

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Samuel Tanner R10389

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Ss.

County of Jackson }

On this 22^d day of June A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber [Thomas Boggs] a Justice of the peace in and for the county of Lewis and State of Virginia Samuel Tanner a resident of Spring Creek in the County of Jackson and State of Virginia aged 74 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 and served as herin stated. In April in the year 1777 in the County of Rockbridge [formed 12 Jan 1778 form Augusta and Botetourt counties] in the State of Virginia, he volunteered as a private in a company of militia commanded by Capt ___ Hall [probably James Hall], marched to Lexington in the said county, where the said company assembled & was organised & about the 10th of May commenced a march toward Point Pleasant at the mouth of the Great Kanawha river – marched via Warm Springs & Hot Springs in Bath County. Crossed Jackson River 5 miles from the Hot Springs – proceeded to the fort where Lewisburg now is [probably Fort Savannah] there joined a few companies of regulars & militia under command of Colo. George Skillern, remained here two or three weeks for the purpose of obtaining a supply of cattle & other provisions – then proceeded on the march by Walkers Meadows on the head of the Meadow river, crossing the Sewell Mountain, fell on to Gauley river near its mouth crossing the same fell on to the Great Kanawha a short distance below the falls thereof. lay here a week or two in consequence of some sickness among the officers – then proceeded on the march to Point Pleasant where they arrived some time in the month of August. joined the fort garrisoned with a few regulars under command of Capt Mathew Arbuckle. Halted at Point Pleasant in expectation of being joined by Gen'l. [Edward] Hand from Fort Pitt & then the whole to proceeded against the Indian vilages on the North West side of the Ohio. In October some of the company to which declarant belonged was on the West side of the Kan'a. River hunting. one of whom [James Gilmore] was killed by some Indians who were lurking about. at which the soldiers became greatly enraged, & proceeded to the guard house and killed Cornstalk & some other Indians who were detained as hostages in the fort. Soon after this event Gen'l. Hand arrived without an army, in consequence of which after a few days consultation the expedition against the Indians was abandoned, and some time in Nov. they left the fort and retraced their steps to the forts on the Greenbrier river, arrived here in Dec'r. rested a few days then the companies separated and declarant was marched to his county Rockbridge. arrived at home about the first of Jany 1778 having served 8 months and about 20 days as a private militia man. In the year 1779 he emigrated to the frontier settlements on the Greenbrier river and in February 1780 volunteered as an Indian Spy. was stationed at Col. Andrew Donnelleys Fort [sic: Fort Donnally near present Frankford WV, erected by Andrew Donnally] under the immediate command of Lieut John McClung and during the spring, summer & fall of this year made many excursions in the adjacent countries spying to wit, on the Greenbrier, Kanawha, Meadow, Gauley, Cole [sic: Coal] and Guyandott [sic: Guyandotte] rivers, and reporting periodically to the fort. was near the last of Nov. 1780 dismissed by Col. Donally having served as a private Indian spy 9 months. In June 1781 in the County of [blank] in the State of Virginia he agained volunteered as a private Indian spy – was placed under the command of Ensign George Hamilton was engaged in spying as in the preceding year, subject to the orders of Col. Donneley at whose fort they were stationed, and to whom they from time to time reported, was engaged in spying from June 1781 untill December 1781 making six months additional service.

In May 1782 he again volunteered as an Indian Spy in the said County of Greenbrier was again

stationed at Donnelleys Fort & placed under command of Ens. James Grayham [sic: James Graham]. was engaged in spying & reporting to the said Fort subject to the orders of Col. Donnelley untill Nov. was then dismissed having performed six months additional service as a private Indian Spy. He was born in Augusta County now Rockbridge Va on the 15th May 1759. was living there when first called into service, from thence moved to Greenbrier Co. Va. where he lived untill the year 1798 When he moved to Monongalia County Va. where he resided untill the year 1822 at which time he moved to Jackson then Mason County Va. where he still lives – He has no Documentary evidence by which to prove his services he was at the end of the first Tour of service discharged by Capt. Hall but not knowing it ever could be of service to him did not preserve it. at the end of each years service as an Indian Spy he was merely dismissed

He knows of no man living whose testimony he can procure by which to prove his services.

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 the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Samuel hisXmark Tanner

To the seven several interogatories prescribed by the War Department he answers as follows viz – To the

- 1st. I was born in Augusta now Rockbridge County in the State of Virginia on the 15th May 1759.
- 2^d. I have no record of my age. I remember the account thereof given me by my parents.
- 3^d. When called into service I was living in Augusta now Rockbridge county Va. I moved from thence to Greenbriar Co Va. in the year 1779 and was living there when I entered the service as an Indian Spy. I have since lived in Monongalia Co. Va. I now live in Jackson County Va.
- 4th. I volunteered
- 5th. At Point Pleasant I seen Capt. M. Arbuckle a regular officer who commanded the Garrison at that place, I also seen Gen'l. Hand who came down the Ohio from Fort Pitt & Col. George Skillern who commanded the Bottetourt troops [sic: Botetourt County Militia] Capts Hall. Stewart & militia officers. At Col. Donnelley's fort I knew Col. Donnelley Col. Stewart, Capts Hamilton & Capt. Stewart.
- 6th. I rec'd a discharge by Capt Hall which is lost signed by Capt Hall – from the service as a spy I was only dismissed.
- 7th. I am known to Elijah Runion [pension application R9079] & Jesse Carpenter [S9309] in my neighborhood who can testify to my character for veracity &c.

We Elijah Runion and Jesse Carpenter residing in the county of Jackson in the State of Virginia hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Samuel Tanner who has subscribed and sworn to the preceding declaration, that we believe him to be 74 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Elijah hisXmark Runion [signed] Jesse Carpenter

[Thomas Boggs certified that because of infirmity Tanner could not travel more than 20 miles from his home to the court house to make his deposition.]

[See endnote.]

Samuel Tanner Applicant

I the undersigned Samuel Tanner in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following statement of my age & Services. I am about sixty odd yrs. old. – I was 14 or 15 yrs. at the close of the war of the Revolution – and consequently never done any service as a soldier in said war. – but I was in Service in the Indian war. R H. Lowther wrote my declaration to whom I gave the same narative I now give. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. Decr. 26 1834

Witness

Saml hisXmark Tanner

J. M. Steed.

A Copy

W. G Singleton

Jan'y. 1, 1835.

NOTE: The last report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many fraudulent pension applications in present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111). Robert H. Lowther was part of what Singleton termed the "Lewis speculating Gentry." The conspirators tricked many illiterate men into putting their marks on fraudulent pension claims, then collected most of the pension.