

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Bounty Land Warrant of John Carson BLWt366-200
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The federal file contains no original document. The following are from the [bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#). Some online images are illegible.]

To the Executive of the State of Virginia [Washington County VA, 24 Feb 1837]

The Petition of Margaret C. Bekem, Charles S. Bekem, John C. Bekem, Lewis F Cosby and Jane E. his wife, formerly Jane E. Bekem, and William King jr, Sarah King and James King, children of William and Sarah K. King formerly Sarah K Bekem, humbly represents: That they believe, that they are the heirs at law of John Carson deceased, who belonged to the revolutionary Army, and are as such entitled to the Bounty land due for the services of the said John Carson deceased. And they will state as follows – that Jane Bekem, formerly Jane Carson, was a native of Ireland, and emigrated to America, somewhen between 1800 and 1807. that she died in the year 1833 in the County of Washington, and State of Virginia, leaving Margaret C, James C, since dead without children and intestate, Charles S, John C, and Jane E, since intermarried with Lewis F Cosby, her children. That she died intestate. And that Sarah K, who was the wife of William King died in the year, 1833, a short time before her mother, leaving four children named above as her heirs at law. Your petitioners Margaret C, Chas. S, John C, & Jane E Cosby, have the most satisfactory evidence of the fact, that their mother, was the sister of Charles S. Carson, who departed this life on the 22^d day of January 1815 in the County & State aforesaid. First the strong resemblance they bore to each other – Second their acknowledgement of each other as Brother & Sister. And third, the fact that Chas. S. Carson, took under his own roof his sister Jane Bekem and her six children to support raise and educate, and by last will calling her his Sister, and leaving to her six children, calling them his Nephews and Neices a very handsome fortune, having no other objects of bounty no children or wife, to leave his property to. This much is said as to the relationship of Jane Bekem and Chas. S Carson, with a view to what follows – the mother and grandmother of your petitioners, and her Brother Chas. S. Carson, were heard to speak frequently of John Carson, who came to America before them, and settled at the head of Elk, as they called it, properly Elkton, Maryland. They were also heard to say, that they and their Brother John Carson were the only survivors of a family of some six or seven children, all the rest having fallen victims to the smallpox. They also said that their family belonged to the United men in Ireland [Society of United Irishmen], and that on this account, John Carson feeling himself unsafe, came to America at a very early age, and shortly after his arrival joined the Army. Not long after the arrival of John Carson in America, Chas. S. Carson left Ireland for Elkton where his Brother John had settled himself, and didn't learn the fate of his Brother, who not long before had fallen at Eutaw Springs [in SC, 8 Sep 1781], until he got to the very place. the mother and grandmother of your petitioners next followed, and did not certainly learn of her Brother John Carson's fate until her landing at Baltimore. Here she was met by a Mrs Buchanan an Irish acquaintance and distant connexion, who gave her certain information. The only Irish acquaintance of Jane Carson, afterwards Jane Bekem, and Charles S. Carson, now living and known to your petitioners (those of sufficient age) is George Simpson, whose testimony is filed herewith and prayed to be taken and considered as a part. And on this account it is that circumstances are noticed with so much particularity. After the law of Congress passed, under which the services of the revolutionary solders were rewarded, one of your petitioners. Chas. S. Bekem, having repeatedly heard his uncle John Carson, spoken of, set about making investigation about him & his services. And after enquiring particularly of his mother about him, sat down and addressed a letter to Adam Whann (this turned out to be his name) the Postmaster at Elkton Maryland Saying to him in substance as follows, as well as memory will serve: That an Uncle of his, named John Carson had settled at Elkton at a very early

day; that he had joined the American Army, and was commanded by Capt. Partridge or by Capt. [William] Brown, and that he was killed at the Cowpens in defense of some baggage waggons; that the said John Carson had made a will. It may be that something was said of John Barnaby, in connection with John Carson – this is now recollection however, and, the letter alluded to here, will be filed if it can be procured which will show very satisfactorily That Jane Bekem was the Sister of John Carson This letter was answered by Adam Whann the Postmaster as aforesaid, furnishing a copy of John Carson's will, which will be exhibited herewith and prayed to be taken as part. And although the place where John Carson was killed was not stated correctly, yet enough will appear to shew at least that Jane Bekem if not the sister of John Carson, had by some means or other possessed herself of knowledge of him, which never could have been prompted by curiosity (and much less can it be the work of invention) – But Jane Bekem was most assuredly the Sister of John Carson, now deceased, who settled at Elkton Maryland, was afterwards in the Army of the American revolution, as a Lieutenant, and was killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs. As to the rank of John Carson the testimony of Judge Francis T. Brooke [pension application S8093] is referred to, as well as the records of the War Department. As to his incorporation into the Virginia line, or the Regiment of Harrison, so as to entitle him to Bounty Land from the State of Virginia, the same reference is made. Your petitioners cannot safely do more, than refer to the proof filed and the records of the War department as to the rank of John Carson, his services, and his fall at Eutaw Springs in the cause of American liberty. One of your petitioners, Chas S Bekem, who has been investigating the claim of John Carson to Bounty Land, is, so far as he is concerned perfectly satisfied that the same John Carson, whose will he procured from Cecil County Maryland, and of whom Judge Francis T. Brooke speaks, as having been killed at Eutaw Springs, was the Brother of Jane Bekem, formerly Jane Carson, and now deceased. Your petitioners pray the consideration of the Executive in [illegible word] upon the premises; and that the reward due to their Uncle John Carson deceased for his services, in our struggle for liberty, be rewarded to your petitioners as his heirs at law. And so they will ever pray –

Charles S. Bekem one of the heirs at law of John Carson Deceased

“Saturday July 17 1779

Resolv'd – that William Wallace be appointed second Lieut in Col. Harrison's Regiment of artillery – his Commission to bear date May 1st 1779.

