

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Garret (Garrit) Tunison¹ W1099

Sarah Tunison

f55VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/1/12: rev'd 4/27/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 26]

I Garrit Tunison a Citizen of the United States now residing in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey do declare that at the Commencement of the American Revolutionary War I was practicing Physic in the State of Virginia and enrolled myself a volunteer in Captain Stephenson [Hugh Stephenson] otherwise called Stinsons [Stinson's; sic, Hugh Stenson's] Company that I marched with him to Cransbridge [?]², from thence to Roxbury and continued there till General Gage [British General Thomas Gage] evacuated Boston. I was then ordered to take charge of the medicine which Doctor Gardiner left when he joined the British, was sent to Norwich & from thence to New York where I was appointed a surgeon's mate by the Surgeon General of the Army, and continued in that Department until I was promoted a Junior Surgeon on the first of June 1777 under Doctors Foster, Adams and Ellstis, I continued in this Department till the first day of May 1778 when I joined Captain Lamb's Regiment of Artillery – as a surgeon, and by the recommendation of General Henry Knox was commissioned a Surgeon of the second Regiment of Artillery in the Service of the United States from the first of February 1779 and continued from that time in the service of the United States till disbanded at West Point in 1783. That I am now of the age of sixty-seven and that adverse circumstances render it necessary for me to apply for a Pension under the late act of Congress – witness my hand March 28, 1818

S/ Garrit Tunison



[p 11]

District of New Jersey Somerset County: SS: On this twenty seventh day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court, to wit, in the Court of Common Pleas holden at Bridgewater in and for the County of Somerset in said state of New Jersey (the same being a court of record proceeding according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in amount and keeping a record of its proceedings and it also having the power of fine & imprisonment)

¹ BLWt2193-400 Surgeon Issued April 1, 1791, No Papers, name spelled Tunnison no papers

² 

² [probably "Cambridge"—but I don't see that]

Garrett Tunison aged sixty Eight years a resident in the Township of Bridgewater in said County of Somerset district & State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows – That on or about the month of July in the year 1775 he entered into the United States service a volunteer in Captain Stevenson's [Hugh Stephenson's a/k/a Hugh Stenson's] company of Riflemen after that, to wit, until April 1779 he continued part of the time in Fishkill Hospital as surgeon maite [mate] & part of the time as a Junior surgeon in the same Establishment – then, to which, in April 1779 received the appointment [of] surgeon in Captain Lamb's Regiment of artillery & continued in the service under that appointment until after Cornwallis' defeat [October 19, 1781] – and was finally disbanded in the year 1783 at West Point in the state of New York that he the deponent was in the battle at Fort Montgomery [October 6, 1777] & the siege of York – that he was duly commissioned a surgeon aforesaid by president Harrison of the Congress of the United States – and that he has no other evidence now in his power or possession of his services & discharge and this deponent saith that the date of his original declaration is about the month of March 1818 – and the number of his pension Certificate is 77 marked on the back thereof – And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. Real property I have none but possess a plantation of one hundred acres under a lease from year-to-year which real property was mortgaged by me to Nelly Ten Eyck [?]³ the mother of my wife who left them out of said mortgage by her last will to my children five in number and the principal and interest of said mortgage amounting to a larger sum than the property would bring – the sum hath been deeded to John Frelinghuysen in trust for my children to prevent a foreclosure of the sum in their behalf hereby conveying all right & interest whatever that I have in the same to satisfy the said debt due to the estate of said Nelly Ten Eyck – That my personal estate might be saved for the benefit of my creditors and being at several times in hands of officers and about to be imprisoned I assigned & mortgaged all my personal estate unto John Frelinghuysen dated the first day of June 1819 for their benefit to secure my liberty from confinement which property he is now & has been for some time disposing of for the payment of said creditors and if the same had not been thus disposed of according to this contract said personal estate would have come far short of paying them – and further I do declare that the proceeds of the lease, by which I am in possession have been used & still is to be used for the payment of the debts against me and had not this term [undeciphered word] all my said Estate both real & personal would have been sold for the said creditors and not have been sufficient to pay them by reason whereof and for no other reason viz.: being fully satisfied that all my said Estate would be sold and my person confined I did transfer the whole of as aforesaid reserving no right whatsoever thereto as appears by the writing relating thereto, duly recorded in the clerk's office of the County of Somerset, so that I do not consider, neither have I put my said Estate out

