

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John (John R) Tench S3772

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/18/11

[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.]

Revolutionary Claims

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an Act entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th of May 1828, I John R Tench, in the County of Rutherford in the State of Tennessee do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution in the State of Virginia, for twelve months, and was in the service at the close of the war, at which period I was a private in Captain Anderson's Company, third Regiment, commanded by Colonel Samuel Meredith, I do not recollect of having received the Certificate of Congress under the Act 15th May 1778 – and I further declare that I was not on the 15th of May 1828 on the pension list of the United States.

Witness my hand this 10th day of December in the year of our Lord 1828.

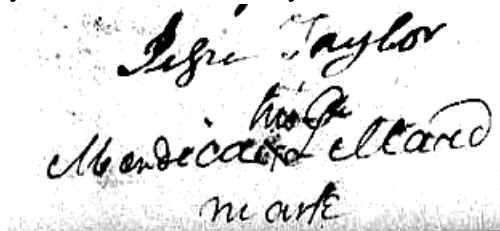
S/ H. D. Jamison, JP

S/ John R. Tench



Before me H. D. Jamieson an acting justice of the peace in the County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee, personally appeared Mordecai Lillard and Jesse Taylor of the said County, who did severally make oath, that John R Tench, by whom the foregoing declaration was subscribed, is generally reputed and believed to have been a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, in manner as therein stated.

Witness my hand, this 10th day of December in the year aforesaid 1828



State of Tennessee Rutherford County: November Sessions, 1833

On this 18th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court before H. D. Jamieson, J T. Caulen & R. Reed the justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now in session for Rutherford County the same being a court of record John Tinch [sic] a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five 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 the 7th 1832. That he enlisted as a private soldier in the United States Army in February or March 1776 but which of those months he cannot recollect. He enlisted under Captain James Anderson he thinks in the third Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Meredy [Samuel Meredith] and the Brigade was commanded by General Muhlenberg. He enlisted at that time as well as he now remembers for 18 months and served out the full period of his enlistment. During this enlistment he was present and aided in taking a British Sloop in James River, he thinks in May or June 1776 and took about 200 prisoners. He has no recollection of the officer who commanded in taking that sloop, except his Captain James Anderson and Captain John Ballard both of whom went from Mchenburg [Mecklenburg] County. There were several other companies with their officers and he thinks there was a Colonel who commanded but at this distant period he does not recollect their names. They were on their way from Mecklenburg courthouse to Hampton town in Hampton road when they captured the Sloop. After this they proceeded to Hampton where they joined the Brigade commanded by General Muhlenberg. He remained at this place until after the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July 1776. From Hampton he marched to Portsmouth where Governor Dunmore was stationed and besieged the Fort until Governor Dunmore made his escape. He does not recollect he was in any other engagement or skirmish during the period of his first enlistment, but he was continually marching to different points up and down James River until the expiration of his term of enlistment when he was discharged verbally he thinks by General Muhlenberg at a place called Babbs old field making a period of 18 months he served under this enlistment. Some short time afterwards, he thinks not exceeding six weeks he again enlisted in a company commanded by John Garland under the command of Major Boyce. He does not at this distance of time recollect the day or even month in which he enlisted or the length of time for which he enlisted, But he recollects the field officers were Colonel Samuel Garland, Colonel Thomas Claiborne & Major Boyer [?]. During the period of this enlistment he marched to different points guarding the country. They marched to Cabbern [Cabin Point?] from there to Williamsburg from thence to the Springfield camp thence to Chucituck [Chuckatuck] Creek or Mills [now in Suffolk City] near Nansemond River at the Sleepy hole ferry we also marched to Richmond and to Carter's ferry on James River and was constantly employed in scouting parties up and down Norfolk, James and Nansemond rivers. At some of these points we would be stationed sometimes a week sometimes two weeks and sometimes a month or two months as circumstances required but he does not recollect of being engaged in any skirmish or fight during the time. He recollects of aiding in arresting some five or six men in crossing Nansemond River one night with sheep, fowls, sheets & other provisions. It was believed they were Tories carrying provisions to the British. At the expiration of this enlistment he thinks he received a written discharge from Colonel Samuel Garland. On his return home it got wet and was destroyed. He thinks he served six months at least in this last enlistment though as before stated he does not recollect whether he served out the whole time of enlistment or not. Some ten or twelve months after this last discharge he again enlisted as a private soldier in a company commanded by Captain William Hays at Greenville courthouse alias Bellfield or Hicksford. He thinks he enlisted for eighteen months this time. He marched with Captain Hays to Petersburg from thence to Richmond from thence they marched up James River above the pointed fork. From thence they marched to Botetourt County near the Sweet Springs where we lay six or eight weeks from thence we were ordered to return to Richmond and marched as far as Prince Edward courthouse where I was verbally discharged or dismissed by Captain Hays with orders to be in readiness at a moment's warning to turn out again if called upon but I was never called upon again during the period for

