

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Tinsley S21426

f49SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/12/09 & 6/1/15

[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.]

[p 5]

State of South Carolina, Spartanburg District

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Sessions now setting, James Tinsley, a resident of Spartanburg District in the said state, aged seventy two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

I entered the service as a substitute for James Smith under Capt. J. Hayes [Joseph Hayes], Col. James Williams, and General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] having the chief command to Augusta Georgia in April 1778 but cannot recollect what day when I served a two months campaign. On the 19th of June 1778, I again substituted for Philip Tinsley, to Stono, where I served two months under Capt Leonard [Laughlin Leonard], Major Pickens [Andrew Pickens], Col. J. Williams & Gen. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. I again substituted for John Sims to Savannah, Georgia Oct. 9th 1779 where I served two months and was in the battle under Capt. J. Hayes, Col. James Williams, Gen. Lincoln. I then became a volunteer in the siege of Ninety Six So. Caro [May 22-June 19, 1781]. On the 22nd of May 1780 [sic 1781] and continued on as a volunteer in the service until the battle at Blackstocks [November 20, 1780] where I fought under the command of Capt. Daniel Williams, Col. Hayes & General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter], the 20th Nov. 1780. I then continued on as a volunteer until and was present at the murder of Capt D. Williams, Col. Hayes and others by William Cunningham at the place (spelled 'palce') formerly known by the name of Egehill [sic, Edgehill] Station [or Hayes Station] where I was taken prisoner in November 1781. On the night after the same day on which I was taken prisoner, I made my escape and then entered on the expedition against the Cherokee Indians with the command of First Lieutenant under Major Jolly [Benjamin Jolly] & General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] which took place sometime in 1782. Shortly after our return from the Cherokee expedition My brother Capt. Isaac Tinsley & myself with several others got into a conflict with a band of Tories where my brother was killed & myself was wounded in the right shoulder. I was then promoted to the office of Captain by seniority which office I maintained until the end of the war. Col. Levy Casey [Levi Casey] having chief command, being in active service of the United States for about two years & six months as Capt. This deponent further states that he never received any commission.

Q: Where & in what year were you born?

A: In Culpepper County in the State of Virginia in about the year 1759.

Q: Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

A: I have no record, supposes it has been destroyed by the Tories who plundered my father's house in the Revolutionary War.

Q: Where were you living when you were called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you live now?

A: In what was called Ninety Six in South Carolina. I have lived since the Revolution in Newberry District until about five years since when I moved to Spartanburg District South Carolina where I now live.

Q: How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for who?

A: See the foregoing declaration for an answer.

Q 5th

A: See the foregoing declaration for an answer.

Q: Did you ever receive a discharge from service?

A: Never received any discharge.

Q: Did you ever receive a commission?

A: Never received any, tho' I acted for two years & half as Captain.

Reuben Golding,¹ Henry Pitts² & Robert Long³ are surviving soldiers of the revolution & live now in the neighborhood where I lived in Newberry District & can testify to my services and good character as a man of veracity.

This deponent states that he is at this time a pensioner on the roll of this state, which he hereby relinquishes on the condition that he receives the benefits of the act of Congress for which he now makes application.

Sworn to in open Court

S/ James Tinsley



Jno. B. O'Neill,
Presiding Judge

And the said Court does hereby disclose his opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears to him that Robert Long, Esq., Henry Pitts and Reuben Golding who have proved his Revolutionary services are credible witnesses residing in Laurens and Newberry Districts and that their statements are entitled to credit.

S/ Jno. B. O'Neill
Presiding Judge

State of South Carolina

I Elisha Bomer clerk of the Court of Sessions & Common Pleas in & for the district of Spartanburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said

¹ [Reuben Golding S21770](#)

² [Henry Pitts S7316](#)

³ [Robert Long S7157](#)

Court in the matter of the application of James Tinsley for a Pension. In testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal of office this 17th day of Oct. 1832.

S/ E. Bomer, Clk.

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State of So. Carolina Spartanburg District

Personally appeared this deponent Capt. James Tinsley before me Elisha Bomer clerk of the court of Sessions and Common Pleas for Spartanburg District in the State aforesaid, and makes oath that in June 1780 he was commissioned First Lieutenant under Capt. Laughlin Leonard commanded by Col. Joseph Hayes in an expedition of about two months against the Tories on Edisto River. In February 1781 after Col. Hayes had been killed at Edgehill on Little River by the bloody company under the command of Bill Cunningham [William ["Bloodied Bill" Cunningham] this deponent received his commission as captain from Col. Levi Casey and had for his First Lieutenant Henry Pitts and Ensign Michael McGahee and continued in commission as a captain until the end of the war, embracing a term of service as Capt. more than two years and rendering such services as set forth in his declaration as by reference thereon to being had will more fully appear.