Nelly Ten Eyck.

of my possession to enable me to receive my pension as the same would have been by the process of law had not I thus surrendered it – and further I do declare that in the conveyance of my real Estate it doth not appear that I have conveyed to the said John Frelinghuysen a certain six acres by mistake which was before conveyed by me to Andrew Howell Esq. as by Deed duly recorded appears by reason –whereof it hath so happened that six other acres yet remain to make up & satisfy the amount of aforesaid mortgage – This deponent further saith his family consist of a wife aged 59 [written over, could be “69”]⁴ years two sons married & removed from home one son at home of legal age and acting for himself one daughter 17 years of age a helpless child & expensive -- A free black woman aged about 68 – a servant woman aged 48 – negroe boy aged 15 – negroe boy Tom 9 years – boy Prince 6 years all those not free the property of John Frelinghuysen as above stated –

Schedule of property now belonging to Garret Tunnison [sic] as given up to him from the increase of stock in hands of John Frelinghuysen

1 Colt value	\$30.00
four calves	16.00
three Lambs	3.00
two pigs	2.00
four shoats	<u>8.00</u>
	\$59.00

Sworn in open Court June 27th 1820 before me
[indecipherable signature]

S/ Garret Tunison



[p 6: On October 6, 1837 in Somerset County New Jersey, Sarah Tunisen [sic], 76, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Garret Tunison, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution: that she married him June 5th 1783; that her husband died July 18, 1837 and that she remains his widow.



[p 8: On February 15, 1838 in Somerset County New Jersey, Rebecca Brokaw gave testimony that she has known Sarah Tunison upwards of 60 years; that she was present at the marriage of Sarah to Garret Tunison in the month of June in the year 1783 at the house of the deponent's father in Lamington in Somerset County New Jersey; that they were married by the Reverend Mr. Groff or Graff, of the Lutheran Church at New Germantown about three miles from her father's house; that at the time of their marriage Doctor Tunison was in uniform and a surgeon in the Army of the revolutionary war; that a girl by the name of Anna Williams served as bridesmaid at the wedding.]

[Facts in file: The following children of the veteran and his wife are named in the file: Magdalen Tunison who died without issue after the death of her mother; Matthias T Tunison who in 1843 was 53 years old and a resident of Somerset County New Jersey; Cornelius G Tunison and Jane D. Wood, wife of Jesse Wood; that the widow died September 5, 1841.

Matthias T. Tunison]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480.70 per annum, increased to \$600 per annum commencing March 4th 1831 and ending July 18th, 1837 the day of his death. The veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

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

Addendum to Garret (Garrit) Tunison W1099

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 26 April 2022.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The United States of America in Congress Assembled, To Garrett Tunison Esquire Greeting.

We reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism Prudence and Fidelity, do by these presents appoint you to be Surgeon of the Second Regiment of Artillery in the service of the United States from the 1st of February 1779. You are therefore faithfully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Surgeon by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And you are to observe and follow such orders and Directions from time to time as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress for that purpose appointed, a Committee of the States, or commander in Chief for the time being of the Army of the United States or any other your Superior Officer according to the rules and discipline of War, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress, the Committee of Congress before mentioned, or a Committee of the States.

Witness His Excellency John Hanson Esquire President of the Congress of the United States of America at Philadelphia the sixth day of April AD 1782 and in the sixth year of our Independence

By order of Congress

John Hanson Pres't

B. Lincoln [Gen. Benjamin Lincoln] Secretary at War

State of New Jersey Somerset County Ss.

