

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Townsend (Towson) S1730

f32VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/21/11

[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 Tennessee Franklin County: On this twenty seventh day of November 1832 Joshua Towson a Revolutionary Soldier aged seventy years old in March next of the fifth day thereof personally appeared in Open Court in said County, it being a court of Record the justices of the said Court then and there being present and holding the County Court of pleas and quarter Sessions of said County at the Courthouse in Winchester who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He states he was born in Lunenburg County and State of Virginia in the year 1762 from thence I moved to Henry County now called Franklin in said State I then moved to Montgomery County in said State, in the year 1778 I enlisted in the United States service for two months under Captain John Davis Lieutenant John Swanson who lived in Franklin County in said State who was sent to enlist men, we were placed at Parris Fort [probably Pearis Fort] on New River twenty miles below Englishes Ferry where we remained our term of two months guarding said Fort in the year 1779 I enlisted for two months under Captain Lyons and Lieutenant Peter Hastings who came from Franklin County in said State for two months a part of my time I was scouting or keeping off the enemies to enable the planters to make a crop the remainder part of my time I was guarding said Parris Fort and William Munces Fort on Walker's Creek a short time afterwards in February before the battle fought at Guilford Courthouse I entered the service as a volunteer Soldier for two months commanded by Colonel William Preston Captain Henry Patten Lieutenant William Kavanaugh [William Cavanagh]. We rendezvoused at Chisels Mine [Chiswell's Lead Mine] on New River from thence we marched to North Carolina crossed the Blue Ridge at Flower Gap from thence to the Moravian towns in North Carolina near where the British were situated from thence we were marched to Guilford Courthouse when we arrived there we were joined by General Pickens Company & Washington's & Lee's Light horse Companies after we had been placed there a short [time] we learned that near 500 British were foraging or plundering we were ordered by General Pickens to march after them we accordingly pursued them to Haw River near 15 miles when we reached Haw River they were just across said River in view we were then ordered to return & we accordingly marched near said place in a few days we were informed the British were in pursuit of General Green's [Nathanael Greene's] foraging wagons we were then ordered to protect the wagons which were close at hand and prevent the British from seizing them we marched and formed a line between the British and wagons when & where we had a considerable engagement where we were forced to retreat to the main Army where we remained a few days and being destitute of clothing our company was permitted to return home, in the year __ I moved to Kentucky Madison County. I volunteered as a soldier in said last state against the Indians in Colonel Logan's Company. We burned nine

towns New & Old Chilicothe Towns, from that State in the year 1811 I moved to Franklin County Tennessee where I now live and have ever lived since I received no discharges for my services.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Joshua Townsend, X his mark

[William Woods, a clergyman, and Jesse Embry gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Franklin County

On this 30th day of August 1833 personally appeared before the Worshipful the County Court of said County, now sitting, Joshua Townsend a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged about 70 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment or addition to his Original declaration made in this Court on the 7th day of November 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

In addition to the statement in his original declaration, he now states, that he served two other terms of duty of two months each, in addition to those stated in his original declaration. At that time of making said Original declaration, he had a very imperfect & indistinct recollection of said two last mentioned tours: He now recollects that previous to the first tour of duty as stated in his original declaration, he had served a tour of two months, but cannot recollect the names of any of the officers – the service was rendered at Paris's Fort, on New River he was a private. The other term omitted in his Original declaration was also for two months – which he served as a private in Captain Paris's [perhaps Capt. George Pearis'] Company of Virginia militia William Kavanaugh was Lieutenant. This service was performed mainly at the before mentioned Fort (Paris's).

This Applicant states that altogether he served as a private soldier in the Virginia militia, during the War of the Revolution five tours of two months each as before stated making ten months for which he claims a pension he does not recollect that he received any written discharge – nor does he know of any person living & in his power to name by whom he can prove his said services or any part thereof. He has no documentary evidence in his possession or power.

S/ Joshua Townsend, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court this 30th day of August 1833

S/ E. Russell, Clk

[f p. 26: On November six, 1832 in Franklin County Tennessee, Abigail Woods testified that she knew Joshua Townsend in 1779 or 1780 in Greenbrier County Virginia and that she heard William Kavanaugh who is now dead state that Joshua Townsend served with him in the Army in North Carolina during the Revolutionary war. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for six months in the Virginia militia.]