That John Carson be appointed Second Lieutenant in in ditto – his Commission to bear date may 2 1779.”
(See Journals of Congress Vol. 3rd p.p. 323-24 – date July 17 - 1779)”

Three miles of Orangeburgh [sic: Orangeburg SC] July 12 1781.

Dr Sir In hourly expectation of engaging the Enemy and not knowing but it may be my fate to lay on the Field of Honour I have therefore tho't it best to leave these few lines behind me to testify my intentions and the very great regard I have for you &c. Should this be the case I've directed Captain Brown to convey all my Property in Camp to you, which you'll be kind enough to accept of You'll likewise settle the Accounts of my late Uncles Estate, collect the Money, make what use of it you may judge best, still retaining it in your hands till called upon by a proper Heir (if ever).

I have no more time (the Troops falling in) but am my dearest Friend with every sentiment of affection and esteem –

Test/ W. Brown, Capt. R. Artly
Mr. John Barnaby

John Carson

12th July 1781.

Capt. Brown will be pleased to take this letter with all Baggage in camp to Mr Barnaby.

In his absence Capt. Smith or Dr. McFadon will take direction of it.

John Carson

This to remain valid during my continuance in the said Army. J.C.
(Endorsed as follows) Mr John Barnaby/ Head of Elk/ Maryland
Capt. Brown any of his Officers will take charge of this and convey it.

State of Maryland Cecil County To Wit –

In Testimony that the aforesaid is a true Copy of the Final Will of John Carson late of said County deceased I have hereto set my Hand and Seal of Office this 26th day of January 1831.

Henry G. Miller Reg'r of Wills for Cecil County

I never saw Lieut John Carson of Cap'n Browns company of Maryland artillery, that company was incorporated with the regiment of artillery commanded by Con'l Charles Harrison to which I belonged and served the two last Campaigns in the South, Con'l Harrison then ranked as a gen'l and commanded the Parke of artillery constituted by the Virg'a Maryland and Pennsylvania artillery, the account I had from my Brother officers and my twin Brother who belonged to Harrisons regiment, and was in the battle at Eutaw Spring was that Lieutenant John Carson of Cap'n Browns company was killed in that Battle and what made it more remarkable that he had a presentiment that he would be killed and mentioned it to his brother officers before the Battle began. Francis Brooke
Feb'y 23 1835

The officers, who are name'd below, were similarly situated with Lieut. Carson [in a company from another state attached to a Virginia regiment], and receiv'd bounty land from Virginia – to wit –
Peter Jacquett [pension application S46500] - Capt - Cont'l line – 4000 acres
Ro. Kirkwood [Robert Kirkwood BLWt1102-300] - Capt - Cont'l line – 4000 acres
Caleb P. Bennett [S35779] - Lieut - C. Line 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres

* Without doubt, others similarly situated have rece'd bounty-land; but their names are not remembered.

== To the above memorandum, I will add – that Lieut. Carson (after he was transfered to Harrisons artillery) was, to all intents & purposes, and officer of the Virginia Continental line; and as such, was entitled, under the laws of Virginia, to bounty-land. J.H.S. for Pet'rs [John H. Smith for petitioners]

* Papers fil'd in the Secretary's office will show the above facts.

Washington City January 7.

Dear Charles [Charles S. Bekem, Abingdon VA] According to your request, I have examined the Pension Office here, & find the name of John Carson. He was a Leftenant in Harrisons Artilery, Virginia line. It also apers that he was killed in the year 81.

He was entitled from the General Government, to 200 acres of land, which has been received by a Capt. Barnaby as his Administrator, & located in Ohio, which the Clerk in the Pension Office thinks irregular as it is not right to issue warrants to an administrators if however it should appear to be regular you may recover the land if you will take the trouble.

He is yet entitled to 2.666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres of land for which a warrant will have to issue from Richmond, & then returned to the land office here, & the General Government will issue Script for that amount, to be located either in Ohio Indiana or Illinois as you may please, This Script may converted any day into money at the ratio of one dollar & fifteen cents pr acre, I wold advise a sale of it. I do not know yet whether it will be necessary to prove yourself Brother & Sisters the Heirs or not, positive proff is not always required Tradition is sometimes relied on by the department.... [This letter from William King continues with amusing political comments.]

NOTE: The file includes a document dated 23 Sep 1835 with much additional family information, but it is not transcribed here because the first page is missing from the online version from the Library of Virginia. A complete transcription can be found in *Virginia Soldiers of 1776* compiled by Louis A. Burgess (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973 [1927]) beginning on p. 605.