

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Townsend S31428

f7VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/12/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Estill County

On this 18th day of August 1834, personally appeared before me, John W. Moore, and acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Thomas Townsend, a resident of Estill County and State of Kentucky, aged 72 years, 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. In the summer of the year 1778 he volunteered his services under Captain Lyon, and was under Major Brice Martin. He was marched against the Shawnee Indians as far as New River, Virginia, where it was believed the Indians stopped and scattered. Our commander, Col. Parrish, was apprehensive that the Indians were too strong for us, and we returned and erected a Fort at Col Parrish's residence, where he remained, occasionally reconnoitering the country round, until his tour of three months was out, when he was discharged and returned home.

In the summer of the year 1780, he volunteered his services again. He was under Captain Wm Dougherty, Lieutenant Trimble and Ensign Armstrong. He was marched to Holston River, and down that, and cross the country to King's Mountain, and was in the battle fought at that place. General Campbell [sic, then Col. William Campbell], Colonels Dougherty and Williams [James Williams] and Majors Isaac and Evan Shelby [sic, then Col. Isaac Shelby] were in command. Colonel Williams was shot by a boy after the battle was nearly over. After the battle he was marched to French Broad River, Virginia, to a place called the Hanging Rock, where some Tories and Indians were stationed, who we surprised and took prisoners. He remained here a short time, but was then marched to Davis' Station, where he remained till his tour of three months was out, when he was discharged and went home.

In the latter part of February or first of March 1781 he again volunteered his services under the command of Captain William Rion [Ryan?], Lieut. Cloy and Ensign William Groves [? could be Grover or Graves]--Also Major George Hartson [George Hairston]. He was rapidly marched from his residence almost night and day for the purpose of meeting Lord Cornwallis, whom it was understood was marching through the country with his Army. The United States Troops met him at Guilford Courthouse. He was in the battle fought at that place, which was a very hard one-- both parties being nearly whipped yet General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] kept his ground and the British Army retreated the next morning leaving many of their dead not buried. The next day after the battle was fought, the company to which he belonged, together with others, were sent back & was marched to Hart Courthouse, Virginia, where he remained to assist in keeping down the Tories till his tour of three months was out.

He was born, according to the best information he has, on the 25th of December 1762, in Lunenburg County, Virginia. He has no record of his age. He was living in Henry County, Virginia, when he volunteered his services. He then moved to Franklin County, Virginia, from this to Madison County, Kentucky, and then to Estill County, Kentucky, where he now resides. He volunteered his services in all the tours he served, and served in all nine months. He has already given the names of all

the officers he can at this time recollect as well as the general circumstances of his services. He would here state that he has no education, can neither read nor write, and consequently has had to depend entirely upon his recollection, it is now rapidly failing him. He received discharges for all three of his tours, but had the misfortune to get his house burnt, with all his papers. All three of his discharges were amongst his other papers, and were burnt up. He does not recollect who signed his discharges. He is known in his present neighborhood to John Richardson, Senior and John W. Moore, who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Townsend, X his mark

State of Kentucky, Estill County

I, John W. Moore, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, do certify that Thomas Townsend this day came personally before me, and subscribed and swore to the foregoing declaration, according to law; I further certify, after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states. I further certify that the said Thomas Townsend, from bodily infirmity, is unable to attend Court. Given under my hand this 18th day of August 1834.

S/ John W. Moore, J.P. {Seal}

[Rev. Samuel Kelley and John Richardson, clergyman and neighbor respectively, give the standard certificate with Richardson adding the following: "John Richardson Senior states that he has been personally acquainted with said Townsend from a boy – that he went to school with him – that he knew Townsend went out in the service of the United States, and he believes rendered all the services he states in his declaration. He, Richardson, is 74 years of age."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]