

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jonathan Downs W21000

Sarah Downs

f36SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/11/10 & 12/3/14 & 11/4/20

[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.]

State of South Carolina, Laurens District

On the 10th day of December eighteen hundred & thirty eight personally appeared before the Judge of the Court of Ordinary for Laurens District, Sarah Downs, a resident of Laurens District & State of South Carolina, aged 82 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4, 1836: That her husband the said Jonathan Downs resided in Ninety-Six District & State of South Carolina when he entered the service. That he took up arms and joined the Whigs in the month of November 1775 immediately after Patrick Cunningham and his party captured some Powder near Ninety-Six. That he was then first Lieutenant under Capt. James Williams (who was afterwards killed at King's Mountain as Col. Williams) and Major Andrew Williamson. That his company was surrounded by a party of the Tories commanded by Patrick Cunningham at Ninety-Six, when the first gun was fired by the Whigs for Liberty and Independence in Ninety-Six District. That in the month of January 1776, he served in the expedition called the Snow Camps, when the above named Patrick Cunningham made his escape, but was taken in in a few days by the said Jonathan Downs, & by him carried to Charleston and delivered to the proper authority. That on the 15th day of July 1776, he commanded as Major at the Battle of Lindley's fort, against the Indians and Tories, in Ninety-Six District, So. Ca. See 1, Edition of Ramsey's History of So. Ca. Vol. 1, page 280. That in the same month of 1776 he was engaged in the Battle of Senake (sic, Seneca) old Town at Oosmore [sic, Oconee?] Creek in the Cherokee country, now Pendleton District, commanded by Col. Williamson [Andrew Williamson] where Col. Williamson's horse was shot under him. That in the latter part of the same month of 1776 he commanded as Major at the Battle called the Ring Fight in the Cherokee country So. Ca. which he was wounded in the abdomen and in the hands; the ball that entered his body he carried with him to his grave. See History of So. Ca. by Robert Mills page 609. That his wound rendered him unfit for service, and he was brought home. That although he was incapacitated by his wounds from performing active services, he acted the part of a decided Whig, & sustained the cause of Liberty by rendering such services as he was able to do, up to the close of the Revolution. That in the year of 1781, he was one of the number taken prisoner by Major William Cunningham and his party, at Hayes' defeat, a station commanded by Col. Hayes in Ninety-Six District for the particulars see Ramsey's History of So. Ca. Vol. 1, page 450. That the said Jonathan Downs from the time he volunteered in November 1775 performed a regular tour of service. That he performed service in that tour, as Major not less than six months—and as first Lieutenant three months. That all the services performed by him after he

was wounded was such as above stated—She further declares that she was married to the said Jonathan Downs on the 8th day of July 1772 in the year seventeen hundred & seventy two, that her husband the aforesaid Jonathan Downs died on the 18th day of October 1818, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. That she is not able to attend personally in court by reason of old age and bodily disability.

Sworn to and subscribed on this day and year above written before

S/ Sarah Downs, her mark

W.D. Watts, J.C.O.L.D.

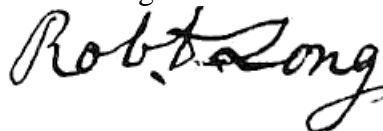
[p 7]

I Robert Long¹ who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, residing in Laurens District South Carolina hereby certify that I am well acquainted [with] Sarah Downs who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration: that I believe her to be 82 years of age. That I was also well acquainted with Jonathan Downs who was a Major in the Revolutionary War and concur in the opinion that he performed service as stated in the foregoing declaration. That the said Sarah Downs is the widow of the said Jonathan Downs. That they were married previous to the commencement of the Revolutionary War. That the said Jonathan Downs died in the year 1818 and that the said Sarah Downs has remained a widow ever since that period.

Sworn and subscribed this 15th day of December 1838

S/ W. D. Watts, JCOLD

S/ Robt Long



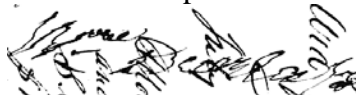
[p 7]

I William Dunlap² residing in Laurens District South Carolina a soldier in the Army of the Revolution hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Sarah Downs who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration: that she is the widow of Jonathan Downs who was a Major in the Army of the Revolution, that I believe her to be 82 years of age. That I was well acquainted with her husband Jonathan Downs and was present with him in the expedition called the snow camps in the winter of 1776 that the said Jonathan Downs then commanded as a Captain. That I am of opinion that he performed service as stated in the foregoing declaration. That the said Jonathan Downs and Sarah Downs were married previous to the year 1776. That the said Jonathan Downs died in the year 1818, and that the said Sarah Downs has remained a widow ever since that period.

Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of December 1838

S/ W. D. Watts, JCOLD

S/ Wm Dunlap Sr



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¹ [Robert Long S7157](#)

² [William Dunlap W2723](#)

