

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to William Bellinger SC486
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 426A

AA21

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/19/18

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

To the Honorable the President and House of Senate.

The humble petition of Elizabeth P Townsend

Sheweth That your Petitioner was heretofore the wife of William Bellinger deceased of Saint Bartholomew's Parish who by his last Will and Testament made your Petitioner the whole and sole legatee of his Estate real and personal and Executrix of the same, in conjunction with two Executors her Brother William Cotesworth Pinckney and William Webb.

That the said William Bellinger, your petitioner's late husband, was a minor at the conclusion of the late Revolutionary War; but did nonetheless turn out with the militia of that part of the State where they first began to take Arms for the recovery of their country from the British, and afterwards continued to do good service with the said militia against the common enemy. – That in the latter end of the year 1781, and in the year 1782, divers Cattle, the property of the said William, were then in the possession of his Guardian John Bellinger, were impressed for the use of the American Troops by different persons acting under public authority, who gave receipts or Certificates for the same.

That these Certificates or receipts afterwards came into the possession of the said William; but, in consequence of some unfortunate circumstances, were never carried by him to the proper office or Officers, appointed for settling such demands against the Public.

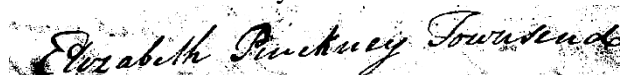
That after the decease of said William, the said receipts or Certificates were suffered to be further neglected by the person or persons most actively employed in the management of his Estate; the consequence probably of an ignorance of the time first limited for the settlement of Public Accounts having been afterwards prolonged by the Legislature – That your petitioner now finds herself in possession of three of the aforementioned Certificate; viz. one from John Meals dated 31st December 1781 for three Beeves, two, four and one five years old; Another from John Ward dated March 9th, 1782 for 1350 weight; and a third from William Hort dated 31st December 1782 for 1903 pounds at 5 ½ dollars per Cent [? percent?]². – Your petitioner begs leave further to represent that the Estate of the said William Bellinger would have been insolvent, had it not been greatly favored by the long indulgence of some of its Creditors; And that she is now truly [?] distressed in consequence of debts of said Estate which still remain unpaid.

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The "SC" file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

² In a later petition, this claim was stated as being for \$5 ½ per hundred weight of beef impressed.

Although the time is now past when compensation might have been obtained in the way pointed out by law; and though the goods of Society in order to bring all action between Individuals to some final close may point out the necessity of a prescription which must not be shaken by any plea of omission or of ignorance; Yet, as an absolute prescription does not appear equally necessary with the Public is one of the parties, and is always capable of protecting itself against every unjust claim, because [it is] the only and final judge in every such case; and as a demand Originally just cannot become unjust merely because it was not brought forward within a certain time; And as the time is not yet passed, when the Authenticity of the Certificates before mentioned can be clearly ascertained beyond the possibility of deception; Your petitioner therefore hopes, and humbly petitions your Honorable house to take into consideration the matters herein before mentioned; and make such order for the relief of your Petitioner, as shall be thought just and consistent with the public good. – Your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c &c

S/ Elizabeth Pinckney Townsend



November 22nd, 1798

[p 8: an identical petition addressed to the SC House of Representatives]

[p 10]

The committee to whom was Referred the petition of Elizabeth P Townsend

Report,

That they have considered the same & find that the claim of the Petitioner is barred by Law; and that the prayer thereof cannot be granted.

[p 12]

House of Representatives December 5, 1798

The Committee on Public Accounts to whom was referred the Petition of Elizabeth Pinckney Townsend, respecting sundry Certificates, given to the Executor and Guardian of her late Husband, William Bellinger, for Cattle impressed in the year 1781 and 1782, by different Commissaries: Report, that they have investigated the same, but such a considerable time has elapsed since they were given, & your Committee not having the proper documents of Treasury, before them, to enable them to determine with propriety upon the above claims, they therefore recommend that it be referred to the Commissioner for Settling Public Accounts, & that he be directed to Report thereon to the Legislature at their next Session

Resolved that this House do agree to the Report

Ordered

[pp 14-17: The Petitioner renewed her petition in 1804]

[pp 18-21: John Townsend renewed the petition on Nov. 23, 1822. It too was rejected.]