This day before me James Taylor a Justice of the peace for the county of Somerset aforesaid came Thomas A. Hartwell & Isaac Southard of full age and both of them known by me personally who being by me duly Sworn depose and say, that they have been intimately acquainted with Doct. Garret Tunison of Somerset County New Jersey for many years That said Tunison bears a high character for honesty truth and integrity. That he is well understood & generally believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Surgeon during the Revolutionary War That he has this day exhibited to me an original pay Certificate signed by Samuel D. Ingham (then Secretary of the Treasury of the United States) said Certificate being now in possession of said Tunison under the Seal of the Treasury of the United States dated the 3^d of August 1829 by which he is recognized under the act of Congress of the 15th May 1828 as a surviving surgeon in the Army of the Revolution entitled to forty Dollars a month payable SemiAnnually. And further that full faith and confidence may be reposed in any statement made by said Tunison of his service

Sworn & Subscribed this 19th day of May 1831 before
me a justice of the peace James Taylor

[signed] Thos A. Hartwell

[signed] Isaac Southard

Henry Bedinger [S8059] Aged about seventy seven years, declares that Doctor Garrit Tunison, then an inhabitant and practicing Physician, in Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown] in the County of Berkeley & State of Virginia, in the month of June, or early in July 1775, entered the Company of Volunteer Riflemen then raising for one year, by Captain Hugh Stephenson [VAS4479] of said County, that he (Henry Bedinger) entered the same Company about the same time, that they marched in that Company to the Siege of Boston [17 Jun - 17 Mar 1776], where the said Garrit Tunison Acted as Surgeon to said Company, as also to the other three Companies of Volunteer Riflemen, Commanded by Captain Daniel Morgan, Michael Cresap & Thomas Price, that about the 8th July 1776 the said Hugh Stephenson of Virginia, was Commissioned a Colonel by Congress, to raise a Rifle Regiment for three years, that he (Henry Bedinger) was at same time Commissioned a Lieutenant in said Regiment, that Doctor Garrit Tunison was retained as Surgeon to the same, that Colo. Hugh Stephenson, died, in August 1776 and the

command of the Reg't devolved on Lieutenant Colo. Moses Rawlings [VAS683], that much the greater part of the Reg't was Captured at the surrender of Fort Washington on York Island, on the 16th day of November 1776. That Doctor Garrit Tunison after the Capture and destruction of the Regiment, continued as Surgeon to the same, untill about the expiration of the period for which the Regiment had been engaged, having served, as Surgeon in the said Rifle Corps about four years, without intermission. He then was appointed Surgeon to the 2^d Regiment United States Artillery, Joined the same, and proceeded with it to the Seige of York Town [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], was present at the Surrender of the British Army, Commanded by Lord Cornwallis, in 1781, and Continued in the service to the Close of the Revolutionary War. That said Tunison does now reside in the County of Sommerset, New Jersey, where he has resided ever since that War.

[Berkeley County VA, 3 March 1834]

Henry Bedinger Captain

5th Virg'a Reg't Revolutionary Army

To his Excellency John Floyd Esq'r Governor of the commonwealth of Virginia & to his Honourable Privy council authorized under the Constitution to act with him.

