

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Oswald Townsend W605 Mary

f70VA

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.]

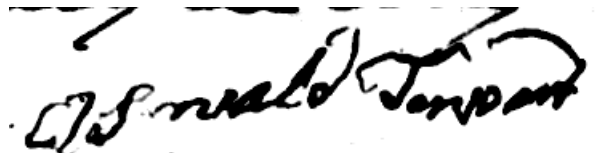
[f p. 30]

State of Kentucky Madison County: SS

On this 13 day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before James Dejarnutt, Richard Broaddus & H. B. Hawkins Justices of the County Court for the County of Madison aforesaid now sitting Oswald Townsend a resident of the County of Madison aforesaid aged seventy-four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

That in the fall of 1775 he came from Mecklenburg County in Virginia to Kentucky & went into this Fort or station at Boonesborough, that during the remainder of that year & the year 1776 & 1777 he continued at Boonesborough acting as a spy for the defense of the Fort against the Indians & as a hunter to procure provisions for those in the Fort – that during said years he was in three or four skirmishes with the Indians. That during the year 1777 the Indians made several attacks upon the Fort at Boonesborough, where he was engaged in its defense as an Indian spy. That in 1779 he was employed under Henderson from North Carolina who with Doctor Walker & others from Virginia undertook to run the line between North Carolina & Virginia as a hunter & Indian spy – that late in the year '79 he came again to Boonesborough & continued there as a hunter & a spy till the spring following, that in the spring 1780 he started out with Henderson, who was running said divisional line between North Carolina & Virginia, on the part of North Carolina, & continued with him as a hunter & spy for some time – that in the fall 1780 he returned to the Fort at Boonesborough where he continued as a hunter for the Fort & an Indian spy till 1782. That he was in the Blue Lick defeat [August 19, 1782] & went on three campaigns across the Ohio against the Indians. That he has no documentary evidence to prove his services, but can prove them by Major Kennedy¹ &c. He has lived in Madison County for 50 years – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

S/ Oswald Townsend



[Joseph Kennedy & Richard Gentry gave a standard supporting affidavit. In addition, "said

¹ [Joseph Kennedy S13600](#)

Kennedy states that he has known him [applicant] sent 1776 & knows he performed services as in his declaration set forth."



Handwritten signatures of Joseph Kennedy and Richard Gentry. The signature of Joseph Kennedy is written above the signature of Richard Gentry. Both signatures are in cursive and appear to be written in ink on a document.

[f p. 26]

State of Kentucky Madison County & Circuit, Sct.

On this 7th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Richard French sole & presiding Judge of the Circuit Court for the County & Circuit aforesaid now sitting Oswald Townsend a resident of the County of Madison aforesaid aged 74 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration Supplementary to his Declaration made before the County Court for the County of Madison aforesaid on the 13th day of August 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. The said Townsend further states that when he first entered the Fort at Boonesborough in the fall 1775 he was enrolled and served in old Daniel Boone's Company, who was then Captain. There were then few or no Colonels nor Majors in Kentucky. During the remainder of the ^{war} 1775 & the year 1776 & 1777 he acted as a guard for the Fort at Boonesborough & Indian spy in said Boone's Company. In the year 1781 & 1782 he was also served as a guard for said Fort, Hunter & Indian spy – except when out on Campaigns against the Indians across the Ohio & [indecipherable word or words] – that his best recollection is that in 1781 & 1782 he was in Captain John Holder's Company & that Daniel Boone was Colonel also Colonel – he notes that he served as a private volunteer in defense of the Fort at Boonesborough in Madison County aforesaid & was an Indian spy during the Revolutionary War more than four years & for such service he claims a pension –

That he was at the fatal Battle of the Blue Licks [August 19, 1782] in 1782 & many other engagements with the Indians –

That he can prove his services by his neighbor Major Joseph Kennedy & knows of no other person whose testimony he can procure to establish them. Richard Gentry is also his neighbor & has & can testify concerning his character & the belief of his services – Oliver C Steele a clergyman can testify concerning him &c

He states that he was born in Granville County North Carolina in the year 1758. That he has no record of his age – that he came to Kentucky in 1775 & has resided in the County of Madison aforesaid ever since – That in 1781 & 1782 he knew Colonel John Todd who was killed at the Battle of the Blue Licks or Blue Lick Defeat – he also knew General George Rogers Clark & Colonel Ben Logan, Colonel McGary & others. He states that he has no written discharges & does [not] recollect that he ever received any.