Sworn and subscribed before me the 30th September 1833

S/ James Tinsley

S/ E. Bomer, Clk

[p 19]

Washington City December 16th 1833

I John K. Griffin, representative in Congress from Newberry District in the State of South Carolina do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Capt. James Tinsley who has subscribed the foregoing affidavit that I was born and raised within three miles of the said Capt. Tinsley & have always understood from his compatriots in the Revolutionary War that he was an able energetic and faithful officer in the Revolution and entertain the most unlimited confidence in the truth of his declaration.

S/ John K. Griffin⁴



I William K. Clowney⁵ representative in Congress from Union District South Carolina do hereby certify that I have a slight personal acquaintance with Capt. Jas. Tinsley & from a

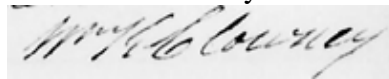
⁴ GRIFFIN, John King, a Representative from South Carolina; born near Clinton, Laurens County, S.C., August 13, 1789; pursued an academic course; engaged as a planter; served in the State house of representatives 1816-1819; member of the State senate 1820-1824 and again in 1828; elected as a Nullifier to the Twenty-second through Twenty-fifth Congresses and reelected as a Democrat to the Twenty-sixth Congress (March 4, 1831-March 3, 1841); died near Clinton, S.C., August 1, 1841; interment in Little River Church Cemetery.
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=G000462>

⁵ CLOWNEY, William Kennedy, a Representative from South Carolina; born in Union County, S.C., March 21, 1797; attended private schools and an academy; was graduated from South Carolina College at Columbia in 1818; taught in the public schools of Unionville and in the University of South Carolina; member of the State house of representatives 1830-1831; studied law; was admitted to the bar and began practice in Union; commissioner in equity of South Carolina 1830-1833; elected as a Nullifier to the Twenty-third Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1835); elected as a Nullifier to the Twenty-fifth Congress (March 4, 1837-March 3, 1839); chairman, Committee

personal knowledge of his character and more especially from the information of others entertain no doubt as to the truth of his statement.

December 16th 1833

S/ Wm K. Clowney



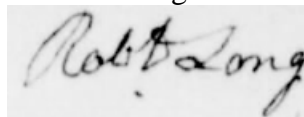
[p 27]

State of South Carolina Laurens District

Personally appeared Robert Long before one Henry L. Niel Esquire, who being duly sworn on his oath saith that he was personally acquainted with James Tinsley in the time of the Revolutionary War, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, about the first of November of that year he served as a private and volunteer or rather refugee from the British and Tories in the Little River Regiment of Militia under Col. Joseph Hayes of the above Regiment under Captain Daniel Williams; till after Tarleton's defeat at the Cowpens on the seventeenth day of January in the one thousand seven hundred and eighty one; in which battle he was together with himself in the same regiment that he was and his family actual friends to America in the Revolutionary War, after the above he (this deponent) went into Virginia in which he staid about a year; that he believes that in the end of the Revolutionary War he did act as a Captain.

Sworn to and subscribed the 19th day
of September in the year 1832.

S/ Robt. Long



Before me

S/ Henry L. Niel

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State of South Carolina Laurens District

Personally appeared Reuben Golding before me one of the ___ for said District and n his oath that he saw James Tinsley in the army at Stono in the service of his country in June 1798 (sic) and on his oath saith he saw the above named James Tinsley at Savannah Georgia in 1779 the date to the best of his knowledge, and he on his oath saith that he saw the above James Tinsley in the army at the siege at Cambridge under the command of General Green in the year 1781 to the best of his recollection and on his oath saith that he knew the above named James Tinsley to act as a Capt. in the militia after the death of one of his brothers.

Sworn to before me this
___ day of September 1832

S/ Reuben Golding

S/ Bailey

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[p 29]

South Carolina Laurens District

Personally came before me Henry Pitts and being hereby sworn according to law saith he is well acquainted with James Tinsley and to my knowledge was a Revolutionary soldier and further I do hereby certify that I served under said Tinsley in the Revolutionary War two years and upwards the said Tinsley then commanding of the company that I then served in.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 22 of August 1832

S/ Robt Cunningham, JP

S/ Henry Pitts, X his mark

[p 3]

Republic of Texas County of Washington

In the Supreme Court of Said Republic present the Hon. John Hemphill Chief Justice presiding, & the associate Justices, Baylor, Jackson, Morris & Ochiltree, this day the 7th July 1843, personally appeared in open court James Tinsley and made & subscribed the following declaration that he was a pensioner under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 of the United States of North America and drew his pension by virtue of a warrant paid to him by Lew Cass Secretary of War and Countersigned by J. L. Edwards dated 28th February 1833 and now presented to the Court up to the fourth of March 1837 at Charleston South Carolina this declarant then residing in Spartanburg District in said State shortly after that time the declarant states that his children emigrated to this Republic, and not being willing to be deprived of their society he in his old age was inclined to come with them.

