

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Tate S7675

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/28/07 rev'd 6/10/15

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

[p 6]

State of North Carolina, Orange County: SS

On this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting Thomas Tate, Senior a resident Citizen of the Hawfields in the County of Orange and State aforesaid, in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of age, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States, under the following named Officers and Served as herein stated –

That he was in Five different Tours (viz.)

The 1<sup>st</sup> a Tour of about 8 weeks in this spring of 1776 or '77 when he Volunteered as a “Light horsemen” in the service of the United States against certain Scotch Tories who were embodying under McNeil on the Cape Fear River. This Tour is more usually designated as the “Scotch Camp” -- John Williams was our Captain, Colonel James Thaxton [sic, James Thackston], and General Butler [John Butler] were both with us – we were organized and marched from the Town of Hillsboro in this County, and proceeded to what was then known as Cross Creek after staying a little time and Cross Creek we went up the River some 25 or 30 miles, crossed the River at Smith's Ferry and in that neighborhood met with a large body of Scotch Tories under said McNeil & a McDaniel, we made several hundred prisoners and took about 500 stand of arms<sup>1</sup> – sent the arms by a boat down the River to Cross Creek, we recrossed the Cape Fear and returned to Cross Creek, after being out about seven or eight weeks – here we were dismissed by Butler and promised that our term should be counted a three months Tour and we should be compensated as if we had actually served an entire three months Tour.

This applicant a second time volunteered in the Service of the United States as private, some time after the expiration of the first tour – the object of this Tour was to suppress the Tories. This applicant has forgotten the names of his Captain & Lieutenant, but was under the Command of Colonel O'Neal – we were marched to the “Iron Works” on Deep River, where we understood the Tories under Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] were embodying-- but could not come up with them: we were engaged in this Tour of about one month as well as is now recollected by This applicant – the troops now returned homeward, and were discharged by Colonel O'Neal not far from where Thomas Lindley of Chatham now lives.

This applicant sometime in the year 1779 (he thinks it was) Volunteered in the Service of the United States – on this as on the former tour we were in pursuit of Tories & Colonel O'Neal was our Commander – the names of the other officers this applicant does not now remember – we were however organized and marched from the Town of Hillsboro – on our way out we crossed Haw River at

---

<sup>1</sup> The veteran appears to be describing the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776. While Colonel James Thackston and Captain John Williams were at that engagement, General John Butler was not in that battle.

Trollinger's Ford, and the Alamance [Creek] near the regulation battle ground [site of the Battle of Alamance which occurred during the North Carolina Regulation prior to the Revolution], we ranged Sandy Creek neighborhood South East of Randolph & part of Chatham, and returned after being out about one month.

This applicant a Fourth time volunteered against the Tories as private, the time not distinctly recollected but thinks it was sometime in 1779 or '80. James Trousdale was Captain, the other officers not now recollected, but thinks General Alexander Mebane was on this excursion they had no engagement with the Tories nor took any of them prisoners – but on their return as the Company was crossing South Cain Creek at the Ford below Lindley's Mill, some Tories in ambuscade fired upon said Company, killed the horse upon which this applicant was riding. In this Tour this Company had traversed Sandy Creek in Randolph County, and Deep River, and returned through Chatham to Orange, after being out about two months.

This Applicant a fifth time entered the Service of the United States as a private about the first of February 1781 in a Company commanded by Captain McClary [John McClary] -- marched towards Granville [County] and when they had proceeded in that direction as far as Flat River, their march was countermanded and they returned and Joined General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] was with him at Pyle's defeat [Pyle's Defeat, February 25, 1781] continued with him till about the 14<sup>th</sup> of March when this applicant was permitted to return home, having served in this tour about one month and a half.

That he was born in the State of Pennsylvania, and that his father emigrated to the Hawfields in this County, when he was about eight years of age & that he now lives in the Hawfields & has ever since the War of the revolution.

That he is now in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

That when in the Service of the United States he acted as a volunteer.

That he was well acquainted with General Pickens, General Butler, Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], and Colonel John Taylor, Colonel Robert Mebane & others.

Never received any discharges.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, except that of Samuel Nelson & a certificate from Captain Richard Christmas which he has procured certifying that he served in a Tour against the Tories he also calls upon James Mebane Esquire for proof of Services.

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. Taylor, Clk

S/ Thomas Tate

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas Tate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some flourishes.

