

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Towles W6298

f42VA

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.]

State of Virginia County of Culpeper: SS

On this 18th day of July 1837 personally appeared before me William A. Roberts a Justice of the Peace for said County Elizabeth Towles a resident of said County & State aged 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836:

That she is the widow of Henry Towles deceased who was a soldier of the Revolution, acting as Private, Sergeant and Captain as follows, as she has often heard him say – That in 1775 he went into what was called the "minute service" and was gone for a long time, she does not recollect how long, but she has heard others say six or seven months as a Sergeant. That again in the summer of 1781 which was after their marriage, he was again called into service for three months or as she has often heard him say was Captain in service three months – she knows he was gone from home, more than that time. That in the Fall of that year, he went to York when Cornwallis was there, and was there all the time of the siege – That at another time she recollects he was out, but does not think he was gone more than a month or five weeks. That as well as she recollects he was not gone so long to the siege as in the tour before, and thinks he called it a two months tour – That he acted as Captain and marched with a company in the two tours the year the war ended –

That she has no documentary evidence of the above stated service except relies upon the testimony of living witnesses whose depositions accompanying this.

She further declares that she was married to the said Henry Towles on the 27th of July 1776 by Parson Harrison; she does not remember whether by publication in the Church or by license, but recollects that she performed license [?]. That her husband the aforesaid Henry Towles died on the 10th day of January 1829 and that she has remained a widow ever since as will more fully appear by reference to the testimony of accompanying this.

S/Elizabeth Towles



[f p. 11: On July 29, 1837 in Madison County Virginia, Mrs. Ann Terrill, 77, of said County gave testimony that she was well acquainted with the late Major Henry Towles of Culpeper County; that she was present at the wedding of Henry Towles to her sister which wedding took place in the month of July 1776; that she recollects that he was in service several times as a Captain; that she went and stayed with her sister during his absence; that her sister Mrs. Elizabeth Towles

formerly Elizabeth Weatherall, who is applying for a pension is the same person who married Henry Towles.]

[f p. 15: On May 20, 1837 in Madison County Virginia, James Shotwell,¹ 76, gave testimony that he was a soldier of the revolution and in service from Culpeper County in the fall of 1781; that he met Major Henry Towles then Captain Towles at Yorktown during the siege; "That he was well acquainted with said Towles before that time, and that he knows said Towles served out that tour with him which was a two month tour." The veteran did not sign the affidavit but it was attested by the Justice of the Peace.]

[f p. 17: On May 15, 1837 in Madison County Virginia, Littleton Taylor, 86, gave testimony that he was in service from Culpeper County in the summer of 1781; "that at a certain time in that year he was drafted and went into service about and below Richmond to the Malvin's Hills [Malvern Hills] – that the object of that draft was to relieve a previous one me from Culpeper – That at Malvern Hills they met the late Major Henry Towles then Captain Towles and his company (whom they had gone to relieve) that he was well acquainted with said Towles before that time and that he knows that said Towles had served out the tour then just ended which he is confident was a three months tour. That he remembers hearing the said Towles say that they had been detained a long time he thinks he said near four months but will not be positive as to that – that he hoped they (the relief) would not have to stay so long (he supposes waiting for relief). That he knew the said Towles all his life and believes he was much more in the service during the war but cannot speak of his own knowledge of any other except that sometime that summer he marched under command of the said Captain Towles upon a sudden call but after getting just below ground squirrel bridge they were discharged as not wanted, That he does not recollect the length of that service but knows it was not long." The veteran did not sign the affidavit but it was attested by the Justice of the Peace.]

