

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Tapley Lightfoot<sup>1</sup> S4558

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/27/09 rev'd 12/14/10 & 10/8/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

### State of Tennessee Williamson County

On this 22nd day of January 1833 personally appeared before the worshipful the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions for the County of Williamson, State of Tennessee, Tapley Lightfoot a resident of the County and state aforesaid aged 69 years who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born in the County of Hanover State of Virginia on the 15th of February 1761. He has a record of his age in his possession, which was copied from his father's family Bible, now in the possession of a sister older than himself in South Carolina. He resided in the County where he was born until he went into service which was in June '78. He was then a bound apprentice and having quarreled with his master, he left his service without his consent, and enlisted as a regular soldier, for the whole war under a recruiting Captain named Thomas Price in Hanover Court House. From Hanover Court House he was sent to Norfolk with about 3 and 20 others under the command of a Sergeant name Smith. In Norfolk and the country adjacent he remained attached to the company commanded by Captain Tapley White [sic, Tarpley White] and Regiment by Colonel Davis [sic, William Davies], until the month of August 1780. He then marched with his company to the County of Chesterfield Virginia. From C. Ct. House he was marched to the Shirley Hundred where he was engaged in a skirmish of guards in which applicant thought his Commander Colonel Davis exhibited great cowardice. At Cr Ct. House he remained until the month of January '81, by which time about 1000 men had assembled there of whom two regiments were formed, one commanded by Colonel Campbell, the other by Colonel Haw [sic, Lt. Col. Samuel Hawes], applicant was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Campbell [Richard Campbell]. The two regiments marched from Chesterfield Court House to join the Army of General Greene which they overtook at the Cheraw Hills about 2 or 3 weeks previous to the action at Guilford Court House, applicant was in that action.

After it he marched with Greene's Army in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River, thence to Camden South Carolina, where Greene, sound & fought Lord Rawdon, applicant was also in this action. After it the Army marched to Ninety Six at the fort held by some British Troops under Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger]. General Greene lay before the

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<sup>1</sup> C. Leon Harris points out that Lightfoot is listed on the Chesterfield Courthouse VA size list as follows: "Tarpley Lightfoot/ age 16/ height 5' 5 1/4"/ planter/ born and residing in Hanover County/ light brown hair/ gray eyes/ brown complexion/ enlisted 7 Sep 1780 for 18 months."

fort with his Army about one month and was then compelled by the arrival of Lord Rawdon with reinforcements to raise the siege and retreat. He crossed the Catawba River, to the High Hills of Santee where he received a reinforcement of North Carolina Militia. He then returned in pursuit of Lord Rawdon and came up & fought with him at Eutaw Springs. Applicant was also in this action and received a severe wound in the leg and a slight one in the arm both with a bayonet from the same man. In this action the Regiment to which applicant belonged was stationed on the right wing. During the action this wing which was entirely composed of the two Virginia regiments above mentioned was over powered by superior numbers, and compelled to throw down their arms and ask for quarter. At this critical moment Colonel Washington arrived at the spot with his squadron of horse, made a furious charge upon the enemy's left then engaged with us and broke their line. Our two regiments resumed their arms, completed the defeat and came out of the action with him 360 prisoners although we left Colonel Washington a prisoner in the hands of the enemy and our brave Colonel dead upon the field of battle. Applicant remained with the Army after this action marching from place to place wintering at the High Hills of Santee, thence marching to the Round O.; thence to the Hickory Hills, where we first received information of the termination of hostilities.

Applicant was marched thence under Major Edmunds to Salisbury, where the soldiers were discharged. He received a written discharge from the service and a certificate purporting that he had received nothing for his services. At the time of his discharge applicant had neither hat, coat, shoes nor stockings, his whole apparel consisting of a pair of flaxen trousers and a shirt of his own making. In this condition it is not surprising that he lost these papers. They never reached home with him. He was discharged about the last of January or first of February 1782. He now deems it almost unnecessary to mention the names of the Officers that he knew, but in compliance with the instructions of the Secretary of War, says, he was well acquainted with the persons of Greene, Lee, Washington, & Marion, & knew all the captains in his Regiment, Culverson, Anderson, Scott, Crawford, & Walls. He has no papers to prove his services and knows of no person living by whom he can prove them but refers to John Atkinson a clergyman and Seth Sparkman -- residents of his neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and to his character in his neighborhood as a soldier of the revolution. He lived in North Carolina two years after he left the service and having lived two years in Hanover Virginia, 4 or 5 years in Rowan North Carolina, 6 or 7 in the Counties of Pasquotank & Perquimans, about 20 years in Guilford, about 3 years in Wilkes North Carolina about 5 years in Bedford County Tennessee, moved to this County about 4 years ago and has resided here since.

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

S/ Tapley Lightfoot, X his mark

[John Atkinson, a clergyman, and Seth Sparkman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 18 months service from 1778 as a private in the Virginia line.]