

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Townes S6256

f30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/20/11

[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.]

The State of South Carolina Anderson District: SS

On this 4th day of March A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before Joshua J Evans one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas & General Sessions, now sitting Thomas Townes, a resident of the aforesaid State and District aged Eighty-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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Under the command of General Stephens [Edward Stevens], Colonel Meredith, Captain Shurvin [perhaps a reference to Samuel Sherwin], John Ward, John Winfreys first & second Lieutenants and John Rial [perhaps a reference to John Royall] Ensign. He entered the service in a militia Company which was marched from Amelia County Virginia to Portsmouth where the Company was stationed for three months in the year 1775 or 1776. The British had some forces on the Norfolk side of the River, and in the defense of the Magazine which was all we did there, some firing passed between us & the enemy, from whom I received a shot which wounded me in the right hip. The wound disabled me for a few weeks, but was of no permanent injury. After this tour was over he declares he entered the service as a regular soldier & enlisted under Captain John Molten [?] for three years who was under the command of Colonel J. Moton [Morton?]. That he was stationed at Portsmouth, where he remained for nine months. Then hired a man (Robert Lawton) from Amelia County, to take his place in the Army, in order to return home, his father's extreme illness & solicitations calling for his aid and assistance. His father dying soon after his arrival at home, he joined a volunteer company raised by Captain James Cobb (1776) which rendezvoused at Salisbury in North Carolina, to go with other Companies against the British at Stono in South Carolina. A part of the different Companies were left at Salisbury, as a Guard at that Place among whom he was stationed, where he served as one of that guard until after the Battle was fought at Stono [June 20, 1779]. Then the Companies, also the guard at Salisbury, was discharged and returned home – this was a tour of three months. Again he volunteered for three months under the command of Captain B Wall, who raised a volunteer Company at Halifax – Henry Townes, his brother was his first Lieutenant. The Company being organized it was immediately marched to Guilford Court House, where he was engaged in a battle [March 15, 1781] under General Greene against Cornwallis. After this Battle, he was discharged & returned home –

After this, he again volunteered and marched with a company from Halifax to Little York, where he saw Cornwallis surrender his sword. After Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781], he was discharged – and was never more in the service – Beside the nine months at Portsmouth as a regular Soldier, he considers & believes that he served as a volunteer & as a militia man in

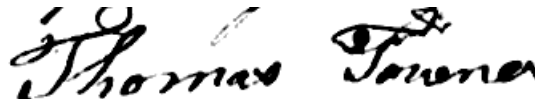
different companies a term of not less than nine months. Unaware of the value or importance which some of his papers would now have been, through the want of proper care & much misfortune, he is not able now to produce any of his old papers which might be of service, neither does he know anyone now living whose testimony he can procure to prove the services he rendered his country in the days of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 in open Court.

S/ Van A. Lawhon, C. C.

S/ Thomas Townes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Townes". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat stylized.

[William Magee & William Robertson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Bradley County: on the 20th day of March 1838, before may the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the said County of Bradley appeared Thomas Townes who on his Oath declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the Company commanded by Captain Samuel Shurben in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Merrideth [Samuel Meredith] in the service of the United States; that his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of South Carolina from whence he lately, to wit, in the year 1835, removed; that he now resides in the State of Tennessee in the County of Bradley aforesaid, where he intends to remain, and wishes his pension to be payable in said State of Tennessee in future. The following are his reasons for removing from Anderson District in South Carolina to Bradley County aforesaid in the Eastern Division of the State of Tennessee. That his wife had departed this life some years before his removal – his children had all married and settled; That he had for some years resided in said Anderson District with his son John Townes, who removed himself and from South Carolina in 1835 to Bradley County in the State of Tennessee aforesaid and settled himself there. That declarant being desirous of living with his said son John Townes removed with him and his family and settled with him as a member of his family in Bradley County aforesaid, where he expects to continue to reside.

S/ Thomas Townes

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia service.]