[p 16]

State of North Carolina, Orange County

This day personally appeared before me James A. Craig one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Orange aforesaid, Richard Christmas,<sup>2</sup> who being duly qualified, maketh oath that during the war of the revolution he was well acquainted with Thomas Tate Senior of the Hawfields, that he and said Thomas Tate served in several Tours against the Tories during the said War of the Revolution but the number of Tours, he does not now recollect, nor the officers that commanded on the

---

<sup>2</sup> [Richard Christmas S8196](#)

different excursions, but thinks that General Alexander Mebane was with us on several tours, and on one Tour James Trousdale of the Hawfields was Captain (~~he thinks~~) and that upon their return home and whilst the Company was crossing Cain Creek at Lindley's Mill, some Tories in ambuscade fired upon us and killed a horse upon which said Tate was riding.

Sworn to and subscribed this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832.

Test:

S/ James A. Craig, JP

S/ Richard Christmas, X his mark

[p 3]

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the \_\_\_ day of May A.D. 1833, personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Orange and State aforesaid, Thomas Tate, of Orange aforesaid, who being first duly qualified on his oath make the following Statement Supplementary to his declaration for pension; (Viz.)

1<sup>st</sup> Tour In his first Tour, which is commonly designated as the "Scotch Camp" he was in the United States service eight weeks; This tour he thinks commenced about the middle of February 1776 and terminated on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of April ensuing, General Butler, our commander promised us it would be allowed us a three months Tour. This Declarant states that he knows of no person living, by whom he can prove his Services in this Tour except in part by Samuel Nelson, of the County of Orange, aforesaid, who as well as this declarant now remembers served in the latter half of this Tour with him.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tour. Commenced, about the first of May and ended about the first day of June 1777, being a Tour of Four weeks: in this Tour we ranged, the South of Randolph & the Iron Works on Deep River & Sandy Creek, South Cain Creek in Orange – McDaniel, he thinks was Captain of the Lieutenant not recollected, William O'Neal was Colonel: this declarant knows of no person living, who was in this Tour with him.

3<sup>rd</sup> Tour. Commenced, about the last April 1779, one Jones was Captain, the Lieutenant not now remembered, O'Neal was Colonel, General John Butler he thinks was also with them – they returned home after Serving a tour of one month in Randolph and Chatham Counties & knows of no person now living by whom he can prove this tour.

4<sup>th</sup> Tour. Commenced on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1770 9 – James Trousdale was Captain – and one Steel Lieutenant, General Alexander Mebane, and Colonel William O'Neal were our Superior Officers-- we returned home on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October and were discharged by Colonel O'Neal after having Served a tour of eight weeks. This declarant knows of no person living by whom he can prove this Tour. In this tour we ranged Chatham, Moore and East part of Randolph Counties.

5<sup>th</sup> and last Tour commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1781 – as set forth in his declaration and it expired on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March next ensuing, having Served the US in this last Tour six weeks, but knows of no person living who was in this tour with him, and that in each of these Several Tours he acted as a private – And this Declarant further States that in the Five Several Tours he has enumerated, he served the United States in the each as a private with an embodied corps, called into Service by Competent Authority, and that for the time during which the Service was performed, he was not engaged in any civil pursuit.

Sworn to and Subscribed as Supplementary evidence to the Declaration of the said Thomas state, which he made at our Court of pleas and quarter Sessions on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1832.

Sworn to on this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1833

S/ Thomas Tate

Witness:

S/ James A Craig, JP

[p 4]

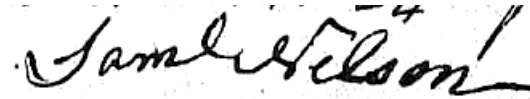
State of North Carolina Orange County: Sct.

This day personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace of the County of Orange aforesaid Samuel Nelson,<sup>3</sup> in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his age who being duly qualified maketh oath that in the spring of 1776, he served four weeks with Thomas Tate, of Orange aforesaid, who has this day sworn to & subscribed to the above Supplement to his Declaration & In a tour known as the "Scotch Camp" and this affiant further states, he did not join said troops till some weeks after others had embarked in it.

Sworn to and subscribed on this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833

S/ James A Craig, JP

S/ Saml Nelson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Nelson". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

[Thomas Lynch, a clergyman of the Cross Road & Hawfield Churches gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20.22 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in 2 days in the North Carolina militia.]

---

<sup>3</sup> [Samuel Nelson S8916](#)