

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bennet Tilley S17151

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

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State of Missouri, County of Randolph }

On this 19th day of May 1834 Personally appeared, in open Court before the County Court of said County now sitting Bennett Tilley a resident of said County and State aged seventy-seven 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, in the County of Wilkes State of North Carolina and to the best of his applicants recollection in the month of __ in the year 1780, this applicant belonged to a troop of horse commanded by Captain John Cleveland under Major Hardgroves [sic], rendezvoused at Hamblin's old store and thence marched through Guilford County to Wilmington and was engaged in the battle fought at that place [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] under the orders of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and after that battle continued under command of same officers to scour the Country in all direction was in search of Tories, was engaged in frequent skirmishes with the Tories but nothing of importance transpired during the remainder of this Tour, having served a full tour of six months according to our engagement were discharged on returning from Wilmington after being discharged he was with three others taken prisoners by one Fanning [David Fanning] and his gang of Tories who were doing much mischief in that section of Country. Fanning immediately killed one of the prisoners by the name of Johnston Tyler, and retained the remaining three for some days he then discharged us on a verbal parole again entered the service of the United States about __ months, before the battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] under the command of Captain Lewis [Joel Lewis] of the N. C. Militia and was employed against the Tories received orders and marched for Kings Mountain arrived within a few miles of that place the day after the battle, we met the Main Army with the prisoners, and from thence returned to the Moravian Towns in N. C. and was then discharged served under this engagement, three months. He further states that he received written discharges for both of the foregoing tours both of which were burnt by accident on the first tour at Wilmington saw General Kennedy, and other officers names not now recollected. This applicant further states that previously he had served six months under the command of Captains Lewis and Cleveland during this time he was engaged in scouring the Country in search of Tories who were committing depredations in that section of Country, but were not regularly embodied our services amounting at some times to a month in continuation at others only a few days, amounting though according to an accurate account kept by this applicant to six months, during this period Colonel Cleveland directed the movements of the different squads on this service and on some occasions commanded in person, was engaged in numerous skirmishes with the Tories. He is unable to state with precision the time this service was rendered, on each of the foregoing tours he entered the service as a volunteer.

He further states that on the two first detailed tours he was with a regularly embodied force lawfully called into service and was actually employed in the field or Garrison during the whole time above detailed, under officers lawfully appointed to command him and that he was not employed in any civil pursuit, on the tour last above mentioned he has stated how the services were rendered, he therefore states that he served in the Militia of North Carolina in the War of the Revolution 15 months, for which he claims a pension and that he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services aforesaid or any part thereof, and that he has no documentary evidence, he has no record of his age but remembers to have seen his age recorded in the family Bible. He was born in Albemarle County in the State of Virginia, and from thence his father removed into North Carolina where this applicant entered the service, and that he served as a private soldier on each of the foregoing tours. That he now resides in Randolph County State of Missouri.

He further states that he is unable without great inconvenience to obtain the testimony of a clergyman, from the fact that none resides in his neighborhood, and that he has recently removed from an adjoining County & is not acquainted with any nearer to him than 40 miles.

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

S/ Bennet Tilley, X his mark

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court

S/ Robert Wilson, Clerk

[Neal Murphy and Gideon Wright gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia some time in the cavalry and some time in the infantry.]