

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Tatum ¹ W6242

Dorothea Tatum f145VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/8/11 last rev'd 1/30/22

Supplemented by William C. Schneck, Jr.

3/18/14

[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.]

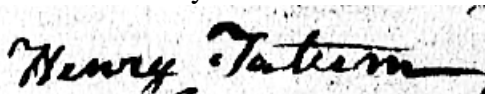
[p 25]

Major Henry Tatum's Declaration

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled "An act for the relief of certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the revolution," approved on the 15th of May 1828, I Henry Tatum lately of Chesterfield County, now of Richmond City and County of Henrico in the State of Virginia, do hereby declare that I was a Lieutenant in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, and served as such during the War. I further declare that in the year 1776 I marched under Captain Ralph Faulkner as a Cadet, and in the latter part of that year I received an Ensign's Commission, was attached to the 5th Virginia Regiment Charles Scott commander, which was reduced and I then was attached to the 3rd Regiment and became a supernumerary by lot.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of July 1828

S/ Henry Tatum



[p 39]

Revolutionary Claims

Treasury Department,

August 9, 1828

Henry Tatum of Richmond in the County of Henrico in the State of Virginia has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such until reduced by lot under the arrangement of 1780,

at which period he was a Lieutenant in the 3rd regiment of the Virginia line; and that he has not received commutation certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826, nothing dollars, paid to him by the agent in the State of —

¹ BLWt316-200: Va. half pay

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,
Third Auditor's Office,
14 August 1828

~~It appears by the records of this office, that final settlement certificates had been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to ___ in the ___ line, amounting to ___ dollars.~~

It further appears that Henry Tatum is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd March 1826 ~~at the rate of ___ per month.~~

From the Book containing the names of Officers entitled to land it appears that Lieutenant Henry Tatum, became a supernumerary Officer, on the 30th of September 1778

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

[p 27]

Va. Richmond 22 July 1828

Dear Sir

I sent on my commission and other papers some years ago to Congress for the purpose of getting payment for my claim against the United States and I apprehend that they were deposited in the office of the Rolls of Congress, or that they were sent to the War Office, and if so, possibly they were destroyed by the fire when that office was burnt. I however for to you a copy of the voucher, upon which my full County of lands was granted me. I asked your attention to this business at as early a period as your convenience will permit. I now reside in this place, and any communication made to me through the post office here will be immediately attended to.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S/ Henry Tatum

[p. 76-78]

Richmond November 22nd 1828

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13th Instant came to hand on yesterday, by which I perceive my claim under the act for relief of certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution would have been admitted but for the doubts arising from the statement in my declaration of my becoming a supernumerary. And here I must inform you that, owing to my age and great infirmities rendering me unable to act in such things for myself, my declaration was not written by myself, but by another at my request, and the writer not being able to comprehend, from my inability clearly to explain what I wished him to write, produced a statement not entirely satisfactory to me; and when I objected to some expressions, and particularly concerning my being a supernumerary, he said it made no difference as it was clear that I had rendered the service, and my claim was sufficiently established by the proof, which accompanied the declaration, of Virginia's having recognized me as a Lieutenant in the Continental line for the war. —

I will if possible, make myself better understood, by giving a brief statement of my services during the Revolutionary war. In March 1776, as well as her recollection serves me, I

joined the 5th Virginia Regiment on Continental service; in September of the same year I obtained an Ensign's Commission, which commission I have now by me; a short time after that, how long I do not remember, I received a Lieutenant's Commission, which I cannot now lay my hand on, but it has never been taken from me, Sometime probably previous to 1780 our Regiment was incorporated into the 3rd Regiment, and after continuing in it for some time, the Colonel seeing there was a redundancy of Officers, suggested the propriety of some of the Officers retiring a while from the Regiment until their services should be wanted, and as we could not determine who should retire, we concluded to cast lots, and I with several others had to retire for a while, still holding my Commission and myself in readiness to act when called on. –

I remained in this situation till about or perhaps subsequent to the resolve of October 1780 when I again entered the Brigade then commanded by General Muhlenberg and continued in it until the end of the war. –

My having thus retired for a time, by permission of my Colonel, is the probable cause of an incorrect entry having been made of my being a supernumerary. And my having again, when called on, entered, and remained in service to the end of the war, accounts for my being recognized by the state of Virginia as a Lieutenant in the Continental line for the war; for in fact (although for a time I might have considered myself as a supernumerary) I did belong to the Continental Army during the whole war.

When I was called on after 1780 and reentered the service under General Muhlenberg (the Commissions not having for a long time been filled up) I acted as Brevet Major, though I only held a Lieutenant's Commission. So that in fact I rendered service in the Continental Army both previous and subsequent to October 1780, for among the service which I rendered, I fought at the taking of the Hessians at Trenton [January 2, 1777], in the battles of Quibble town [June 22, 1777], Coote's Mill², Brandywine [September 11, 1777], (where I was wounded), German Town [October 4, 1777], White March [December 5-8, 1777], Monmouth [June 28, 1778] and several others of less note and finally at the taking of Cornwallis at Yorktown [September-October, 1781], in all which I trust I did my duty. –

The State of Virginia never hesitated to recognize me as a Lieutenant in the Continental line for the war, nor did anyone who ever knew of my services and all. My ability to obtain evidence of these things is now small; – nearly all chance of producing proof of them is gone; – even my own recollection is impaired by age and sickness and inflections of almost every kind. Dates particularly all very imperfectly remembered. I am now 73 years of age and my Constitution has for some years been sinking under a stroke of the Palsy; therefore you must not expect as clear a statement, – and as near fifty years have expired since the facts occurred, you must not expect such conclusive evidence as I could once have furnished. Many no doubt for want of evidence, which they might once have had may now suffer. Oh! Let not this be my case. I thought that I could have rested my cause on the evidence produced by me from the land office in this City –; that I thought was the best evidence of my having been a Lieutenant in the Continental line for the war; – better evidence it is now out of my power to produce.* In conclusion I have to beg that you will not let the mistake or forgetfulness of an old and decrepit soldier prevent his receiving that which his Country's gratitude has bestowed.

