



# National Archives and Records Administration

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## *Navy Pension Fund Lists, 1802–1836*

Congress established the Navy Pension Fund in 1799–1800 to offer disability payments to officers, seamen, and marines disabled in the line of duty. Congress expanded the definition of disability several times, until eventually old age and service in the Navy qualified veterans for a pension. Beginning in 1813, widows and orphans of deceased sailors also gained the ability to receive a pension. The fund was financed by the sale of prizes captured by the Navy, which the commissioners of the fund were free to invest in any manner they deemed most advantageous. The fund's ultimate failure to regulate itself led Congress to assume control in 1841.

Several of the Navy Pension Fund's reports to Congress included lists of individuals receiving pensions from the fund. These statements of pensioners are printed in the Naval Affairs Class (Series VI) of the *American State Papers*, a compilation of Congressional documents covering the time period 1789 to 1838. The Navy Pension Fund lists document pensioners who served from the Revolutionary War through the mid-1830's and contain:

- The 1802–1829 statements of pensioners include name of pensioner, state, rank or capacity of service, and monthly allowance.
- The 1829 lists of widow and orphan pensions granted and denied from 1824–1829 may contain such information as name of pensioner, cause and date of sailor's death, and award amount or rejection date.
- The 1829 lists of widow and orphan pensioners under laws other than that of March 3, 1817, may include name of pensioner, cause and date of sailor's death, when the pension was granted, annual amount, and expiration date of pension.
- The 1830 and 1831 lists of naval pensioners may provide name, rank, where disabled, commencement date of pension, and annual amount of pension,. The lists of widow and orphan pensioners for 1830 and 1831 may contain the name of the widow or orphan, husband's or father's name, rank, ship or station, and date and cause of sailor's death, and.
- The 1836 pension lists provide name, rank, commencement date of pension, pension amount, and Act of Congress under which allowed.

**There is no name index to these lists.**

Citations to statements of pensioners are listed below by volume number (within the Naval Affairs Class of the *American State Papers*), year, type of pensioners, and page number:

### Volume I

- |      |                          |      |                               |
|------|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1802 | Naval Pensioners, p. 082 | 1808 | Naval Pensioners, p. 179      |
| 1803 | Naval Pensioners, p. 113 | 1809 | Naval Pensioners, p. 189      |
| 1804 | Naval Pensioners, p. 125 | 1810 | Naval Pensioners, pp. 206–207 |
| 1805 | Naval Pensioners, p. 144 | 1811 | Naval Pensioners, pp. 231–232 |
| 1807 | Naval Pensioners, p. 157 |      |                               |

### Volume II

- 1826 Naval Pensioners, pp.613–619; Widows and Orphans, pp. 620–622

### Volume III

- 1825 Naval Pensioners, pp. 327–333; Widows and Orphans, pp. 333–335  
1827 Naval Pensioners, pp. 001–008; Widows and Orphans, pp. 008–011  
1828 Naval Pensioners, pp. 162–169; Widows and Orphans, pp. 169–171  
1829 Naval Pensioners, pp. 285–291; Widows and Orphans, pp. 292–294  
1829 Widow and Orphan Pensions Granted and Denied from 1824–1829, pp. 303–305  
1829 Widow and Orphan Pensioners under Laws other than that of March 3, 1817, pp. 345–347  
1830 Naval Pensioners, pp. 501–513; Widows and Orphans, pp. 514–517  
1831 Naval Pensioners, pp. 877–889; Widows and Orphans, pp. 890–893

### Volume IV

- 1836 Naval Pensioners, pp. 819–823; Widows and Orphans, pp. 824–825; Privateers, p. 826

**Note:** There appear to be no lists for 1806, 1812–24 or 1832–35.

Rev. December 2010