I William Millwee³ residing in Anderson District and State of South Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Sarah Towns residing in Laurens District and State aforesaid. That she is the widow of Major Jonathan Downs deceased. That the said Jonathan Downs volunteered in the service of the revolutionary war in the month of October in the year 1775 as first Lieutenant under Captain James Williams. That in the month of November in the year of 1775 we served together in an engagement with the Tories at Ninety Six in Ninety Six district and State of South Carolina and were commanded by Major Andrew Williamson, the Tories by Patrick Cunningham. That in the latter part of the month of December in the year of 1775 we served together in the expedition called the Snow Camps, in the upper part of South Carolina and had an engagement with the Tories, where many of them were taken prisoners, we were commanded by Captain James Williams. That in the month of January in the year of 1776 the said Jonathan Downs was commissioned a Major, and had command of the regulars who were raised to defend the country against the Cherokee Indians. That in the month of July in the year of 1776 we served together at the Battle of Seneca old town, in the Cherokee Country, and were commanded by General Andrew Williamson. That in the same month and in the same year we served together at an engagement with the Indians and Tories at Tugaloo River, in the Cherokee Country. That in the month of August in the year of 1776 we served together at the battle of the ring fight with the Cherokee Indians, in the Cherokee Country, where Major Jonathan Downs had the command, and where he received a ball in the abdomen which he carried with him to his grave. That Major Downs loan rendered him unfit for active service and that he returned home. That in the year of 1781 we were taken prisoners at Hayes station in Ninety Six District South Carolina, by the Tories commanded by Major William Cunningham. That the said Jonathan Downs performed a regular tour of service from the time he volunteered in October 1775 to the time he was wounded in August 1776 of 10 months, viz., 3 months as first Lieutenant and 7 months as Major.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of May 1839 before me
S/ Alexander Evins, NP

S/ Wm Millwee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Millwee". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

State of South Carolina Laurens district: I James Brewster of the District of Laurens & State aforesaid do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of Major Jonathan Downs, deceased, and that the family record hereunto attached showing the date of the marriage of Jonathan Downs & Sarah Gary is in the handwriting of the said Jonathan Downes.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 2nd day of February 1839
S/ W. D. Watts, JCOLD

S/ James Bruster

Jonathan Downs and Sary Gary was married July the 8th 1772 by John Caldwell Esquire
Jane Daughter of the same was born July ye 6th 1774
Milley Daughter of the same was born April 5th 1776
Frances Daughter of the same was born April the 10th 1784

³ sic, [William Milwee W9200](#)

William Son of the same was born January the 10th 1787
Pheobe Daughter of the same was born April the 7th 1791
Louisa Daughter of the same was born May the 15th 1790
&c

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$190 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband service for 3 months as a Lieut. and for 6 months as a Major in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts ⁴ relating to Jonathan Downs	AA11
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 2017	
Transcribed by Will Graves	11/4/20

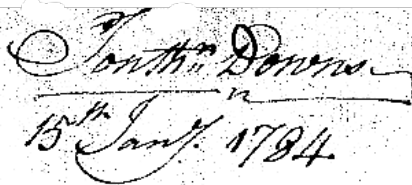
[p 2]
Jonathan Downs
25th January 1784
To
Messrs. Parker & Blake Public Treasurers
Cha^s. ton

[p 3]
Gentlemen

I was one of the Tax Gatherers for the year 1779 and Paid the Money Received By His Excellency the Governor Rutledge's [John Rutledge's] orders to the Commissary of the Brigade where I live whose Receipt I have. My Account is not yet Closed with the Treasury as the Enemy Besieged the Town [Charleston South Carolina was besieged by the British in the spring of 1780] before [I] Could Get down and as it is Out of my Power to Go Now by Reason of wounds Received without endangering Myself Very much therefore if you Could appoint any Gentleman in those Parts to Qualify me and settle it will Do me a Great Kindness

I am Gentlemen your Humble Servant

S/ Jonathan Downs
15 January 1784



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No. 47

No. 1704
[Book] X

Mr. Jonathan Downs his account of a Horse & Gun lost in Militia service in 1781, amounting to

⁴ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

[old South Carolina] Currency	£160.0.0
deduct the Gun by resolve of the House	<u>40.0.0</u> <u>£120.0.0</u>
Sterling	£17.2.10 ¼

NB: “ no Certificate”
 Ex^d. T. W. [Examined by T. W. [identity unknown]]
 J. M^c. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]
 pass S/ L S [?]

[p 5: repeat of the above information]

[pp 6 & 7]
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South Carolina
 Ninety Six District the Public Dr. to Jonathan Downs one Bea [sic, Bay?] Hors [horse]
 appraised to £120
 to one Rifle gun 40
 £160

Personally appeared William Millwee & Hugh Saxon & Being Duly sworn on their oath saith
 that ye above mentioned horse is by them appraised to their Best of boths’ ability Doing Equal
 Justice between the State & owner. Sworn to before me this 17 of May 1783
 S/ T. Hunter JP

S/ Wm Millwee
 S/ Hugh Saxon

Jonathan Downs makes oath before me that on the 19th day of November 1781 when Colonel
 Joseph Hayes’ Station⁵ was taken & himself murdered, the Deponent was also made prisoner &
 the above mentioned horse & Gun taken from him by the Enemy & that he had before been
 ordered on Duty on horseback on account of the Enemy’s advancing into that part of the Country
 & further that he never Since got the said Horse nor Gun nor has Received any Pay. Sworn the
 23rd of May 1783
 before me

S/ Robert Anderson,⁶ JP S/ Jonathan Downs

⁵ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hayes_station.html

⁶ Col. Robert Anderson of the SC Militia. He is the man whose return [not extant] supported a large number of the
 claims for compensation for pay made by the backcountry militia.

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Received 3 March 1786 from the Commissioners of the Treasury full Satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 1704 X

[very faint signature of Jonathan Downs]

[p 10: Printed form of indent No. 1704 Book X in the amount of £17.2.10 and dated March 3 read, 1786.]

[p 11: Reverse of the above Indent bearing a number of endorsements by Jonathan Downs indicating that he used the proceeds of the Indent to purchase land at various times.]