

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Bonney S6688

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Princess Anne

On this third day of September 1832 Thomas Bonney personally appeared in open Court before the justices of Princess Ann [sic] now sitting, Thomas Bonney a resident of Princess Ann County in the State of Virginia aged about 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. I entered the service in the revolutionary war as private in the capacity of substitute for John Fentress when I was fifteen years old, in the company of Capt Backen; at the salt house, about seven or eight miles south of Cape Henry in Princess Ann County. Our duty consisted in keeping guard & preventing the enemy from plundering the County of cattle and other stock. In this tour of duty we had no fight with the enemy. I cannot recollect the year for I cannot read or write, but John Fentress, was drafted for three months and I served that tour for him. I then entered the Company of Capt Amos Weeks as volunteer for twelve months. Part of this time we were in North Carolina under the Command Colo Lamb, during which time we had a skirmish with the enemy in the Juniper Swamp. They made their escape owing to the thickness of the woods, and we learned from an American whom they had forced to conduct them, and who escaped from them, that we had killed twenty men. The other part of the time we were in Princess Ann, hunting the Tories, Josiah Philips party especially who was taken by a part of the company while I was attached to it [late 1778]. I was after the before mentioned term of service, drafted in to serve six months, which duty I perform under Captains Armistead and Ewell. The first part of my tour under Capt Armistead and the latter under Capt Ewell. These officers were, commanded by Colo [Charles] Dabney, and we were stationed, in Portsmouth. After the before mentioned tour of duty I was attached to the militia Company of Capt Thos Old [Thomas Old], and performed duty in said Olds company six months. We were all ordered to Cape Henry to prevent the enemys plundering the County of Cattle and sheep and carrying off slaves. And reporting the situation of the Enemy. I was afterwards attached to the militia company of Capt Tully Moseley of the first batt'n of Princess Ann Militia and subject to be called out and was actually called out frequently to perform short tours of duty to the end of the war. In this way I served three or four months. I had discharges from Capts Backer and Weeks for the time I served with them. from Colo Dabney for the time I was drafted to serve under Capt Armistead and Capt Ewell. Also a discharge from Capt Old and from Capt Moseley for the time I did duty in their company's, But had the misfortune to have my house burned, about twenty years ago, while, I lived in Dam Neck of the before mentioned Cty of Princess Ann, when they were all consumed by the fire.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Rolls of the agency of any State. I know of no person who can testify to my services

Questions by the Court

Q Where and in what year were you born

A I was born in Princess Ann Cty in Seaside Neck in the year 1760, or 1761 I am not certain which

Q Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it

A I have none

Ques'n Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you live now.

A I had no fixed home but was sometimes employed in one part of Princess Ann and sometimes in another. I have always lived in Princess Ann except an attempt I made about twenty years since

to the west, which I abandoned very soon and returned soon after where I have lived ever since and am now living in Princess Ann

Q How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom.

A I was a Substitute for Jno Fentress three months I was then a Volunteer for twelve months in Capt Week company. I then served six months by draft in the company of Capt Armistead and Capt Ewell under the command of Colo Dabney. After this I served six months in Capt Thos Olds company, ordered out in mass After which I was ordered out in Capt Moseleys Company in short tours, until the end of the war.

Q State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troupes where you served such Continental and Militia Reg't as you recollect and the general circumstances of your service

A I Recollect Colo Dabney & Major [Alexander] Dick at Portsmouth Capt Armistead Capt Ewell & Capt Mathews. Thos hisXmark Bonney