

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Townsend, S17152

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

State of Indiana, Morgan County }

On this 13 day of November 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable John Matthews Probate Judge of said County of Morgan William Townsend a resident of said County aged Seventy-Two years who being 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 the Seventh 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1775¹ on or about the middle of May in said year for the Term of nine months and served in the fourth Regiment of the New Levies as they were then called under the following named officers to wit Colonel Archibald Little [sic, Archibald Lytle] who commanded said Regiment the Lieutenants [sic, Lt. Colonel's] and Majors names not recollected the Captain's name under whom he served was James Jack, Lieutenant __ Lewis, Ensign __ Clark that he served under said enlistment until some [time] in the month of August 1776. Notwithstanding he enlisted in the Army in May in the year 1775. Yet he was not called on to march until about the first day of July in the same year and that he was furloughed on the 24th day of August in the same year until the first day of March 1776. But notwithstanding on or about the 6th day of November 1775 he was called upon to Rendezvous at Charlotte it being the County seat of Mecklenburg County State of North Carolina from thence to the company to which he belonged marched to the ten mile house within 10 miles of Charleston in the State of South Carolina and there remained for a short time until the different companies marched to said place and formed the Regiment and from thence the said Regiment marched to Purysburg on the Savannah River and from thence of the said River to Augusta from thence the Army crossed the said River about 60 miles to the mouth of Briar Creek at which place we had an engagement² with the British Army and were defeated by said Army at said engagement and Battle. We were commanded by General Ash [sic, John Ashe] I believe as well as I recollect and from said Battle ground we were driven back across said Savannah River and the deponent marched down to a place called the Black Swamp at which place was one or more regiments when we got there we lay there for a short time and from thence we crossed the River and marched into Augusta in the State of Georgia and from thence the Army was marched across over into State of South Carolina and continued to march on towards Charleston but when we got within about 20 miles of Charleston to a place called Stono we learned that the British had surrounded Charleston and there we had a battle³ with the British which lasted about two hours or something like that time and from that place the company to

1 The events described by this veteran indicate that the date to which he refers was 1778, not 1775.

2 Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

3 The Battle of Stono Ferry occurred on June 20, 1779.

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

which I belonged were marched to a place called Blueford [sic, Beaufort] at which place I think as well as I can recollect we staid about eight or 10 days from thence we marched back to a place called Bacon's Bridge and from thence we continued on in the direction from which we marched at first and when we got on some considerable distance we were ordered to encamp for the night and we deposited our guns in an old house and that the next day I received a printed discharge. The Blank of said discharge was filled up with writing Signed by Captain Goodman during the foregoing campaign there were a number of new captains the names of which I believe was as follows to wit James Craig, David Cowan, Thomas Harris and __ Dunahoo [sic, Thomas Donoho]. I got my discharge on or about the 10th day of August 1776 [sic, 1779] and further this declarant says that sometime in the summer of 1777 one Joseph Howel was drafted for the Term of three months and that he hired to said Howel as a Substitute for and during the said Term of three months and Served in the Army of the United States for and in the room & place and stead at of said Howel for and during the said term of three months – that he marched from Mecklenburg County on towards Camden under the command of Captain William Hughston [sic, William Houston ?] Lieutenant John White and Ensign William Frazier and was there met by the British and was totally defeated by the said enemy. And lost all the Baggage belonging to our Army at which place in battle we were commanded by General Gates⁴ there was present also Generals Rutherford and Green⁵ when we discovered that we were defeated every man made his escape from the enemy in the best Manner possible and the Balance of the said three months we spent on the road homeward and in guarding the Settlements and in the Latter part of said Term I was commanded by Captain James Reese and received a written discharge from the said Captain Reese at the expiration of said term of three months and further this declarant says in the year 1778 or 1779 he was called out during the Spring Summer and Autumn months of that year to prevent the Tories from doing Mischief to the Whigs and also to intimidate them that they should not encourage or aid the British in their state of warfare against the Americans it was in the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina he says he was called out for one day and sometimes for five or six days and sometimes or 10 or 12 days at one time so that the number of odd days when added together makes the number of three months as he verily believes or more. The declarer says they were called Minute Men they were required to be ready at a Minute's warning the captains name he believes was called Joseph Shin [sic, Joseph Shinn]. There Lieutenant's name was Robert Russell one of the last mentioned times he says he marched into the State of South Carolina to or near the Catawba River where the Catawba Indians as it was said had a grant of Land from the King. He says he served in the revolutionary war about 19 or 20 months in all.

The said declarant in answer to the questions proposed by the court as requested by the Instructions from the War department says that to the best of his knowledge and belief he was born on the 5th day of April in 1760 that he has a record of his age in a Bible which his Father gave to him which he believes was his father's family record that he lived in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina at the time he entered into the Army of the United States and between the times of the several terms of Service aforesaid and continued to live there until the year 1810 at which time he removed into the State of Indiana in Harrison County in said State of Indiana and remained there until the year 1820 at which time he removed into what was called the New purchase in the Vicinity of White River in that part which now is in the County of Morgan and State of Indiana where he now lives or near to that place.

4 The applicant appears to be describing the Battle of Camden in which Horatio Gates commanded the American Army against forces commanded by Cornwallis. This battle occurred on August 15-16, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/camdenmarker.htm>

5 If the applicant intends a reference to Nathanael Greene, he was not present at the Battle of Camden. Greene succeeded Gates as commander of the Southern Department of the Continental Army on December 2, 1780 in Charlotte, NC.

As to the first second third fourth and fifth Interrogatories are contained in his declaration above so far as this declarer can recollect as to the sixth inquiry he says he had two discharges but has lost them both long since as he did not ever expect to receive any Benefit from them. As to the seventh inquiry I am known by George A. Phelps, John Sims Thomas Farly John Gray James Craig Benjamin Huffman who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his Serving as a Soldier of the Revolutionary war that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service and that he has no documentary evidence thereof. 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 or Territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Townsend, X his mark

[Hiram T. Craig, a clergyman, and William H. Craig gave the standards supporting affidavit.]

[p 15]

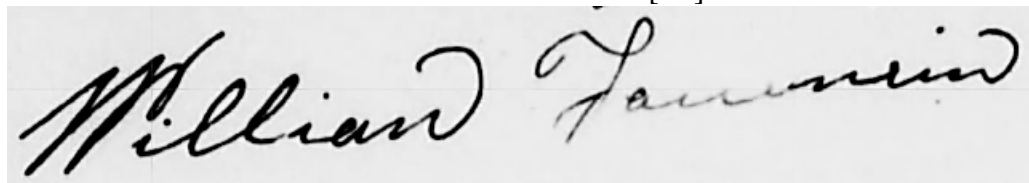
State of Indiana, Morgan County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, William Townsend who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age and 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, and in the following grades: that under his first engagement which really included two tours, he served for at least 13 months, including the time from the 24th of August until the sixth of November (two months and 12 days during which time he was on furlough) as a private soldier. In his second tour he served at least three months as private soldier. That in the autumn of 1778 or 1779 he was in active service as minute [man] at least two months. The said deponent thinks that he may be mistaken as to the date or period of his first enlistment. But he is confident that exclusive of his minute service he was actually engaged in the service of the United States as above not less than sixteen months as a private soldier and for such service he claims a pension

Sworn to & subscribed before me this first day of June 1833.

S/ C. B. Butler, JP

S/ William Townsin [sic]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Townsend". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina Continental line.]