

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Tonner S3818

Transcribed by Will Graves

f30NC

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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.]

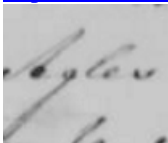
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State of Tennessee, Hawkins County }

On this 3rd day of April 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Powell, Judge of the Circuit Court of Hawkins County held in Rogersville now sitting John Tonner resident of Grainger County in the State of Tennessee aged seventy-five 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 the 7th 1832

I entered the service of the United States a private in the year 1776 on the first of June under the command of Captain Henry Smith the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Joseph Williams and Major Jacob Winston [sic, Joseph Winston?] I entered the service as a volunteer was living at that time in Surry County in the State of North Carolina we marched from there against the Cherokee Indians that were troubling the frontiers of said State.¹ We crossed the Blue Ridge at what was called the flower gap [Flower Gap] and crossed new [sic] River [New River] at Harpers Ferry and marched on to the long Island of Holston River we arrived there soon after a skirmish between some men and the Indians we lay there about 30 days and then marched over the mountains, crossing Chucky [sic, Nolichucky River] and French Broad River to an Indian town on Tennessee River called Tellico the Indians had abandoned the towns and went off. We stationed ourselves there a month or better scouting about. Afterwards we started to home and got home the 20th of December I think as well as I now recollect. We were gone six months and 20 days. I received no discharge upon my return. 1780 first July I volunteered myself under Major William Bell I do not recollect the name of my Captain and marched to join General Gates [Horatio Gates] men were hastily raised and we joined General Gates somewhere in South Carolina near Camden some time after we joined him we had a battle in which Gates was defeated [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] and a great many of his men killed a great many of his men made their escape the best way they could I among the rest I got home the last of August was gone two months. In 1780 first [of] December I went as a volunteer under Colo. Cashaw [Col. Eli Kershaw of Camden District SC?] out of Roann [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina we went on as far as Jacksborough [?] in South Carolina in search of Tories and returned home last January being gone two months. In 1781 about the first of March I joined Captain Agler [Lyles?]² of Rowan County North Carolina marched through the country to

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776_TN.html



² PERHAPS Jacob Aykler of Rowan County

Salisbury in search of Tories we were gone I think not less than two months. Immediately on my return I joined the company of Captain Miller³ and went several short trips after Tories that were lying out I think I was not gone less than one month in the last trips under Miller. There were a great many outlying Tories in the Country where I lived in the latter part of my service were principally marching after them. The above is a correct statement of my services to the best of my recollection I served under Captain Smith six months 20 days under Major Bell when Gates was defeated two months under Col. Cashaw two months under Captain Agler two months under Captain Miller one month. The cause [of] my making my Declaration in Hawkins County is I live near the line and am as well acquainted with my neighbors in Hawkins County as in Grainger County & at this time there is no Court in session in my County.

I have no documentary evidence of my service nor cannot cure any evidence of the same. I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year before mentioned and Open Court.
S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clk

S/ John Tonner, X his mark

[Thomas Crowley, a clergyman, and James Byrd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
Questions propounded to John Tonner by this Court as applicant for a pension

1st Question

Ans: I was born in the State of Maryland 1759 the 16th day of November

2nd Question

Ans: I had a record of my age which my father gave me but I lost it

3rd Question

Ans: I was living in the State of North Carolina in Surry County in one in Rowan County from Rowan County I moved to Grainger County East Tennessee where I now live

4th Question

Ans: I volunteered myself every time I went

5th Question

Ans: Col. Christy, Colonel Joseph Williams, Major Winston, Colonel Cashaw, Mjr. Bell, General Gates Colo Porterfield

6th Question

Ans: I never received any discharge

7th Question

Ans: Reverend Thomas Crowley, River in Caswell Crowley, Captain James Byrd, Reverend Moses McGinis, Peter Ogner of Hawkins County in Grainger County I am acquainted with Henry Hipsheer, William Hipsheer, Robert McGinnis—Esqr. and many others.

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State of Tennessee Hawkins County}

Personally appeared John Tonner before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for said County who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age & 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, for six months and twenty days I served as a private under Captain Smith, for two months I served as a private under Major Bell my Captain (I do not now recollect), for two months I served as a private under Colonel Cashaw (my Captain I have forgot his name), for two

³ There were two militia captains from Rowan County with the surname "Miller"—they were James Miller and Wendell Miller

months I served as a private under Captain Agler for one month I served as a private under
Captain Miller and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me 3 April 1834

S/ Lewis Mitchell

S/ John Tonner, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45.55 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service
as a private for 13 months and 20 days in the North Carolina militia.]