[f p. 19]

State of Virginia Culpeper County: SS

On this 17th day of July 1837 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for the said County personally came David Jameson² of said County aged 84 years and of good character for veracity and for standing who being duly sworn deposeth and saith That on or about the first of September 1775 he was called into service as an Ensign in the "minute Service" as it was called. That he marched to Norfolk and so forth as set forth in his own declaration for a pension under the Act of 1832 filed in the latter part of that year; – that he continued in said service for seven months and returned. That the late Major Henry Towles of this County was with him in that whole Tour and served out the entire seven months as a Sergeant – he does not recollect whether orderly Sergeant or under – That he was acquainted with said Henry Towles during the whole subsequent life which was near fifty years extending up to his death which took place some five years since – he does not recollect the exact year – That the said Towles was a married man and raised a large family of children some of which have always lived in Culpeper and are now getting to be old man – but he cannot say what particular date he was married. That the Mrs. Towles who is now prosecuting a claim is the widow of the said Henry.

S/ D. Jameson

¹ FPA S17088

² [David Jameson S5607](#)



[f p. 21: On May 22, 1837 in Madison County Virginia, William Yowell,³ 74, gave testimony that he was a soldier in the revolution and in service from Culpeper County: "... In the fall of 1780 – that at a certain time in that year he was drafted – and went into service Under the late Major Henry tiles then Captain Towles – about Richmond. After remaining at Richmond a short time they were discharged – and returned home – The length of this tour he does not recollect but thinks it must have been about one month.

That in the fall of 1781 he was drafted into the service, again and went to Yorktown Virginia – he did not serve this tour under Captain Towles – but believes he was there and commanded a company – That he knew the said Towles all his life – and believes he was much more in the service during the war – but cannot speak of his own knowledge." The veteran did not sign his affidavit but it was attested by the Justice of the Peace.]

[f p. 23]

State of Virginia Culpeper County

On this 2nd day of July 1838 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared David Jameson of said County aged 85 years and of good character for veracity, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith. That in the year 1780 he had volunteered as a private to march in a company to the relief of South Carolina – That before they set out he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Company by Colonel James Barbour been designated County Lieutenant, a kind of supervising officer, and commissioned by him – That at the time he was commissioned he well remembers seeing in possession of Colonel Barbour a bundle of blank Commissions signed by the Governor to be filled up as he understood in emergency. That such emergency got the commission for him. That such commissions were frequently given without the regular recommendation of the Court and after time sanctioned. That he was well acquainted with the late Major Henry Towles of Culpeper and recollects well when he was a Captain but was not in the service with him in that office – That he does not recollect how Towles was appointed Captain but is so well satisfied that he was a Captain that he cannot account for there being no record of his recommendation in any other way than by supposing that Towles was commissioned in some emergency in the same way that he was. That he was himself a magistrate in 1789 but was not present when the order was made.

Sworn and subscribed as above before me.

S/ G. W. Jameson, JP

S/ D. Jameson

[f p. 32: On September 17, 1838 in Culpeper County Virginia, William Nalle,⁴ 74, gave testimony that in the early part of the summer of 1781 he was drafted into the service under Captain Green in Alcocks Regiment and marched down into the neighborhood of Richmond under the Marquis [Lafayette] where he joined the Army about June 1, 1781. The late Major Henry Towles of this County was in service in command of a company at that time; that he saw

³ [William Yowell \(Yowel, Youell\) W5551](#)

⁴ I could not find any other federal or Va state pension documents relating to this veteran. This may be the only record of his service in the Revolution.

Captain Towles in service as long as he, the affiant, was in service himself; that he was discharged at Malvern Hills he thinks on July 27 1781. The veteran did not sign the affidavit himself but it was attested by a Justice of the Peace.]

[f p. 26: On August 1, 1839 William Yowell, 77, of Madison County gave another affidavit in which he states he served a short tour in 1781 under Captain Henry Towles of Culpeper; he knows that Towles was fond of the service and understood that he was much engaged in it but only knows of his own knowledge of the one tour under which he served with Captain Towles; that Captain Towles was the only person by the name of Henry Towles that he knows of who served as a Captain in the Culpeper militia although Captain Towles had a brother Joseph [Joseph Towles] who acted as a Captain in the Madison militia and who was afterwards a Major. The Affiant signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[f p. 8: certification dated April 28, 1851 by Thomas C Brown that the widow, Elizabeth Towles, died in the fall of the year 1846.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$150 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service for six months as a Sergeant and for six months as a Captain in the Virginia militia.]