

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Shadrach Owen (Owens) W5459 Mary Owens f59NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/15/09: rev'd 9/22/17

[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' 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 North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

On this 8th day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court aforesaid now sitting Shadrach Owen a resident of said County of Granville 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 Granville on the 12th day of December 1760 & has lived in the same County without interruption except when about on military services, up to the present time -- that the only record of his age is an entry in the family Bible, which has been preserved in the family -- that whilst living in said County he entered the Army of the Revolution, as a drafted soldier in the militia at the Court House of said County in the Spring of 1777 in a company commanded by Capt. Richard Taylor, being then not 17 years old -- his Lieut. was James Hague or Hage [James Hage]. He was drafted for a tour of five months & served with his company first to Hillsboro where they joined other forces, then on towards Salisbury & in their march were joined by Col. Locke [Francis Locke] who took command -- Leaving Salisbury they marched into South Carolina, where they joined other forces under General Butler [John Butler]. He served during this tour of five months near the Waxhaws, but was in no engagement with the enemy -- Towards the end of his tour his Capt. was one Banks [Ralph Banks], Capt. Taylor having resigned. He received his discharge from Col. Locke, that he has not preserved it.

He next entered the service about the close of the year 1778 or early in 1779 as well as he can remember, as a substitute for his brother Frederick Owen, who had been drafted for a tour of five months at Granville Court House under Capt. William Gill & Lieut. William Knight. He marched with 2 or 3 companies under Col. Thornton Yancey by Hillsboro, Salisbury & into South Carolina to a place called the ten mile house in the vicinity of Charleston. They there found a body of American troops under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- & under him he believes General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] & General Ashe [John Ashe] had commands -- After two or three weeks, they were marched to Purrysburg on the Savannah [River]. He served out the remainder of this tour performing duty in the country bordering on the Savannah River, & was in several skirmishes but in no general engagement. At the time of the defeat of our troops under General Ashe at Brier Creek [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] he was stationed at a place called the two Sisters, on the Savannah River, and when his tour of 5 months had expired

he received his discharge from Col. Yancey -- but he has not preserved it. The particular period of this tour can be identified by referring to the action at Brier Creek, above referred to.

In the Summer of 1780, early in the Summer he believes, he was drafted in the militia for a tour of three months, at Granville Court House under Capt. Searcy [Bartlett Searcey] & Lieut. Sherad Sims [Sherwood Simms]. He marched to Hillsboro & southwardly in South Carolina, for the purpose of joining General Gates [Horatio Gates], but before his company reached the Army, they were met by stragglers informing them of Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. They joined in the retreat, & shortly after were discharged on the Pedee River before his full term had expired, but he has forgotten from whom he received his discharge. He was again called out to make up the remainder of his term & marched from this County to the South, but before reaching the Main Army his full 3 months expired, & he was discharged but he does not know who gave it to him.

In January or February 1781 -- he cannot say which, he volunteered in a company of cavalry commanded by Capt. William Thomas & Lieut. Phil Thomas [Philip Thomas], raised partly in this County -- was a term of two months, & marching westwardly, they joined Col. Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] a French officer above Hillsboro. They then marched into Guilford & joined General Greene [Nathanael Greene], just before the battle at Guilford old Court House [March 15, 1781]. The company to which this declarant belonged was not actively engaged in the action, though they formed a part of the Army. After the action his company with a portion of the Army followed the tract of Cornwallis & had a skirmish with a detachment of the British forces at Ramsey's Mills on Deep River in Chatham County. He then proceeded down the Cape Fear River & received his discharge from Col. Malmedy near Wilmington but he has not preserved it.

In the same year (viz.) 1781, & shortly after his return home in the Spring, he again entered a company of cavalry for a tour of three months, as a substitute for his brother Frederick Owen at Williamsboro in Granville County in a company commanded by Capt. Gwinn [John Gwinn], & marched to Wake Court House -- to guard the assembly then sitting in that place. From that place he was sent to Halifax to guard prisoners, & then returned to Williamsboro, at which last named place he received his discharge but he does not know from home.

In the same year 1781 -- & in the Fall, he volunteered for a tour of three months in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Gideon Gooch raised in Granville County & marched to Orange County, & thence on to the tour of three months in & near Hillsboro guarding Tories at that place -- & performing other duties. He received his discharge at that place but he does not now know from whom he received it.

[The following portion of the application is in a different ink which has faded quite badly and is therefore very difficult to read—use the following with great care and circumspection. The images of this page posted on Ancestry.com are easier to read but still are challenging.]

His Major in was named McAuley [perhaps Major William McCauley of Orange County NC militia] For all these tours except the first, he has been able to procure unquestionable testimony -- he knows of no one living who can prove his first tour -- for that he must therefore depend on his own oath, & the clergyman's certificate. His tour under Capt. Gill upon the Savannah [River] is proven by Benjamin Hester¹ & he expects to get the testimony of Zachariah Hester² to the same point. His tour under Capt. Searcey he proves by David Chandler,³ James

¹ [Benjamin Hester S6998](#)

² [Zachariah Hester S7002](#)

³ [David Chandler R1847](#)

Gresham⁴ & John Rice.⁵ That under Capt. Thomas, by Benjamin Hester—that under Capt. Gwinn & Capt. Gooch by David Chandler. He refers to the Rev'd Willis Harris & to James Matthews for his reputation in his neighborhood &c.

