason the Major promised to give each man of the escort or guard, his discharge upon successfully performing said duty, [one or more indecipherable words] being done the said Benjamin Owens, and others of that party were discharged some two or three days before the expiration of their respective Tours so that the duration of service here above referred to was one month last two or three days as aforesaid. A regular discharge was at that time given, yet it was given for all in one and given to the Sergeant having the command as aforesaid, one Coonrod Koon – And the said Benjamin Owens has never seen or heard of it since –

That afterwards in Many of the same year 1785 (as well as recollected) the said Benjamin Owens, at his residence in Fairfield District South Carolina, was regularly drafted into the service of the United States and fell in the company or Division of Lieutenant Henry Wimpey,

and was marched in said Division by said Lieutenant to Orangeburg South Carolina where he in company with said division of said Lieutenant was received & under the command of Colonel Thomas Taylor. After a stay of a few days at this place, he was marched with others under the command of Colonel Taylor to the Four Hole Bridge in said State; where General Winn took command & here we remained until sometime in July of the same year when he was relieved and discharged.

The drafts were made in Divisions or by Divisions and were for a month's service or longer if not relieved. In the case of said Benjamin Owens, the Division to which he belonged was not relieved till after he had served two months or more. He was in company with and out at the same time with a part of Colonel Lacey's Regiment, and also the Regiment or a part of the Regiment of Colonel Bratton.

The said Benjamin Owens, here alleges that he received no written discharge on this last occasion, and says that none were given because the whole division together with the Commanding Officer were discharged at the same time, and a went home at the same time.

In relation to documentary evidence – He has through the means of a friend obtained a letter from the Comptroller General of South Carolina, who has been pleased to furnish and extract from some ancient Richard of that State. An entry from which is "I certify that the following Indent were found: viz., In Book 7 No. 239. Issued to Benjamin Owens Junior, 26 July 1785 forty-four pounds fifteen shillings 8 1/2 for 67 days Militia duty p act induced [?]."

He knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

Being interrogated by the Court, he states that he was born in the state of North Carolina, does not know the County or District, in the year 1765. He has a record, made by himself in his own family Bible and copied and taken from the Bible of his grandfather Owen Owens. The old Bible from which he transcribed and [indecipherable word] the record of his age is long since worn out and lost or destroyed – when called into the service he says as he has before stated that he resided in Fairfield District South Carolina. That since the war he remained in said Fairfield District SC some fifteen or twenty years past thereafter, when he moved to Tennessee and near natural say within five miles of Nashville. He stayed about one year near Nashville – and then moved to an adjoining County (Robinson) in said State of Tennessee where he resided six years – He then moved back to the said State of South Carolina, and District of Fairfield. He remained in South Carolina after his return there as aforesaid till the year 1821 when he moved to the State of Alabama where he staid in the County of Shelby, six years or seven years, and that in the spring of 1827 or eight he moved to the Territory of Arkansas, and settled in this County (Conway) where he now resides and has ever since. He has already stated that, he first entered the service of the United States as a volunteer for [several indecipherable words] tour [more indecipherable words]. He has but little knowledge of the Regular Officers – He went as a guard with the Ammunition Wagons, part of the way to General Greens Army – but not being required to joined and Army he did not see General Green in person. And only knows from hearsay that he commanded. He was all together with the militia of his own state as aforesaid. He never received (in person) a written discharge from the service. That as before stated a written discharge was given to Sergeant Koone and a man one of whom was said Benjamin Owens – he gives as the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution the following: Colonel Thomas Mathers, Judge Joseph Simmons, Frederick Fletcher, Thomas Hanes, Sheriff of this County, James Adams, Reuben J. Blount, Elisha Wilborn, Dudley Patterson Esquire, Colonel Benjamin Thomas & Eli Bentley, Oliver Bentley, Doctor Merriffee [?], Richard

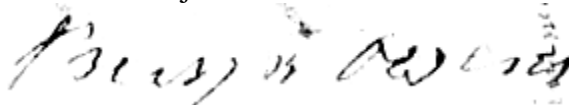
Griffin, Larkin Griffin, Hawkins Gregory, Jonathan Jones – And in conclusion he says that he could name, and can refer to every neighbor he has, which includes pretty much the whole County of Conway.

He 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.

He further states that the reason for his not asking a pension earlier, are that his pecuniary situation heretofore has been such that he could well do without it: and his pride was such that he did not like to ask it. He is now quite old and feeble, and unable to [several indecipherable words] it as his right and no way disgraceful to receive it at the hands of his government.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benjn. Owens



[James Brewton, a clergyman residing in Pope County Arkansas & Thomas Mathers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Arkansas County of Conway

Personally came before me the undersigned one of the Judges of the Circuit for the State aforesaid Benjamin Owens to obtain the benefit of the several acts of Congress providing for soldiers of the revolution after being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God deposed and saith that he is seventy-two years of age, that at the age of fifteen years that he resided in the State of South Carolina Fairfield District that he volunteered in a Militia company commanded by Captain William Robinson, Henry Wympey was his Lieutenant that he was marched to Orangeburg and was attached to Major Wallace's Command after this deponent's time of service had expired three wagons from the North came on carrying provisions for General Greene's Army who was then lying at Dorchester. This deponent was prevailed on by Major Wallace with eight others to escort said wagons to Greene's Army promising on their return to give them their discharge. This deponent did under a Sergeant a Dutchman by the name of Coonrod Coons escort said wagons and on their return the Sergeant made application to Major Wallace and obtained a discharge for himself and his command this deponent never took his discharge from the service. In one month after this deponent's return home he was drafted and went out with Lieutenant Wympey to what is called the Four Hole Bridge. This Deponent's Colonel was Thomas Taylor General Winn was in the command at the Four hole where he remained till within three weeks of peace between Great Britain and America when the man were relieved and went home. This deponent states that he has never received anything for his services either from South Carolina or any other State nor has he received anything from the United States and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Benjamin Owens

Sworn to and subscribed before me Charles Caldwell this 28th day of September in the year of Christ 1837

S/ Chas. Caldwell, Judge of the fifth Judicial District of the State of Arkansas