He states that being situated in the frontiers and not being accessible to information on this subject he did not know that he could still ask the bounty of another government whilst residing in this and besides he was poor & infirm and thereby rendered unable to take previous to this time the necessary steps to receive his pension. He further states that he has not sold, transferred or mortgaged his claim to said pension to any one, & that the attorney he has selected to receive the same Foster [?] Bobo does the same gratuitously declarant & that he hopes the fun appropriated to pay his said claim may be transferred to the City of New Orleans. He states that the best information he has declarant is now in the 86th year.

S/ James Tinsley

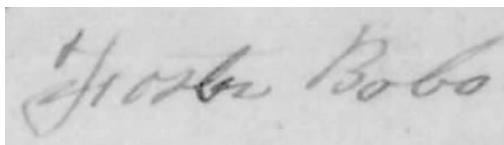
[p 38/37]

Republic of Texas County of Washington: in the Supreme Court of the Republic aforesaid personally appeared in open court Foster Bobo who made oath in due form of law, that he was well acquainted with James Tinsley late of Spartanburg District & State of South Carolina N. A. & now of the County of Montgomery & Republic of Texas that he was well acquainted with him for the last 15 or 16 years, that he was always reputed to be a revolutionary soldier of the United States of North America and affiant knows that previous to said Tinsley leaving the United States for this Country that he drew a pension for his Revolutionary Services & believes on the same warrant now produced in court and that he is well satisfied that he is the [fp 37] identical person named in said warrant, issued by Lew Cass Secretary of War 80 28th of February 1833 & countersigned by J L Edwards, that said Tinsley is very aged & infirm and that he did leave South Carolina in the year 1837 & emigrated to this Country where he has since resided. Affiant further states that he has accepted the power of attorney from said

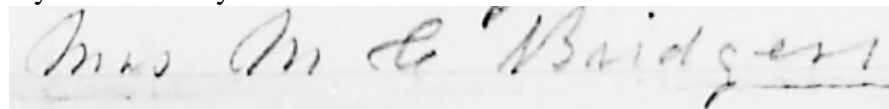
Tinsley to receive the pension now due him, that he has done so without the hope or expectation of making any charge therefore nor has he purchased or contracted for the same in any manner.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

S/ Foster Bobo

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Foster Bobo".

[p 10: in a letter March 14, 1883 postmarked El Paso Texas, Mrs. Melissa C. Bridgers wrote a letter to the pension office in which she said she is the daughter of James Tinsley by his second wife Susan Hooker; she states that her father was 51 or 52 at the time he married Susan Hooker who was then sixteen years old; Mrs. Bridgers states that she has no family record by which to prove her statements but that the history of her father's life and his brothers was "published in Godys Ladys book some where between the years 1854, 58"; that she, Mrs. Bridgers, was a minor in 1855; that Charles E. Hooker,⁶ a member of Congress from Mississippi is the son of my mother's only brother Zadoc Hooker."

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Mrs M C Bridgers".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]

⁶ HOOKER, Charles Edward, a Representative from Mississippi; born in Union, Union County, S.C., in 1825; raised in Laurens District, S.C.; attended the common schools, and was graduated from the Harvard Law School in 1846; was admitted to the bar in 1848 and commenced practice in Jackson, Miss.; district attorney of the river district 1850-1854; member of the State house of representatives in 1859; resigned to enter the Confederate Army as a private during the Civil War; became lieutenant and later captain in the First Regiment of Mississippi Light Artillery; promoted to the rank of colonel of Cavalry; elected attorney general of Mississippi in 1865 and the same year was removed with the other officers of the State by the military authorities; again elected in 1868; resumed the practice of law in Jackson, Miss.; elected as a Democrat to the Forty-fourth and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1875-March 3, 1883); delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1884; elected to the Fiftieth and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1887-March 3, 1895); again elected to the Fifty-seventh Congress (March 4, 1901-March 3, 1903); continued the practice of law in Jackson, Miss., where he died January 8, 1914; interment in Greenwood Cemetery.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000758>