He hereby relinquishes all claim to an annuity or pension except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court
S/ B. Bulloch, Clk

S/ Shadrach Owen



S/ S. H. Parish
S/ Thos. Mears

[Willis Harris, a clergyman, and James Matthews gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina County of Granville: February Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions A.D. 1833

Personally appeared in open Court David Chandler, an aged inhabitant of said County who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith as follows -- that he is well acquainted with Shadrach Owen, the person now applying in this court for the purpose of procuring a pension as a Soldier in the Revolution & has been acquainted with him more than 60 years -- that he knows that said Owen served a tour of 3 months in the militia at the time of Gates defeat, as this affiant served in the same company with said Owen under Capt. Searcy. That he afterwards, in the year 1781 he believes, saw said Owen whilst he was serving as a soldier in a company of Cavalry at Williamsboro in Granville County, this affiant being then of the foot service. That afterwards he served with said Owen in a company of militia for a tour of 3 months, principally at Hillsboro, guarding the assembly & also Tories who were prisoners at that place. In this last tour they were discharged a short time before the 3 months had expired, but they stood as minute men, subject to being called on for the remainder of the tour. His Major in this last tour was named McCauly & the Capt. Gideon Gooch & further this deponent saith not. Sworn to & subscribed in open court & the Court do certify that said David Chandler is a credible person & that his statements are entitled to full credit.

S/ David Chandler



S/ Wm Sneed, JP
S/ Thos. Willis, JP
S/ E. Hester, JP

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State of North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term

⁴ [James Gresham W4969](#)

⁵ [John Rice S9064](#)

A.D. 1833

Personally appeared in open Court, James Gresham an aged inhabitant of said County, who being duly sworn according to law depose & saith as follows, that he is likewise well acquainted with the above named Shadrach Owen, & has been both before & since the war of the Revolution -- that he served in the same company with said Owen a tour of 3 months in the Revolutionary War about the time of Gates defeat, in a company commanded by Capt. Searcy -- it being the same tour first named in the foregoing affidavit of David Chandler -- & further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court & the said Court do certify that said James Grisham is a credible witness.

S/ James Gresham



S/ Wm Sneed, JP

S/ Thos. Willis, JP

S/ E. Hester, JP

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State of North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court, Benjamin Hester & Zachariah Hester aged citizens of said County, who being duly sworn according to law, depose & say as follows --

Benjamin Hester saith that he has been acquainted with Shadrach Owen who is now applying for a pension since the revolutionary war. He saw said Owen as a soldier in the militia during said war, in & about a place called Purrysburg on the Savannah River, & he thinks, he served a 5 months tour at that time. He was afterwards with said Owen in a Cavalry Regiment after the Battle of Guilford & fought with him at the skirmish at Ramsey's Mills. During this tour he served 2 months.

Zachariah Hester saith that he has also known the said Owen from the period aforesaid & knows that he served a tour of 5 months in the Revolutionary War in & near Purrysburg on the Savannah River.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court before us, & we certify that said Deponents are credible witnesses.

S/ B. Bulloch, Clk

S/ Benj. Hester, X his mark

S/ S. H. Parish

S/ Zachariah Hester, X his mark

S/ [illegible signature]

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State of North Carolina County of Granville: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court John Rice an aged inhabitant of said County, who being duly sworn according to law depose & saith as follows -- That he has known Shadrach Owen who has made the foregoing declaration since the Revolutionary War, that he saw him in the Army as a soldier in the militia, in the southwestern part of this State, about the time of Gates defeat. He believes he served at the time of which this affiant speaks 3 months. The name of Owen's Capt. he does not certainly know -- & further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court before us, & we certify that said Deponents are credible witnesses.

S/ B. Bulloch, Clk

S/ John Rice, X his mark

S/ S. H. Parish

S/ [illegibly faint signature]

[Facts in file: Veteran moved to Anderson District SC to live in the same neighborhood as his brother Frederick Owen & in June 1836 applied to have his pension paid there; on November 10, 1853, in Anderson district South Carolina, Mary Owens, 64, applied for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Shadrach Owens, a pensioner for his revolutionary services; that she married him in Granville County December 24 1825; that they were married by Alexander Smith, a magistrate; that her maiden name was Mary Stevens; that her husband died July 24 1843; and that she continues his widow. She signed her application with her mark. P 19: On October 1, 1866 in Anderson district South Carolina, Anderson Owens, 70, filed an application stating that he is the administrator of the estate of Mary Owens, widow of Shadrach Owens a revolutionary war pensioner; that his mother-in-law died March 1, 1864 at the residence of her daughter Martha Lawless in Williamston, Anderson district South Carolina and is buried in the Pisgah Church Yard; that at the time of her death the affiant believes she was about 75 years old; that the affiant's wife, Frances A. Owens and Robert Stevens and John H Stevens, children of a former husband, and Martha Lawless are the widow's only children. The affiant signed his petition with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$61.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]