

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew Jones S32348

f30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves


1/17/14

[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 County of Owen: SS

On this 17th day of April, 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Circuit Court, in and for the County of Owen aforesaid, now held by the Honorable Amory Kinney the President Judge thereof and Alexander Eson and William Dunning, Esquires, his Associates, Matthew Jones, a resident of Wayne Township in the County of Owen aforesaid and State of Indiana, aged seventy-five years on the 18th day of March 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated, that is to say, that about the middle of August 1778, he was drafted into the militia service in Southampton County and State of Virginia, where he had then resided since his birth, in a company commanded by Captain Edmund Tyler, John Carr Stafney [?]¹ Lieutenant, and Arthur Bowen, Ensign, – that the men capable of military service of said County of Southampton had been divided by lot or draft into ten companies or corps who alternately performed such service being mostly confined to the defense of a tract of country about 60 miles long and (say) 35 or 40 miles wide comprising the then counties of Isle of Wight, Nansemond and Norfolk; that he was out on such service during the war at least six tours of six weeks during each, and that he thinks seven or eight such tours, though he is positive as to but six. That on his first tour, he was marched to Portsmouth and from thence to Fort Stephen on Wind Mill Point, a little below the Fork of Elizabeth River, on the South side of said River that on reaching Portsmouth he found a considerable number of Continental troops, which he was informed amounted to about 1500, and he is not certain but thinks they were commanded by a General Nelson, – that Fort Stephen was commanded by a Captain Booker; that this declarant's company remained at the Fort until it was relieved by another company from Southampton County. That in the end of May or beginning of June following he again rendezvoused with his company at about the center of said County which was then commanded by Captain John Rogers; the names of the Lieutenant and Ensign he does not recollect. That his company was then marched on a 2nd tour of duty; through the Town of Suffolk to the enemy's lines, and was frequently marched from point-to-point accordingly as the movement of the enemy who occasionally landed at different points along the shore of Elizabeth River required. That he has no distinct recollection of the

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order of events as they occurred during the tours, subsequent to the 2nd and preceding the last; that Jesse Whitehead was his Captain in one of those tours, and that Elias Herring was his Captain in the last of said tours; that during those intermediate tours he was at one time marched to the town of Smithfield in Isle of Wight County, at another time at "Mead's Mill" in Nansemond County, and another time at a place called the "Burnt Mill," at another, at "Sholder's Hill" [?"Soldier's Hill"?] and at another time at "Murderer's old Field;" that in his last tour, his company commanded by Captain Herring (Lieutenant not recollected, Arthur Bowen Ensign) joined the Regiment to which it was attached at "Broad Water Bridge ["] in the edge of Isle of Wight, on the 15th April 1781; that the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Gaskins [Thomas Gaskins], who had commanded the Regiment to which this declarant was attached in all his tours except the first, which was commanded by Colonel Wells; that his major was__ Duvall in all his tours; that Benjamin Blount was the Colonel of the residence militia of the County of Southampton, but rarely or never left the County for actual service; that from Broad Water Bridge they marched up James River until they reached the mouth of the Appomattox River, from whence the [day] marched to Petersburg, where they had an action [April 25, 1781] with the enemy commanded by General Arnold [Benedict Arnold] and General Philips [William Phillips] he does not know which was the superior officer in command but he thinks that Arnold was more immediately connected with the infantry and Phillips with the artillery; that the American forces at that occasion were commanded by General Muhlenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] and were compelled to retire; from thence they marched to head quarters in Chesterfield County, which was a place of rendezvous for broken and dispersed detachments; and from thence to "Falling Creek Church," at which place he volunteered into another Corps, the Regiment being commanded by Colonel Dick, __ Boyce was the Major; his Captain & Lieutenant's names he has forgotten, his Ensign's name was Lightfoot who afterwards deserted to the enemy, who were then in the neighborhood, on whose information the enemy had in the nighttime nearly surrounded our forces consisting of about 300 men, who were compelled to retreat and were pursued by the enemy until about 12 o'clock of the next day. Colonel Dick and Major Boyce were Continental officers as he thinks, but were commanded by General Muhlenberg at that time. From thence our forces marched night and day pursued by the enemy; and declarant recollects seeing the houses on fire caused by the enemy for several nights. A part of the enemy followed them in boats up James River to Manchester at the "falls" where they burnt the warehouse [April 30, 1781]. The detachment to which declarant was attached, marched to "Tuckahoe Ferry" about 15 miles above Richmond, where it crossed, and marched down the River on the North side to the "Green Springs" near Williamsburg; they then marched up the same River (with some delays on the route) to the mouth of the Appomattox River, where they were in view of the British fleet or flotilla lying in James River. One boat of the enemy landed near the small party of our forces to which declarant was attached another boat lying off in the River. The boat's crew consisting of 11 men were fired on by our party and were all killed or taken. The enemy afterwards coming in greater force, the Americans retired but on the enemies leaving the ground, our detachment again occupied the same position. Shortly after, 40 of the enemy landed still higher up the River, and were intercepted and taken by our soldiers, together with two flat boats with several swivels and howitzers and several Negroes, which was sent to Richmond and sold. Our force then marched to Richmond, at which place this deponent was taken sick and had leave of absence to recover his health, and was removed to a hospital. And he herewith sends the original in writing as evidence of that fact having never received any other discharge in writing at any time. Lord Cornwallis was at that time marching through the country, and the American forces were

