

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Tolson R10634

f37VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/15/11

[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 Missouri County of Howard: SS

On this 28th day of February 1840, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the County Court of Howard County, Missouri, William Tolson, a resident of Richmond Township in the County of Howard and State of Missouri aforesaid, aged Eighty 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the fall of the year 1776 and was rendezvoused at a place then called Stafford Court House (now, he believes, in the County of King George & State of Virginia) and served in a Regiment commanded by Colonel James Garrard, under Captain George Mountjoy. The Regiment remained quartered at Stafford Court House some six or eight weeks, and was marched from thence to Falmouth, on the Rappahannock [River], opposite Fredericksburg, where it was stationed, and remained for a period of five or six weeks, when it was discharged. According to the best of his recollection, he served in this Campaign, or tour of duty, at least three months.

The militia of the district of country in which he resided being numbered and having then served a tour, he is under the impression that he was not again called into service until the spring of 1778, when he again entered the service under Captain George Burriss, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Phillips, and was rendezvoused at a place called Fords Old Fields, in the County of Stafford, on the River Rappahannock. During his stay at this place, he remembers no incident which may enable the Department to judge of the correctness of his narrative, unless some previous applicant has narrated the incident of the encampment being called to arms one night, by the alarm that the British Cavalry had crossed the River, at the Raccoon Ford, some distance above our encampment. It subsequently turned out that it was an American reinforcement coming to our encampment, when the order previously given for the men to sleep on their arms was rescinded. From the best of his recollection, he was under arms during this period or the tour of service about eight weeks, when he was again discharged and returned home.

His last period of service commenced during the summer of 1781, and consisted principally of cutting out and preparing a military road for the Army of General Washington & General Lafayette to march over, in its meditated Siege against Little York. In this duty he served under Captain King (or at least he was called Captain but I have an impression he was only a Lieutenant) and cut and opened a large and elegant road from Prince William to the River Rappahannock – a distance of some thirty miles. He remembers that the work was so laborious that the Company sometimes toiled hard through the day and had to encamp at night without

getting out of sight of their previous night's encampment. In this service he was employed between five and six weeks – he thinks as much as six weeks. While at work on the road, he remembers that General Washington came up, and tendered to the company his complements for the handsome manner in which they had executed the task. Lafayette, also, passed over the road on his way to York. But for this common and laborious duty to which he was detailed he supposes he would have had the higher glory of being with Washington at the capture of Cornwallis – but this is neither here nor there. He was dismissed and returned home.

At every period of his entering the service aforesaid, he was a resident of the County of Stafford and State of Virginia. Since that period he resided for a number of years in the County of Madison and State of Kentucky. Since the year 1822, he has resided, (where he now does) in the County of Howard & State of Missouri. He knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his service as aforesaid, unless Reuben Franklin be living in the County of Clark Kentucky. He has written to be informed concerning the fact, and if Mr. Franklin be living he will be able to corroborate his statement respecting his second tour of service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency in any State, District or Territory.

S/ William Tolson, X his mark

[Edward Turner, a clergyman, and John B Clark & James Shepherd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories propounded to William Tolson, conformably to the directions of the Commissioners of Pensions, by the undersigned, a justice of the County Court of Howard County, and his answers thereto

Question: 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Stafford County Virginia on the ninth day of January 1760.

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

Answer: I have none, except an entry made by one of my sons a number of years ago. I kept my age from the statement of my father & mother.

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

Answer: I was living in Stafford County Virginia. I have since lived in Madison County Kentucky (from 1810 to 1822) and has since resided & now reside in Howard County Missouri.

Question: 4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute – And if a substitute, for whom?

Answer: The men composing the Companies to which I belonged were numbered, and were called on according to their in number. When he came to my turn, according to number, I was notified of it, and required to rendezvous at one or the other places mentioned in my declaration. I was never a Substitute.

Question: 5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; Such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer: I have stated the names of colonels Garrard & Phillips, of Generals Washington & Lafayette, in addition to which I remember that General Weedon [George Weedon] once sent Colonel Phillips a message, while I was in the service, that he would come and review his Regiment – which he subsequently did. I do not remember any other officers or regiments with sufficient precision to speak of them – nor do I remember any other general event of the service

except that we had very bad beef, during a week or two of absence on the part of my Captain (Burris) when he returned, his men were better treated.

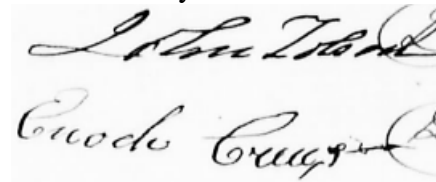
Question: 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer: I received a discharge, or what was represented to be a discharge at the conclusion of every period of service as detailed in my declaration. They were handed to me by my Captain. As I never could read, I do not know by whom they were given, and as I cared but little for them, I soon lost or mislaid them.

Requisition: 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character as to veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I am known to all my neighbors, and I am persuaded they can all testify as to my veracity. I me named, particularly the names of the Reverend John B Clark, the clerk of our County Court and James Shepherd.

[f p. 3: A power of attorney dated December 27, 1853 executed in Howard County Missouri I John Tolson and Enoch Crews, residence of said County and the administrators and self proclaimed heirs at law of William Tolson, deceased, claimed to be a soldier of the Revolutionary War

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature is "John Tolson" and the bottom signature is "Enoch Crews". Both signatures are written in a fluid, slanted cursive style.

They do not state in their power of attorney what relationship, if any, they were to the veteran.]

[Note: A note in the file indicates that the veteran's application was rejected on the grounds that he did not serve six months of military service as required under the pension law by virtue of the fact that his employment in road making was not deemed to have constituted military service]