

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Mason Owens S32426

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Illinois }
Fayette County } Sct.

On this third day of November in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the County Commissioners Court of the County and State aforesaid, now sitting, the said Court being a Court of Record, Mason Owens a resident of Montgomery County and State aforesaid (which county adjoins the said County of Fayette) aged seventy two 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 7th 1832. That he was born in the County of King George in the state of Virginia on the eighth day of September 1760; that he has no record of his age that according to the best of his recollection, sometime in the year 1776, he volunteered as a private in the company of Captain Joseph Rogers, which company was attached to the Regiment under the command of Colonel John Skinker, that he was employed with said troops sometimes on the Potomac and sometimes on the Rappahannock Rivers, in guarding the said rivers and preventing the British troops from landing and committing devastations, in the country, that he was frequently engaged in skirmishes with the British in their attempts to land, but does not recollect particularly any engagement in which he was concerned while employed on the said rivers He states that Captain Rogers was that he was wounded at Boyd's hole on the Potomac river & that Captain George Strother took command of his company until Captain Rogers recovered, but at what time this took place he cannot particularly recollect. that he was employed in the above service until the siege of Yorktown, when he was ordered to that place and stationed on the side of the river opposite to Yorktown [at Gloucester] where he remained until the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]: that he was then employed to guard the prisoners taken at that place to Fredericksburg, where he was discharged. He states that he received a discharge from Captain Rogers for the service abovementioned, but that owing to the burning of his house while a resident of Fayette County in the State of Kentucky, he lost all his papers among which was his said discharge. He states that sometime about the year 1807 he removed from Virginia to the state of Kentucky – he resided in Mason County in said State about one year, he then removed to Bourbon County where he lived about two years, then to Fayette, how long he resided in said County he cannot precisely recollect, from Fayette county he removed to Henry County where he resided until about five years ago, when he removed to the state of Illinois where he has resided up until the present time. He further states that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, nor has he any documentary evidence to prove his aforesaid services. He states that Samuel Bartlett a resident of Montgomery County, which county adjoins the county of Fayette aforesaid and James White a resident of Bond County & state aforesaid have been acquainted with him for a considerable length of time; but that owing to the remote part of the county in which he resides he is not acquainted with any minister of the gospel.

He hereby relinquishes all and every claim whatsoever 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.

[signed] Mason Owens

State of Illinois
Fayette County Sct:

On this day, towit: the 10th day of July 1832 [sic], personally came before me Wm Hodge a justice of the peace in & for the County of Fayette & State of Illinois aforesaid Mason Owens a resident of Montgomery County & State aforesaid which County adjoins the s'd. County of Fayette of the age set

forth in his Declaration & eight months, who being first duly sworn, doth on his oath, make the following additional Declaration viz:

That this Declarant made his declaration in the Count of Fayette instead of the County of Montgomery in which he resides, because he was not aware of there being any person in the said County of Montgomery who was prepared with the necessary forms & instruments to make out a correct declaration of his services to the proper Department, was informed & did believe that there were persons in the County of Fayette aforesaid, at Vandalia in s'd. County who were so prepared and there only being five miles difference in the distance to those places:

That this Declarant verily believes that he was engaged in active service under Capt. Joseph Rodgers refered to in his original Declaration for the peri[od] of eight months, but when this service was performed – that is to say, in what year, this Declarant's memory is so imperfect that he cannot possibly recollect – That about thirty-five miles below Boyd's hole referred to in his original declaration at the mouth of a large Creek (name forgotten) he served four months & a few days under the command of Capt. George Strother, refered to in this Declarant's original Declaration – this Declarant was then discharged by Capt. Strother until further orders.

In the Spring following (year forgotten) He was ordered to march to the heights some distance above Falmouth at the head of Tide Water on the Rappahannoc River where we were garrisoned six months expecting attacks from the enemy daily as it was then expected they were about to, or would attack Fredericksburg on their passage from North Carolina into Virginia – He was again discharged for further orders – when in a few weeks after this deed[?] (being all the time a private soldier) to march to Little York river on the oppisite side of the river from where Lord Cornwallis was besieged by the American & French forces, where I was engaged in constant & arduous service for the period of at least five months and until the surrender of Cornwallis & the army under his command, to the united American & French forces. This Declarant served on this latter expedition under Capt. William Bumberry, by whom he was discharged.

This Declarant has but recently – say nine months; in this state, and had not been in the State where he made his original Declaration more than one week. Have lived far from the scenes of his services so long that he knows of no one by whose direct testimony of his revolutionary services could be proven. The persons who certify as to their acquaintance with this Declarant & their belief of his revolutionary services are both respectable members of the Babtist Church, but who have no other knowledge of this Declarant's services than their belief in his veracity & his own representatives & the opinion of those who knew him.

That this Declarant had it not in his power to obtain the certificate of a clergyman not being acquainted with any in this country who have had any opportunities of becoming acquainted him so as to enable them to make the required certificate

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of July 1833

[signed] Mason Owens