collecting to oppose him. That he knows of no person living by whom he can prove any part of his services, except a sister who was living at home when he started to join his company, and who now lives about 100 miles from this place. 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/ Matthew Jones, X his mark

[John Jones, a clergyman and Robert M Wooden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Indiana County of Owen: SS

On this 14th day of April 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Court in and for the County of Owen aforesaid now held by him before the Honorable Amory Kinney President Judge thereof and Alexander Eson and William Dunning, Esquires his Associates, Matthew Jones, a resident of Wayne Township in the County aforesaid and State of Indiana now aged sixty-six years on the 18th day of March 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, in answer to the following interrogatories propounded by the Court: – that is to say –

Question. 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Southampton County in the State of Virginia in the Parish of Nottoway on the 18th day of March 1758.

Question. 2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have my age recorded in an old Common Prayer Book in which it was transcribed from an old Bible once belonging to my father when I was about 27 years of age. The Bible I think has been lost or destroyed for many years back while in the possession of my eldest son.

Question. 3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was first called into service in Southampton County Virginia; and I continued to live in said County when at home until the 9th day of November, 1801, when I removed to Montgomery County Kentucky from thence in about two years I removed to Clarke County Kentucky where I resided about eight years when I removed back to Montgomery County aforesaid where I resided about three or four years when I removed to Bath County in Kentucky until between six and seven years ago (to the best of my recollection) when I removed from thence to Owen County in the State of Indiana where I have ever since continued to live, and where he now lives.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

Answer. I was drafted into the militia service as before stated.

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services?

Answer. As before stated the first militia company into which I was drafted had Edmund Tyler for Captain, John Carr Staffney, Lieutenant and Arthur Bowen, Ensign; that he was out in such militia service at least six different tours of duty; and he thinks one or two more such tours, but is positive as to but six tours; that in his first tour he was marched to Portsmouth, thence to Fort Stephen on Wind Mill Point on reaching Portsmouth he found a considerable number of

Continental troops said to amount to 1,500 or thereabouts, which he thinks (but is not certain) was commanded by a General Nelson; Fort Stephen was commanded by a Captain Booker; – that he was six weeks engaged in said tour of service. That in the latter part of May or beginning of June following he again entered the service by draft, the company being then commanded by Captain John Rogers the names of the Lieutenant and Ensign not recollected, that in such his second tour he was marched through the town of Suffolk to the Enemy's lines and was frequently marched from point to point, as the movements of the enemy who occasionally landed at different places along Elizabeth River rendered necessary; That as before stated he was out (being drafted) in at least four other tours of duty in the militia service during the said war, but has no distinct recollection, from his old age and consequent loss of memory, of the order of events during the said tours subsequent to the second and preceding the last tour; that Jesse Whitehead was his Captain in one of those intermediate tours, in one of which he was marched to the town of Smithfield in "Isle of Wight" County, at another time to "Mead's Mill" in Nansemond County, at another time to a place then called "The Burnt Mill" at another time to "Sholder's Hill" and at another time to "Murderer's Old Field;" that in his last tour aforesaid, his company under the command of Captain Elias Herring (Lieutenant not recollected) and Arthur Bowen Ensign, joined the Regiment to which it was at attached at Broad Water Bridge in the edge of "Isle of Wight" County on the 15th April 1781, which Regiment was commanded by Colonel Gaskins who had commanded the Regiment to which declarant was attached in all his said tours of duty except the first tour, when it was commanded by Colonel Wells, that his Major's name was Duvall in all his tours; that Benjamin Blount was the Colonel of the resident militia of said County of Southampton but seldom, probably never, left said County on actual service; that in one of said tours the detachment to which he belonged had an action with the enemy commanded by General Arnold and General Philips he does not know which was the officer in command; that the American forces on that occasion were commanded by General Muhlenberg and were compelled to retire.