I the undersigned Garret Tunisson formerly a surgeon of the virginia line in the war of the Revolution beg leave respectfully to represent, that I am now a Resident of somerset county state of new Jersey, where I have Resided for many years. I am advised that my services as a surgeon in the Virginia Continental line during & throughout the war of the Revolution entitle me under the laws of my native state to a considerable compensation in the share of land Bounty warrant, which compensation I humbly pray my be granted to me as it would be very acceptable to me at this time, to console my Declining years, and enable me to provide for a numerous & Dependent family of Children & grand Children. my services may be briefly stated as follows, when the war of the revolution broke out, I was then Residing as a Practising Phisician in the Town of Shepherdstown situated on the Potomac River in that part of the County of Berkeley, state of Virginia, which is now embraced within the present limits of the County of Jefferson – about the 30th of June 1775 I entered a volunteer company of Riflemen, then raised from Shepherdstown & its neighbourhood, which was placed under the Command of Capt. Hugh Stephenson, I marched from Shepherdstown in Virginia to the seige of Boston, having been duly appointed surgeon to that & three other volunteer companies, one of which was commanded by Daniel Morgan, one by Michael Cresop & one by Thomas Price. I can say with a safe and approving conscience that I served faithfully and honestly as surgeon to those four companies for one year from that time, at the expiration of the year my commanding officer Captain Hugh stephenson was raised to the rank of a Colonel with authority to Raise a Rifle Regiment to continue in service three years, I Immidiatly joined it and received the appointment of surgeon to that Regiment, Col Hugh stephenson died a short time after his appointment as Colonel, that Regiment continued in active & efficient service until Novemb'r 1776, at which a large Portion of it were made prisoners of war at the surrender of Fort Washington, on the north River in new york, I continued still to act as Surgeon to the Regiment, after this Disaster until after the expiration of the Period for which my service had been engaged, having from the time I first entered the service in June 1775 till the time of my Discharge been more than four years in Continued & uninterrupted service I was then commissioned as surgeon in the 2^d Regiment of artillery, was present at the decisive Victory at york Town & continued in the active & faithful discharge of all the Duties of my station until the final termination of the war. I might consume your Excellency's time, and that of your Honourable Privy council by a more Detailed statement of my services, which would shew that I was not an Idle & inefficient member of that army which Rescued our Dear bought liberties, from the grasp of Tyranny, but I am advised that such a statement is not Deemed proper or necessecary and would perhaps be a useless & unprofitable consumption of your time. Shortly after the war, I married and settled in new Jersey, where I have resided ever since, I have never been in my native Commonwealth since the fall of 1783 and I did not even return to make sale of a home & sundry articles of personal property together with some valuable medecines which I left in shepherds Town at the time I joined the army. I confided that agency to a man, who made sale of them & who has never accounted to me for one cent since. I have lately seen a printed list made out by the authority of your state of those Persons who hard received land from Virginia, in

which list I find the names of most of those persons who entered & continued in the same service, with myself. If they were entitled (and it is to be presumed they were) the same Principles of law & Justice will extend the grant to me. I am a native of virginia – my service was in a Virginia regiment & I cannot see that the mere fact that I removed to a sister state after the war will debar me of my legal Demands. I find by that list (p27) that Col. Hugh Stephenson is allowed a large Quantity of land. I entered the service the very month that he did. I served under him until his death & subsequently to the end of the war. Daniel Morgan also is allowed land (page 19) we Commenced & served together. I find that Henry Bedinger is allowed land from the summer of 1775 to November 1783. we were associates & companions in the same town before the war, we entered Capt. Stephensons Company at the same time & served together in the same regiment until 1779. we then were put into Different Regiments of the same line & both remained in service to the end of the war. Knowing my own services & comparing them with those who have thus served with me & recovered their land, I feel and absolute confidence that my Claim will be respected & allowed It need not excite any surprize in your Excellency or that or your Honourable Privy Council that I should not have received my land long since Immediatly after my Discharge at the close of the war, I hastened to new Jersey to fulfil a marriage Engagement which I contracted when for a time stationed in the vicinity of new york. since that time I have never been in virginia, but have continued to Reside in a retired & Distant part of new Jersey. That land was promised to us during the war, I for one knew very well, but when at it close we could not even get our ordinary pay, when During the whole period of the war I am prepared to Declare most solemnly that I never received one Dollar of money for my services, we were not in the habit of considering the Government likely to redeem its more vague & contingent compensations in the war. The Idea of a land Gratuity was permitted to escape my mind almost entirely, some three or four years ago I received an intimation that I was entitled to land. I accordingly present my petition, but accompanied it with no evidence but my Commission, supposing that the records of your Department would themselves furnish all the requisite Testimony. I have been since informed that my Claim had been passed by for want of Testimony. I now submit it for reexamination with such additional light as the lapse of time & absence from Virginia enable me to present.

I claim my land bounty for services in the virginia Continentel line from the 30th of June 1775 to the close of the war in September 1783 to wit eight years and three months, and I submit my case with confidence to your excellency upon the above statement & the following approving Testimony.

1st my Commission herewith enclosed

2^d The affidavits of Thomas A Hartwell & Isaac Southard

3^d The Certificate of the war Department in 1818.

4th The certificate of the Treasury Department in 1829

somerset new Jersey

Respectfully yours
Garret Tanisson