

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Tatom ¹ W2270

Mary Tatom

f39NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/18/17

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

[p 11]

State of Tennessee, Dickson County

The Declaration of William Tatom made before the Circuit Court of Dickson County at the October term of the Circuit Court, for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress passed in 1832 making provision for Revolutionary Soldiers.

The said William Tatom being sworn in due form of law, declares upon his oath that he was born in the County of Spotsylvania in the State of Virginia on the 11th of January 1760 as he has been informed & believes, that he has now in his possession a Bible with his age taken from his father's family Bible in which his age stood so recorded & he believes it to be true – that he resided in Spotsylvania until about the commencement of the Revolutionary War, when he removed to the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina, where he resided during the Revolutionary War & until he removed to the County of Dickson in the State of Tennessee about the year 1807 there he has resided ever since – that whilst he resided in the County of Orange there was a call made for volunteers to perform a tour of duty of three months-- that he became a volunteer in a company commanded by Captain Dickson, his given name not remembered, and served in the command of Colonel Thomas, that during the three months, the company was kept protecting the citizens in guarding them & their property from the depredations of the Tories – that he was moved about in Orange and the adjoining counties, as their services were required, but he is at this length of time unable to specify the different routes & movements of the Corps to which he belonged – that he was not in any engagement with the Tories – he is unable to specify the year this service was performed but remembers that he was very young and had not been very long on the muster roll & therefore concludes & believes it was in the year '78 or '79 – he performed the tour of three months and was discharged by his officers – sometime after this service was performed, a draft was ordered for the militia of the County of Orange for a tour of duty of three months against the British & Tories & he was one that was drafted and again entered the service of the United States under the county officers of Orange County but he is unable to specify the names of the officers from a failure of memory, but he recollects distinctly serving & being moved about the County of Orange & Hillsborough & the adjoining counties guarding the settlements from the Tories who were at that time very bad that his older [? could be 'elder'] brother John was with him & he recollects that his company took several Tories who were hung at the town of Salisbury but not what authority he does not recollect – he does not remember the year that the last service took place in but he is satisfied it was before Cornwallis passed through the Country – he was again drafted for a tour of duty of three months, some time after the above service was performed & again entered the service for a tour of three months &

¹ BLWt73589-160-55

shortly after entering the service, he & his brother were stationed with their company at the town of Hillsboro & he & his brother were occupied some five or six weeks or more making shoes for the soldiers, when they heard the news that Cornwallis was taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] & then there was or would be peace, when shortly after he & his brother left the service & went home before the expiration of their last tour of duty, he sets it down as six weeks service at the least – he does not recollect the years in which these services were performed – nor does he recollect the names of the officers commanding him – he recollects hearing a great deal about ~~General~~ Col. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] & General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] but does not recollect to have seen them, he thinks he saw General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] but is not certain – he recollects to have heard much said about one Fannon [sic, David Fanning] who he thinks took an active part with the Tories but does not recollect to have seen him – he does not remember that any discharges were given him but if he had they have been long since lost or destroyed – he is satisfied that he served the United States at the least seven months and a half – that he delayed having before this time made application for a pension because he understood that the law only provided for those who served six months tour altogether & never knew better until lately & his health has been very indifferent for many years past, very seldom being able to go from home, so that he had but few opportunities of making any inquiries of those who knew about such things – his sight occasionally fails him very much so that he cannot even go about among his nearest neighbors -- & his memory has failed him very much – he is also poor & needy and now thinks the bounty of the Government would be a great relief to him in his old age-- he is not on the pension list of any of the States or the General Government and hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any other claim or bounty from the Government except the one provided by the Act of 1832 – he has not any papers or Documentary evidence by which his revolutionary services could be proven nor does he know of any living witnesses by whom they could be proved – there was one Nace [?] Jones who resided a year or more in this County, who knew of his having been in the service but was unable to prove more & that he has removed somewhere wholly unknown to him – whether he is now living or not he does not know.

Sworn to & subscribed the 18th day of October 1832.

S/ John C. Collier, Clk

S/ Wm Tatom, X his mark

[William B. Dotson gave a supporting affidavit in the standard form.]

[William Willey, a clergyman, residing in Dickson County Tennessee also gave a supporting affidavit as to the reputation of the applicant as a soldier.]

[p 7: On June 18, 1853 in Humphreys County Tennessee Daniel H Williams and Margaret McCaslin residence of said County gave testimony that they were acquainted with Mary Tatom, (an applicant for a pension) prior to her marriage to William Tatom now deceased; that they were legally married the affiants believe on October 27, 1813; and that William Tatom died on September 24, 1847.]

[p 34: On July 5, 1853 in Dickson County Tennessee, Mary Tatom, aged 89, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Tatom, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that she married him in Dickson County on October 27, 1813; that her husband died in Dickson County Tennessee on September 24, 1847. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 6: On September 26, 1867 in Dickson County Tennessee, Mary Tatom, aged about 90, a resident of said County, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war soldier; that she married William Tatom in Dickson County Tennessee (date not stated); that her

name prior to her marriage was Mary Wright; that they were married by Daniel H Williams, JP; that her husband died at their residence in Dickson County Tennessee on September 24, 1847. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]