

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Towler S3821

f34VA

Transcribed and annotated 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 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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State of Tennessee Rutherford County:

On this 2nd day of October 1832 personally appeared before me Wm H Smith an acting Justice of the Peace for said County Benjamin Towler a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged eighty 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 7th of June 1832.

That he is eighty years of age, and was born in the County of Charles City State of Virginia, and moved afterwards to Dinwiddie County Virginia, where he was drafted, and in the Company commanded by Captain William Lewis, rendezvoused at Petersburg, and after being encamped here some time, he was taken sick, and was placed in the Hospital at Petersburg; Doc^f Lyon [Doctor Lyon, perhaps Dr. John Lyon] and some other position as Surgeons, He thinks Doc^f Livingston [Doctor Livingston, perhaps Dr. John Livingston or Julius Livingston or Justice Livingston] had charge of the sick at the time. After remaining here for some time he with the other sick was moved up the Country through Chesterfield and in to Powhatan, and was there stationed, until his Tour had expired, which was three months or upwards, and was dismissed and went home. In the same year he thinks, though he cannot say with certainty he was again called out, and joined the company commanded by Captain Baker Pegram in the County of Dinwiddie, and again rendezvoused at Petersburg, and was marched through Prince George County to City Point – Here we met the enemy and there was a cannonade for a good part of the night – There were other Troops there, but who commanded them or what Troops, they were he does not recollect. After the cannonade he was, by his Captain marched back to Petersburg – and then to Broadway, and to MacKey's Mills, and the Hundreds¹ on James River – and was marched to a place called Smithfield – he thinks he was in this service under Pegram three months. In 1781 he was again called into service, before the taking of Wallace [Cornwallis] at York, under Captain Baker Pegram and rendezvoused at Petersburg, and was kept on duty, and was marched to York, and was then at the taking of Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. He cannot recollect his Colonel who commanded at York. After his Tour of service had expired, he was discharged by his Captain at York, and returned home, He thinks he was in service this last tour, two or three months. He is old and infirm and cannot recollect, when he first entered the service, or the incidents or circumstances which occurred, and having lost his discharge, he has

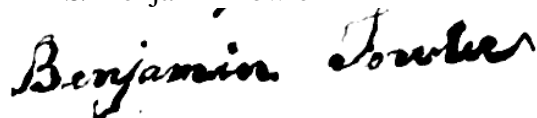
¹ <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/vacities/hundreds.html>

no documents or records, in his possession to strengthen his memory, or to call to his recollection the scenes of which he is speaking. He knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his said services – that was with him in the service – If ever declarant got discharges for his different periods of service he has lost them –

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/ Benjamin Towler



[John Lane, a clergyman, William Elder and Joseph A Farmer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answers – I was born in the County of Charles City State of Virginia, but in what year I do not recollect, though I believe that I am eighty years old.

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

Answer. I have none

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer, I lived in the State of Virginia Charles City County when called into service – and since then I have lived in the State of Virginia and Tennessee – in which latter state I now live.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer – I was drafted

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer I was drafted and was attached to the company commanded by Captain Lewis – and marched to Petersburg – and was taken sick and put in the Hospital at Petersburg – I afterwards [was] drafted and joined the company of Captain Baker Pegram – was at City Point I was at Broadway – at MacKey Mills and the Hundreds and Smithfield – And I was at York at the taking of Cornwallis

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer If I ever did receive a discharge it was from Captain Lewis and Captain Pegram but I have no recollection of ever having received discharges, if I did they are lost or mislaid.

Question 7th 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer Zachariah Posey, William Smith, Isaac H Marshall

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Amended declaration of Benjamin Towler in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

State of Tennessee}
Rutherford County}

Be it remembered that on the 16th day of April 1833 personally appeared before me Daniel Bowman an acting Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Benjamin Towler, the same person, who made his declaration on the 3rd of October 1832 before Wm H Smith, and which is hereto annexed, who being duly Sworn, depose 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: For three months as a drafted militia man under Captain William Lewis – For three months a militia man and private under the command of Captain Pegram Baker – For three months more under Captain Pegram Baker as a drafted militia man – and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid
S/ Benjamin Towler

S/ Daniel Bowman, JP {Seal}

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]