

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Townsen (Townsend) S42511

f28Non-Us[VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/8/14

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 10]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of "An Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution," approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828 I, John Townson [sic] of the County of Carroll in the State of Tennessee do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution for and during the war and continued in its service until its termination at which time I was a Sergeant in Captain William Barrett's company of Light Horse or Cavalry attached to Colonel William Washington's Regiment of Cavalry line! I further state that I did not receive a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars to which I was entitled under the resolve of Congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1778. And I further declare that I was not on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828 on the Pension List of the United States. I furthermore state and declare that all papers, certificates, discharge or other documents whatsoever I received is lost or misplaced so that I can give no account of them!

Signed before me this 21<sup>st</sup> of October in the year 1828

S/ George H Bullard

S/ John Townsen



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Bounty Land for Revolutionary Services – individual Application

State of Tennessee County of Carroll: SS

I, John Townsend aged 76 years, do upon oath testify and declare that about or in the year 1778 or 9 I enlisted or entered the service as a Sergeant for the term of "during the war," in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Washington and afterwards served in the Cavalry Regiment under the command of Colonel Washington and that I continued in the service aforesaid until the close of the war when I was regularly discharged from the said Regiment, commanded by Colonel Washington of the Virginia line, and when I was a Sergeant in William Barrett's Company of Cavalry and that my discharge and [text becomes indecipherable to me at this point: here is the actual text which I cannot decipher:

*and that my discharge and pension are hereby assigned to my  
son John Townsend  
I do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original  
as the same was found in the papers of the late John Townsend  
and that my seal of office is hereunto affixed as proper evidence in the premises*

I further declare, that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States; nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim in any manner whatsoever:

Therefore, know all men by these presents, that I John Townsen aforesaid do hereby constitute and appoint Colonel Joseph Watson of Washington City to be my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name to demand and receive from the Secretary of War of the United States a warrant for the quantity of land due to me as aforesaid; and my said attorney is hereby fully authorized and empowered to constitute and appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys under him for the special purposes above expressed.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February A.D. 1829

S/ John Townsen

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State of Kentucky Calloway County: SS

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1835 before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County of Calloway personally appeared John Townsen who on his oath declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Captain William Barrott [William Barrett] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Washington in the service of the United States: that his name was placed on the pension roll of the state of Tennessee from which he has lately removed: that he now resides in the State of Kentucky where he intends to remain and wishes his pension to be payable in future. The following are his reasons for removing from Carroll County Tennessee to Calloway County Kentucky was for the purpose of procuring lands for his children, so that they might live convenient to each other.

S/ John Towsen



Hernando Mississippi January 14, 1853

Honorable James E Heath Commissioner  
Washington

Dr. Sir:

John Townsen a Sergeant of Cavalry in the Continental Line, was pension under Act of Congress approved 15<sup>th</sup> May 1828, as will appear by copy of original there with marked ("Copy No. 1"). That he drew his pension and was recognized by the General Government as a pensioner will appear by reference to copies of originals here with marked copy "No. 2 & 3" respectively.

He died about sixteen years ago leaving his widow who survived him about ten years. She never drew any pension. Four children now survive who are heirs and children of the

Pensioner, John Townsen. These are entitled to bounty through right of their parents. Will you be kind enough to send me the forms for their application, and full instruction how to proceed &c &c

& oblige very respectfully  
Yr Obt Srt  
J. K. Connelly

[Veteran was pensioned as a Sergeant of Cavalry November 29, 1828]

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[Note: The following MAY relate to the veteran above]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

It appears from Size Roll of 5 Troop that John Townsend Enlisted for the war in 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Dragoons 10<sup>th</sup> July 1780 & served until the mutiny<sup>1</sup> May 83  
S/ Wm Barret fly Capt.  
Baylor's Dragoons  
April 6, 1785

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<sup>1</sup> Veteran must have been a participant in the mutiny which occurred in Baylor's Corps in South Carolina. E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787* (Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 2007, p 104) states: "On November 9, 1782, the 1st and 3d regiments of Continental Light Dragoons were merged into a unit of five troops, nominally commanded by the ailing George Baylor, but actually commanded by Major [John] Swan. The consolidated regiments remained in South Carolina until peace was declared. On hearing of the peace, about half the men elected Sergeant-Major William Dangerfield as their leader, seized the remaining horses, and rode homeward. By their mutiny they forfeited their pensions and bounty lands. The other cavalymen, unhorsed by the mutineers, were eventually picked up by a troop transport and taken home by sea to collect their discharges."