S/ Oswald Townsend

[Oliver C Steele, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 40]

State of Kentucky Madison County: Sct.

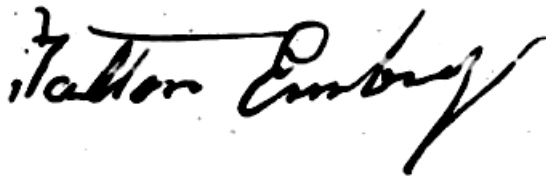
Joseph Kennedy a resident of the County aforesaid being first sworn before me Thomas S. Branston a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid states that he came to Kentucky

in the year 1776 on the first day of April. In that year or early in 1777 he became acquainted with Major Oswald Townsend of the County aforesaid & to whose original Declaration for a pension this affiant attached his certificate. He knew said Townsend at the Fort at Boonesboro in the County aforesaid in the year 1777 & from that time to this. That said Townsend in the year 1777 acted as a soldier in said Fort & as an Indian spy – that this affiant was a fellow soldier & an Indian spy with said Townsend – that said Townsend was a good soldier & an active spy. We were both in the old Captain Daniel Boone's Company. Said Townsend continued a soldier & an Indian spy and out on Campaigns across the Ohio against the Indians most of the time till the close of the Revolutionary War – this affiant was frequently with said Townsend as a soldier & spy after 1777 during the Revolutionary war. This affiant knows of his own personal knowledge that said Townsend served as a soldier & Indian spy during the Revolutionary war a good deal more than two years – that he was in actual service much longer than that period – This affiant could detail, if necessary, a good many skirmishes & battles with the Indians, in which he & said Townsend were together, but presumes the detail would be unnecessary – This affiant & said Townsend have lived in the now County of Madison most of the time since 1776. – Affiant is 73 years of age – Said Townsend has always sustained a good character – affiant further states that his health at this [time] will not permit him to attend at the Court [?] of Justice to give his testimony.

S/ Jo. Kennedy

[f p. 15: On September 28, 1839 in Madison County Kentucky, Mary Townsend, 76, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Oswald Townsend, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him January 1, 1785 in Fayette County Kentucky; that they were married by Enoch Cleveland, a clergyman; that her maiden name was Mary Embry; that her husband died November 23rd, 1835 in Madison County Kentucky and she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 17: Tatton Embry gave a supporting affidavit saying that Mary Townsend is his sister and confirming the details of her marriage to the veteran.



Tatton Embry

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[f p. 5: William T. Fox a citizen of Madison County Kentucky gave testimony in June 1840 that the Bible record of the late Major Oswald Townsend, deceased, of said County is a true record of the births of Fanny Townsend found therein.

"Charles Searcy got to the onered [honored] land of Cantuckkey [Kentucky] the 30th Day of November 1786

[below entries are extremely faint and very subject to misinterpretation]

Fanny Townsend the Daughter of Oswald and Mary Townsend there being was born August the 25th 1786

Nancy the Daughter of Fred'k and Fib [?] was Born March the 10 1798

Agness the Daughter of Frederick and Fibbe was born July the 20 1801

John South left the honoured land of Kentucky May the 3rd, day 1784

Thomas Hubling left the place the same Day and Date"]

[Facts in file: Mary Townsend stated that her daughter Fanny Townsend born August 25, 1786, was the only living child she ever had. There is an affidavit dated 1839 in which Daniel White of Madison County Kentucky stated that he married a granddaughter of the veteran and his wife but he failed to give her name.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for two years in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount.]