which I enlisted. He thinks he was in actual service three months during this enlistment. Captain Hays and his company never joined any other troops and there was never but the company officers. He recollects there Lieutenant was by the name of Rawlitt [¹—Some six or eight months after this last discharge he volunteered as a private soldier under Captain Peter Garland for six months and marched to Williamsburg from there to Little York thence up the South side of James River to Cabbern from thence to Williamsburg at which place he was discharged by Colonel Samuel Garland having been in service about six months the discharge was a verbal one. He was not in any Skirmish or battle this last tour. They were stationed at different points mentioned above at some of them longer and others a shorter period. He thinks they lay at Little York about two months. During this tour the field officers who commanded were Colonel Samuel Garland, Colonel Edward Garland, Colonel Thomas Claiborne and he thinks Major Thomas Bracy but he does not recollect the names of any of the other Majors. He thinks about three weeks after this last discharge he was drafted out of William Drumright's company a Militia Captain in Mecklenburg County Virginia for a tour of three months and marched from Mecklenburg courthouse to Sussex courthouse under the command of Captain James Hicks. They were stationed at Sussex courthouse some short time and then dismissed before the expiration of the three months for which he had been drafted by Colonel Grey Jerkins at his house near a church called the Raccoon Chapel having been in service about four weeks. Some months after this Lord Cornwallis was taken at Little York and he never served anymore. He was in actual service as a private soldier during the revolutionary war thirty-four months at least if not longer. In fact he attended to but little other business from the time he first entered the service in February or March 1776 until the capture of Lord Cornwallis. It is impossible however owing to age, length of time and decay of memory to state with anything like precision the day or even month he entered the service at the different periods of his enlistment except the first time which he believes was the time here stated.

He further states he was born on the ninth day of March 1758 near of Annapolis in the State of Maryland agreeably to the information of his parents but he has no record of the time of his birth he has been informed the book in which his parents had the day of his birth recorded was destroyed by fire. But when he first enlisted he resided in Mecklenburg County Virginia. After serving his first enlistment he removed to Brunswick County Virginia where he resided at each of the other times he entered the Army except the last time in which he was drafted he had at that time returned to Mecklenburg County and had enrolled himself but a short time before he was drafted. After the revolutionary War he removed from Mecklenburg to Brunswick and from thence to Lunenburg County Virginia from thence he removed to Oglethorpe County Georgia where he lived about four years from thence he removed to Rutherford County Tennessee where he has resided the last 19 or 20 years.

This applicant once prepared a declaration for a pension under the Act of Congress passed the 19th of March 1818 [sic, 18th of March 1818] and at the time he prepared his declaration he procured the affidavits of Jesse Taylor² & William Cain³ who were both revolutionary soldiers with whom he became acquainted during the revolutionary War who identified the person of this applicant can prove his services in the revolutionary war viz. Jesse



² [Jesse Taylor W11598](#)

³ This is probably the same man as FPA S39286


Taylor stated in his affidavit he served with this applicant his first tour of 18 months or a part of the time in the same company with him which is true. William Cain stated in his affidavit he served with applicant the second tour stated in this declaration though in a different company which is also true.

These affidavits as well as applicant's declaration or in the hands of General William Brady who had drawn them up and undertook to get the necessary certificates appended to them and forward them to the war Department in order to obtain a pension. But it so happened General Brady lost or mislaid this applicant's declaration and the above two affidavits owing to which they have never been forwarded. He has been informed & believes General Brady has made frequent search for said papers but cannot find them. Jesse Taylor and William Cain are both now dead and he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his services and he has no documentary evidence that will certify to his services.

He is known to a great many persons in his neighborhood his Captain George Brennum Captain Nathan Lyon, Joshua Bartan, Esqr., David Hall, Joseph Ramsey, Mordecai Lillard & David Clark and many others who he believes would testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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.

S/ John Tench

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Tench". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

[David Clark, a clergyman, and Mordecai Lillard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[William Brady also testified that the applicant had placed in his hands affidavits of Jesse Taylor and William Cain as to their recollection of the services of the applicant; but that he, Brady, has lost or mislaid the affidavits and cannot find them after diligent search.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Virginia service.]