

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Tenney W3888                      Thankful Tenney                      MA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia    }  
Randolph County    } Ss

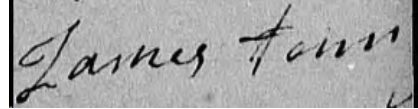
On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful the County Court of said County, and State aforesaid James Tenney, aged nearly 66 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1766 [sic], and not having any documents to assist his memory which has become somewhat frail he is unable to specify dates with perfect accuracy – but says, that he enlisted in the Town of Shelburn where he then resided, in the State of Massachusetts under Lieut Shepherd in the year 1780, in the month of December, he thinks, and marched to Springfield in the same State where his company was enrolled and drilled by Lieut Shepherd until the Soldiers there were ordered to West Point. At West-Point he was placed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts, Commanded by Col Joseph Vose or Voss. The Field Officers were, Col. Jos. Vose and his brother Elijah Vose Lieut Col., and Maj'r. [Joseph] Pettingill and adjutant Bowles, and he, this applicant, was placed under the immediate command of Capt [Francis] Green. During the time he, this Applicant, was in the service he was detached from Head-quarters which was at West-Point on several occasions, but cannot specify the dates. He was marched to Verplank's Point [sic: Verplanck Point] and thence to Croton and back to West-Point. At another time he was placed on board of a Gun-boat in the Hudson river below West Point and opposite Fort Montgomery, at the point of Antony's Nose [sic: Anthony's Nose], where the old chain had been stretched across, and thence he was ordered back to West-Point; At another time he was sent down the Hudson to the Spy-boats under Lieut Shaler (he cannot remember the Captain's name) to Sing Sing opposite Terry Town [sic: Ossining about 6 mi N of Tarrytown], and after remaining there some time was ordered (amongst those who never had had the Small-pox) to the York huts to be inoculated, and passed through West Point again on their way to the York-huts where he was inoculated and remained the Winter, and thence was marched back to the Flats above, and near to, West-Point where he was stationed for some time. He, this Applicant, is not certain that these services were performed in the order they are stated; but the last winter of his service he was stationed at Snake Hill (West of New Windsor and about 5 miles, he thinks, from West Point)

He, this Applicant, had enlisted for three years, and as his term had not expired when Peace was proclaimed, he was detained until the [blank] day of [blank] 1783, and before he was discharged the brigade to which he was attached were ordered to March to Philadelphia, under Col. Vose aforesaid, and Captain Kilham [sic: Joseph Killam] was the Capt. of his (Applicant's) company. His brigade was marched to Philadelphia for the purpose of quelling a mutiny or insurrection, which had broken open the Treasury. From Philadelphia the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg't. of Massachusetts regulars, to which this Applicant was attached was marched back to West Point and there (at West-Point) he received his discharge from General [Henry] Knox which is dated on the [blank] day of [blank]

This Applicant was a substitute, he believes, for his Father; but he is not certain whether his class was drafted or volunteered or either. He says, that his Father Josiah took from him his bounty money, but allowed him to keep his wages or pay. He, this Applicant, was not (by a few days) 15 years old at the time he enlisted, and he served nearly three years; but was discharged several weeks before the expiration of his term. He recieved an honorable discharge. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency in any State – In 1814 this Applicant removed to Randolph County aforesaid and has continued to reside there ever since.

He, this Applicant, knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.



By Major General Knox, commanding the Garrison of West point and its dependencies.

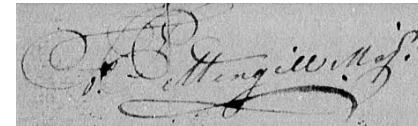
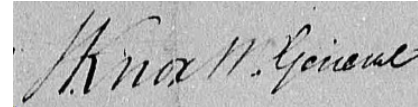
James Tinney Soldier in the First Massachusetts Regiment, having enlisted for three years is hereby honorably discharged the service of the United States.

Given at West point the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1783

By the Generals Command

Jno Lillie [John Lillie] Aide de Camp

J. Pettingill Maj'r.



Registered in the book of the Regiment

[On 15 Jan 1833 James Tenney was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for at least two years service. The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "Entitled."]

James Tenney. Lewis county. Pensioner draws \$80.

This Pensioner on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1834, gave the following narative – was sixty eight years old the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1834 [sic]. was born and raised in Massechusetts & removed to Randolph County in 1814.

that in the year 1780 he enlisted in the County of Shelburn Massechusetts for three years. that himself with other men who had been enlisted by Shepherd were taken from Sheburn to Springfield & from thence to West Point. on ariveing at the latter place was attached to Capt. Green's company, the first Massechusetts Regt. Comanded by Col. Joseph Voce. cant now recollect whether Genl. [John] Glover or Genl. Knox commanded at West Point. – in the succeeding Summer he was detailed to go on board a Gun Boat Stationed at the place where the first chain was put across the Hudson river Sergeant Chamberlain commanded the Gun boat – returned to West Point and was then taken on the spy boat at Sing Sing. thence to the York Huts to undergo the innoculation for the small pox – from thence to the highlands – from thence to the lines on Croton river and thence back to West Point – and from thence the army went into Winter quarters at a place called Snake Hill – in the succeeding spring there was a cessation of hostilities (he had then been in service two years) in that Spring his brigade was ordered to Philadelphia to suppress a mutiny – from there they marched back to West Point and was then discharged in October 1783 – his discharge he preserved & sent it on with his Declaration – (Mr. Tenney produced a copy of his discharge) he states that his declaration had in the first instance been returned with a requisition of proff – and that his discharge had been sent with the Declaration returned by Mr Chapin his agent.

note. this man, I have no doubt, was in service as he states – but he is clearly mistaken in his age. – he say's that when 15 yrs. & 17 days old, he enlisted – if this be true he must have been born in 1765, and not in 1766 – if his discharge is among his papers, it will settle all difficulties.

W. G Singleton/ Nov'r 3, 1834

NOTE: On 5 March 1847 Thankful Tenney, 79, applied for a pension stating that she married James Tenney in Charlemont MA on 14 April 1785, and he died on 30 December 1841. Her statement was certified by Philo Tenney. On 27 Oct 1848 Thankful Tenney was said to be 82. The file contains a copy of the marriage return by Samuel Taylor of Buckland MA, as follows:

Nath'l Colman & Eleanor Comstock were joined in wedlock Nov'r 24<sup>th</sup> 1784

James Tinny & Thankful Shippee d'o d'o April fourteenth, one thousand seven hundred and eighty five.