And for further particulars under this interrogatory he refers to his first declaration herewith returned, particularly as to another tour of service as a volunteer in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Dick, and Major Boyce, which declaration is true in substance and matter of fact as therein stated. That he served as a private in all his tours of duty and served six weeks in each tour aforesaid, making altogether at least thirty-six weeks. Since making the first declaration he distinctly recollects that he was hired as a substitute in the place of one __Bryant (whose Christian name was Nathan) (he thinks but is not certain) to perform another six weeks tour of duty in addition to the above six tours and served as a private in the same Regiment commanded by Colonel Gaskins as aforesaid for two weeks at least when the Corps to which he belonged was discharged honorably, making the whole length of such his militia service at least 38 weeks.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service? And if so by whom was it given? And what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a written discharge from the service it was given by General Muhlenberg and just before my first declaration was sent to the War Department I gave it to James Whitcomb, Esquire to be enclosed and transmitted in it.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer. John Jones and Robert M Wooden whose testimony is annexed to my first declaration

he with fortified, and others may be procured if necessary.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ Matthew Jones, X his mark

State of Indiana Owen County Sct.

Before me Isaac Heaton a justice of the peace of said County, personally appeared the said Matthew Jones who being duly sworn deposed 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 thirty-eight weeks as a private, to wit, for the year 1778 six weeks; for the year 1779, eighteen week; for the year 1780, eight weeks; and for the year 1781 six weeks as a private, and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Matthew Jones, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me as such justice of the peace this 14th day of April 1834 as witness my hand and seal.

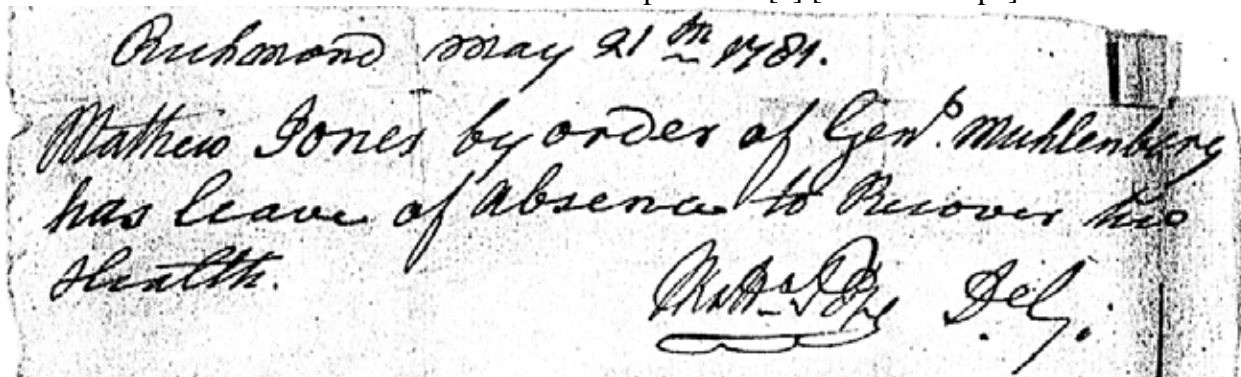
S/ Isaac Heaton

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Richmond May 21st 1781

Matthew Jones by order of General Muhlenberg has leave of absence to Recover his health

S/ Mattw Pope D. G. [?] [Matthew Pope]



Richmond May 21st 1781.
Matthew Jones by order of Gen^l Muhlenberg
has leave of absence to Recover his
Health.
Mattw Pope D. G.

[Note: Veteran is said to have died January 18, 1837 place not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 12 days in the Virginia militia.]