

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Townsend W9861

Elizabeth

f75VA

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 7]

State of Kentucky Adair County: Sct.

On this 14th day of September in the year of our Lord 1826 John Townsend personally appeared in the Circuit Court for the Circuit and County of Adair which said Court was in Session being a Court of record, he the said Townsend being a resident of said County and aged about sixty-five years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820. That he the said Townsend enlisted for and during the War of the American Revolution on the 9th day of July in the year 1780 in the County of Berkeley and State of Virginia in the Company of Cavalry commanded as well as he now remembers by Captain Watts in the Regiment commanded by Colonel White in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve until the close of the War, when he received a furlough at Winchester¹ Frederick County Virginia by general proclamation and was never again called into Service. He states that he is by Occupation a farmer but that he is now so aged and infirm that he cannot support himself by it, and that he is in such indigent Circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country. He has a wife who is old & infirm and no other family.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. He also states that he was in the battles of Guilford [March 15, 1781], in an engagement at a Widow Gibbons [Widow Gibbon's Mill at Sharon GA under Gen. Anthony Wayne, 24 May 1782] in Georgia and Cambey² river [³] in a skirmish in South Carolina.

¹ There are two versions of this application in this file. In a version appearing at page 13 of the Fold3.com images, the furlough is said to have been issued in Washington, Frederick County, VA.

² In the second version of this application, this is more clearly written as "Cambay river".

³ The only guess I can make is that this may be a mistaken reference to the engagement on August 25 or 27, 1782 on the Combahee River in SC. That engagement is also referred to as the engagement at Tar Bluff. See, <http://gaz.irshelby.com/tarbluff.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_combahee_ferry.html The problem with this guess is that I am unaware of any Virginia Continentals being at that engagement.

The following is the Schedule of my property and contains the whole of it.

Two beds \$10 each	\$20
One Bureau	4
Three cows & two calves	22
An old disordered mare	<u>15</u>
	\$61

S/ John Townsend, X his mark

Sworn to in open Court this __ day of September 1826

[f p. 58: On March 24, 1827, the veteran gave an affidavit in which he stated there have been no changes in his property since March 18th, 1818 except as required to support his family.]

[f p. 18: On March 20, 1839, in Shelby County Indiana, Elizabeth Townsend, about 81, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Townsend, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Frederick County Virginia in 1783 or 1784; she has no record of her marriage; that her husband died August 4, 1834 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 20: On August 19, 1845 in Shelby County Indiana, the widow, about 87 or 88, filed another application under the 1838 act. In this application she states that her oldest child Henry if now living would be above 60 years of age; her second child Rebecca now living in Grant County Indiana is above 57 years of age & her third child William Townsend now of Adair County Kentucky is about 55 years of age; John Townsend her fourth child is now of the state of Missouri and about 53 years of age; that Joel Townsend her fifth child died in Kentucky and would be about 50 years of age; her sixth child Thomas Townsend now of Bartholomew County Indiana is about 47 years of age; her seventh child [name not stated] now the wife of Isaac Wilson of Shelby County Indiana was 44 years of age the third day of June last.]

[f p. 25: On August 19, 1845 in Shelby County Indiana, Mrs. Ann Wilson gave testimony that she is the youngest child of Mrs. Elizabeth Townsend; she gave testimony as to the identities of the other children of her parents, confirming her mother's testimony set out above.

Ann Wilson

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[f p. 4: On May 6, 1839 in Adair County Kentucky, William Townsend, 47, gave an affidavit in support of his mother's application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that he is the son of John and Elizabeth Townsend; that his mother's name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Bachelor; and that his father was able pensioner for his service in the revolution until the day of his death on August four, 1834 and that his mother has remained a widow.

William Townsend

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing October six, 1827, for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per year commencing March fourth, 1843.]

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Addendum to John Townsend W9861

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 8 April 2022.

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

It appears from Size Roll of 5 Troop that Jno. Townsend Enlisted for the War in 1st Reg't Drag[oons] 10th July 1780 & serv'd until the Mutiny May 83. [see endnote]

Wm Barret [William Barret VAS1197] f[ormer]ly Capt

Baylors [George Baylor W5966] Dragoons

April 6 1785

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Barret". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text.

NOTE: Some of the Continental Dragoons took their horses and rode home from South Carolina rather than waiting to be transported by sea.