

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Howell Tatum, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll __, Application #R2027

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

Letter dated May 8, 1937 to a descendant:

“While living in NC, Howell Tatum was appointed August 31, 1775 as ensign in the 1st NC regiment. In 1776, was promoted to lieutenant and on April 12, 1777 was made captain of said regiment. He also acted as aid-de-camp and ass’t deputy quartermaster. He was captured at the surrender of Charleston, SC. Held as a prisoner until August 1781, and continued in service until sometime in 1782.”

From the pension application of James Tatum:
District of West Tennessee:

“On the 2nd day of April, 1818, Howell Tatum appeared before me and made oath that he was a Revolutionary officer in the 1st regiment of NC Continental troops, and that he served from the 1st day of September 1775 until sometime in 1782. That he well knew James Tatum, the applicant for a pension, as he is the brother of the said deponent and knows of his appointment as an officer which took place sometime about the 12th of August 1777 in the 9th regiment of NC Continental troops, commanded by Colonel Williams, in which regiment he served until a new arrangement of the army took place in the year 1778, at which time he became a 2nd lieutenant in the 3rd regiment of the said state, commanded alternately by Colonels Hogan and Mebane, in which regiment he was captured in Charleston, SC on the 12th day of May 1780, and continued a prisoner during the Revolutionary War. The different changes in his rank while a prisoner this deponent has no knowledge of, but well knows he was never otherwise than a commissioned officer during the service.”

Revised and supplemented 9/13/09 by Will Graves

[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.]

Tatum, Howel or Howell, Rosannah Claxton (Former Widow)

[p 2]

State of Arkansas County of Sebastian

And now on this day personally came and appeared before me Samuel Edmondson an acting and duly commissioned Justice of the Peace in and for the said County in the City of Fort Smith Arkansas Edwin M. Tatum a witness to me well known and on his oath deposeth and saith as follows: That he is the son of Howell Tatum and Rosannah Claxton alias Rosannah Tatum and that as far back as his recollection will serve him that he is from the year 1810 or 1811, That day the said Howell Tatum and Rosannah Claxton, alias, Rosannah Tatum his wife did at that time and thence forward live

together as husband and wife at the City of Nashville in the State of Tennessee Howell Tatum acting as Judge of the Circuit Court in said District, and the said Edwin M. Tatum States that his father Judge Howell Tatum had a large acquaintance and transacted a great deal of business for the people of the State of Tennessee, and from every circumstance and from the best information and from reliable sources and from his own knowledge of circumstances in proof of the same that his father and mother were joined legally in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony as there was never any objection made by their acquaintances -- They lived in the Town of Nashville Davidson County Tennessee and said Edwin M. Tatum further states that his father Howell Tatum died in Nashville in the State of Tennessee in October A.D. 1822 being afflicted with Rheumatism and Palsy And in the year 1828 she the said Rosannah Claxton alias Rosannah Tatum was married to Anderson Claxton in the year 1849 he the said Anderson Claxton died and that the said Rosannah Claxton is now a widow.

S/ Edwin M. Tatum

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State of Arkansas County of Jefferson: I Stephen Cantrell at present residing in the County and State aforesaid, do solemnly swear that I was well acquainted with Howell Tatum and Rosannah Wendel his wife. I first became acquainted with him about the year 1804 -- and afterwards went to live with the firm of Dederick and Tatum in the City of Nashville in the State of Tennessee of which term said Howell Tatum was a member. I boarded a short time in his family = In the year 1809 we became brothers-in-law by my marriage with his wife's sister and we both resided [in] Nashville for many years. I was not present at his marriage with the said Rosannah Wendel and do not know the precise year in which it occurred, but from my knowledge of him and his wife by living in their family and my connection with him by marriage and their moral standing I am as well satisfied that they were duly married according to law as if I had witnessed the ceremony of marriage between them: I am also satisfied that he served in the Revolutionary War in the North Carolina line under Colonel Hardy Murphfey [sic, Hardy Murfree]: and I know his brother James Tatum¹ served in the revolutionary War for as the agent of the Bank at Nashville Tennessee I paid him his pension for many consecutive years.

I am also well satisfied that he served in the Indian War of 1812 under General Andrew Jackson -- I do not know in what capacity he served but thinks he was connected with Corps of Topographical Engineers. After General Jackson's return from the war Howel Tatum was Military Storekeeper at Nashville Tennessee for a year or 2: I heard him refused to apply for a pension when requested by his friends, on the grounds that he was then Military Storekeeper and receiving pay from the Government for his services in that capacity and that he did not want to receive pay from the Government in 2 capacities at the same time. He died some time between the years 1825 in 1830 -- I was administrator of his State, and was well acquainted with his business and family affairs. I have not seen his widow for some 15 or 20 years: I have been residing in this County in the State of Arkansas about 10 years -- I have understood that said Rosannah widow of said Howell Tatum has been married again since the death of said Howell Tatum, but I do not recollect if I ever knew the name of the person to whom she was married, and that he has died and that she is again a widow and now resides at or near Fort Smith in the State of Arkansas with her son Edwin M. Tatum.

S/ S. Cantrell

[p 8: On November 16, 1853 in Sebastian County Arkansas in the city of Fort Smith, Rosannah Claxton, 76, filed for a widows pension under the provisions of the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Howell Tatum; that he served as a Captain during the revolutionary war and belonged to the North Carolina line; that she married him December 24, 1795 and that he died in October 1822.]

¹ [James Tatum S39102](#)

[p 45: is a certificate from the North Carolina Comptroller's office setting forth a number of payments made to Howell Tatum for military services during the revolutionary war; in this certificate the Comptroller states that its records indicate Tatum held the office of Deputy commissary quarter master, Lieutenant and was commissioned a Captain on April 3, 1777 to command a company in the first Battalion of the North Carolina line under the command of Colonel Thomas Clarke. The certificate is dated July 11, 1854 and consists of 3 pages.]

[Facts in file: Howell Tatum and that Rosannah Wendel were divorced in 1812; they married in Davidson County, Tennessee by Reverend Mr. Craighead; they had children but the only one named in the file is the Edwin M. Tatum named above with whom Rosannah was living in 1853; her claim was denied because she had divorced Howell Tatum; Anderson Claxton died in September 1849.]