

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of George Townsend W6306 Elizabeth Mary fn89NC
Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Claiborne County

On this 18th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting the same being a court of Record George Townsin [sic, George Townsend] a resident of the United States in the County of Claiborne and State of Tennessee aged 77 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 the 7th 1832.

States that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that he resided in Mecklenburg County and the State of North Carolina, the applicant believes that it was in the year 1776 as well as he can remember when he was drafted to perform a three months tour of duty and that he belonged to a company commanded by Captain John Phifer which company was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk the Army then marched into South Carolina and broke up the Tory camp at or near a place called 96 and made several of them prisoners and gave them up to the troop of South Carolina and shortly afterwards we were all were disbanded and returned home. The applicant begs leave further to represent that in the year 1777 that he still resided in the County of Mecklenburg County the State of North Carolina that he was again drafted for to perform a three months tour of duty and that he belonged to a company commanded by Captain Calip Phifer [sic, Caleb Phifer] which said company was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Phifer and that General Rutherford was their commanding officer – the Army then marched on an Expedition against the Cherokee Indians. We passed through the nation and destroyed their growing crops and burnt their towns and returned to their homes after having been three months on duty and this applicant received his discharge from Colonel John Phifer in Mecklenburg in North Carolina, which said discharge this applicant has lost or mislaid so that he cannot find it.

And this applicant states that he still resided in said Mecklenburg County and the State of North Carolina until the year of our Lord 1778¹ and he was again drafted in said County for a three months tour of duty and that he belonged to a company commanded by Captain Johnathan Potts which said company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Matthew Locke General Davidson was the Chief commander the Army then marched from there on to Guilford Court House in the State of North Carolina and before we reached there we had an Engagement Lord Wallace [sic, Lord Cornwallis] at the Catawba River where General Davidson our commanding officer was killed and Colonel Locke our commanding Colonel was promoted and took the command and pursued Wallace on to the Court House where we joined General Morgan a few days before the battle was fought by Wallace and Morgan, but this applicant states that he was not in the battle For a day or two before the battle was fought Captain Pott's company to which he belonged was detached on a scouting party about 5 or 6 miles below the Court House and some time after the battle the Army was discharged and returned home and I received my discharge from Colonel Locke in County of Mecklenburg in the State of North Carolina which said discharge I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot produce it. This [applicant] states that while they were scouting in the neighborhood of Guilford Courthouse a few days before the battle was fought that they fell in with a party of British and had a very severe engagement for a little while and we were repulsed and were bound to retreat when Colonel Washington who commanded the Horse company came in to guard our retreat and after we had a few fires Washington retreated with the loss of but a few men and this applicant states that during the war he volunteered himself as often as four times in cases of emergency to defend his country against the invasions of the

1 Sic, the events the applicant describes occurred in 1781, not in 1778. General William Lee Davidson was killed at the Battle of Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River on February 1, 1781.

Tories from 20 to 30 days at a time he also states that he is a very poor man and that he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any living witness whom he can prove his services by. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll or agency of any State.

Questions propounded by the court

1st When and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Mecklenburg County Virginia in the year 1754

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?.

Answer – I have a record in my Bible that I transcribed from the record in my father's Bible which my father & mother told me he was a correct record of my age.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – I lived in Mecklenburg County North Carolina when I was called into the service. I lived for about 20 years after the Revolution in North Carolina & I have lived & was in the neighborhood of Tazewell where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer – I was drafted first for three months when that was expired I was drafted for three months more & when that time expired I was drafted for three months more and then it was fought that 30 days would end of the war, & I was drafted for 30 days more and after of the 30 days expired I was again drafted for 20 days – and I frequently volunteered in scouting companies – for we lived in a Tory neighborhood

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer – The first two tours there were no Regular officers with us. The last tour I was under General Morgan part of the time and General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] part of the time – perhaps be 50 days mentioned above was served under General Greene.

This applicant 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 the Agency of any State whatsoever.

S/ George Townsend

Sworn to in open Court the day and date above written.

S/ Benj. F. Cloud, Clk

[Farnun [Fairwix?] Clarkson, Jacob Crabtree and Mordecai Cunningham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[On December 4, 1854, Elizabeth Mary Townsend, 61, filed in Hancock County, Tenn., for a widow's pension stating she married George on June 11, 1831; that her name before her marriage was Elizabeth Mary White; and that George died February 15, 1837.]

[On June 7th 1852, Elizabeth Townsen filed in Claiborne County, Tenn., saying she was the widow of George, that they married in Rowan County, NC in 1772 in December and that she was now 96 years old. This petition is supported by the affidavit of John Standafer who testifies that he was present at the marriage of Elizabeth White to George Townsen in 1772; that they were married by the Rev. John L. White. Elizabeth Townsen gave another affidavit stating that she never had but one child, a son, who was born January 3, 1774 and died on the 20th of April following.]