

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Tate S6191

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 Dec 2013.

Virginia

At a Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery held at the Court house for the County of Botetourt on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 –

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1832 – personally appeared in Open Court before the Hon'ble Allen Taylor Judge of the Superior Court of Law and Chancery for the County of Botetourt John Tate aged seventy one years and 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 on the 7th day of June 1832

That he was born in the County of Augusta on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1761– in the year 1777 he served as a Private in a volunteer expedition which went from Staunton in the County of Augusta under the command of Captain Patrick Buchanan [sic: Patrick Buchanan] & Thomas Smith against a Bunch of Tories who had assembled in the vicinity of the Peaked Mountain about Thirty miles below Staunton the leaders of the party were Captured and lodged in Jail and the followers of them dispersed. in the month of May 1778 or 1779 the Indians from the Western Side of the Ohio came in a large body against the Inhabitants of Greenbrier and made an attack upon Donnelly's Fort [sic: Donnally's Fort near present Frankford WV] and information of it was sent to Augusta and the companies commanded by Captain James Tate, Patrick Buchanan and Francis Long were ordered to their assistance this applicant again volunteered and marched in Tates Company the three Companies rendezvoused at the Savannah Fort which stood where the Town of Lewisburg now is, then they remained for about one month where they were discharged and returned home, this affiant received a discharge from Captn. Tate which has been lost or mislaid.

In the year 1780 he removed with his father to the County of Botetourt where he has resided ever since – Lord Cornwallis having made very active exertions to take the prisoners taken at the Battle of the Cowpens in January [17<sup>th</sup>] 1781, a requisition was made on the County of Botetourt for Militia Captains – Mays [David May], John Cartmill, Mathew Wilson, Holstein [sic: Holstin] and Boller [sic: John Bollar] were called into service a heavy draft was made and this affiant volunteered in Mays Company each man was directed to provide himself with a good horse and six days provision the Detachment was placed under the Command of Maj'r Thomas Rowland and marched in a Southern direction untill it crossed the Dan River then the horses were sent home and the detachment soon after joined the army under the command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at a place called Allamance [sic: Alamance] on a branch of Haw River the army had a skirmish with the British where several men were killed belonging to Mays Company [skirmish at Clapp's Mill on Alamance Creek NC, 2 Mar 1781] the detachment to which this affiant belonged and the Cavalry under the command of Colo [Henry] Lee were sent to bring on the action a few days after this General [William] Campbell of Washington County Virginia joined Gen'l. Green with about [blank] men, on the morning after the junction a Battle was fought at the Reedy fork of Haw River [skirmish at Wetzel's Mill, 6 Mar] when Captain May and all the officers of his Company and all his men, except myself and thirteen others, left the field of Battle and came home this affiant remained with the army which encamped at Speedwell Iron Works in North Carolina [on Troublesome Creek in present Rockingham County] the next day after the fight Captn. James Tate and Captn. Smith from Augusta County in Virginia joined the army with their companies my friends from Augusta requested me to join them I declined doing so and in a few days afterwards returned home. This affiant states that he was in service on this occasion about three months as well as he now recollects. In the latter part of July or August in the year 1781 he again volunteered as a private in Captn. David Mays Company and marched from Boyds Ferry now the Town of Pattonsburg [now Buchanan] in Botetourt County to York Town in Virginia and remained there in service during the whole

of the Siege [28 Sep - 19 Oct] after the surrender of Cornwallis he was sent with the prisoners to the Barracks to Winchester where he was discharged – He received a written discharge signed he thinks by Wallace Estin or Estill [Wallace Estill] a Lieutenant of the Company which has been lost the discharge was dated in November 1781 on this Tour he served upwards of three months he has no documentary evidence of his service and does not at this time know of any person living in this part of the country who is acquainted with the fact of his having served except Henry Cartmill [pension application S29692] and John Hewtt [sic: John Hewitt W2618] both of whom served with him at York Town – 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 –  
Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court – signed John Tate

Virginia Botetourt County Sc

Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for said county John Tate who made a declaration in the Superior Court of Law & Chancery for Botetourt county on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1832, and being first duly sworn, deposeth and saith, That by reason of his advanced age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the prec[ise] length of his service, but according to the be[st] of his recollection he served as follows, viz On the expedition to the Peaked Mountain not less than two weeks, on the expedition to the Savannah Fort, against the Indians, not less than two months, this affiant in his declaration has stated that he remained at the Fort about one month on further reflection he believes he was detained two months, he is confident that his whole period of service on that occasion was not less than two months On the expedition to the South under Capt May he served not less than three months. To York Town upwards of three months as stated in his declaration. This affiant believes that he served for greater lengths of time than is stated above but he prefers taking the shortest period. He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension under any law of the United States except that passed on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1832 and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. In Witness whereof I have hereto set my hand this 13 day of February 1833

NOTES:

For a discussion of the Botetourt riflemen at Clapp's Mill and Wetzel's Mill see the article beginning on p 60 in <http://southerncampaign.org/newsletter/v4n123.pdf>

On 13 Feb 1833 Absolom Dempsey stated that Tate was "a clergyman in regular communication with the Baptist Church."

A 12 Oct 1836 letter in the file states that Tate died about the last of August.