You will be please to excuse the length of this letter as the importance of my subject prevented me saying less.

I am Dear Sir
Very respectfully

² This MAY be a mistaken reference to the engagement at Cooch's Bridge in Delaware, September 3, 1777.

Your Obedient Servant
S/ Henry Tatum

*unless by chance I should discover some of which I am ignorant at present.

P. S. I must again enlist a speedy and if possible a favorable answer to this letter, which I send regardless of form merely as an explanation of my first communication.

H. T.

[p 14]

Henry Tatum is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Lieutenant of Continental line for the war.

Council Chamber

Samuel Coleman

December 24, 1802

John Page

State of Virginia, to wit:

I William Selden, Register of the Land office of the State aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original voucher, on file in this office agreeably to which the following military land bounty warrants issued:

two for 1000 acres each Nos. 5023, 5024 and

one for 666 2/3 acres No. 5025 the 24th of December 1802 2 Henry Tatum in consideration of his services as a Lieutenant for the war, on Continental Establishment

Given under my hand and seal of office at the city of Richmond the 22nd of July 1828

S/ Wm Selden, RL Off VA.

[p 12]

Henry Tatum is entitled to the additional proportion of land allowed a Lieutenant of the Continental Line for 8 months service more than 7 years.

Council Chamber

Saml Coleman

February 11th, 1808

Wm H. Cabell

Warrant No. 5419 for 296 acres iss'd to Henry Tatum and delivered to the said H. Tatum the 10th of February 1808

Virginia Land Office

Richmond January 23rd 1855

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a Copy from the Records of this office

S/ L. H. Parker

Reg. L. Office

[p 15: On January 29th 1838, Richard Gregory gave testimony that he practiced law in 1784 in the County of Dinwiddie Virginia when he became acquainted with Henry Tatum as well as Captain Daniel Claiborne (who acted as a justice of the peace in said County); that he always understood that Tatum married a daughter of said Claiborne whose name was Dorothea; he also testifies that Tatum served as deputy sure of at that time under Captain Claiborne who was then high Sheriff of Dinwiddie County.

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[p. 17: On March 23, 1839, Thomas Williamson, gave testimony in the borough of Norfolk state of Virginia that Henry A Tatum personally appeared before him and gave testimony that Lieutenant Henry Tatum of the Continental service during the revolution late of the city of Richmond and a pensioner of the United States died January 22, 1836.]

[p 35: On September 16, 1837, Dorothea Tatum of Richmond Virginia petitioned the Congress of the United States for a pension as the widow of Henry Tatum who died July 22, 1836; that her husband was a pensioner under the act of May 1828; that she has been advised by the Commissioner of Pensions that she is ineligible for a pension as the widow of her husband since she was not a widow until after the passage of the 1836 act, having missed that date by only 18 days; that she married her husband July 10, 1783; that the only person she knows of who is alive who was present at her marriage is her nephew Colonel Butts of Petersburg Virginia who was but 7 years old at that time; some of the battles in which her husband was engaged included Trenton [December 26, 1776], Quibbletown [June 22, 1777], Cootsmill [?], Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Germantown [October 4, 1777], White March [December's 5 – 8, 1777], Monmouth [June 28, 1778 and finally he was engaged in the operations at Yorktown [September – October, 1781].

Dorothea Tatum
]

[p 44: On May 5, 1843 in Henrico County Virginia, Dorothea Tatum, 76 on the 18th of last May, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Henry Tatum a Lieutenant of Infantry in the Virginia line; that she has been allowed a pension of \$320 per annum.]

[Veteran was pensioned under the act of May 15, 1828, as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line. The Rate at which he was pensioned under that act was not immediately clear to me from this file. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing July 23, 1836 for her husband's service as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line.]

[Note: This file contains a lot of correspondence relating to the veteran and his widow, a good deal of which is in the handwriting of the veteran and the veteran's son Doctor Henry A Tatum, as executor of his mother's estate. I have tried to capture, however, the materials relating to the actual service and rank of the veteran during the revolution. Supplements are welcomed.]

On 3/18/14, William C. Schneck, Jr. contributed the following which he found in the “Virginia Governor’s Office, Militia Commission Papers, 1777 – 1858. Accession 4222, State government records collection, The Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia,” Chesterfield.

“Woodland Hill 26 Feby. 1813
To the Honorable the Governor and Council of Virginia
Gentlemen,

Observing in the Enquirer, that the General Assembly of Virginia have pass'd a law, to raise a certain force, for the defence of the State, and that Appointment of Officers to Command the same is vested in your Honorable body. I an old Revolutionist, feeling my self still able &

willing to serve my Country, do hereby tender my self to your acceptance as a field Officer in the said Regiment, my pretension to so considerable Appointment is predicated on my known Republican principles, and former services and experience, Although I am from long disuse grown Rusty, I flatter my self that by being rub'd a littl I should become as bright as the mettle is capable of being made, having but little acquaintance with any of your Honorable body, I think it necessary to give a detail of my former services, and experience, I therefore state to your Honorable body, that when the disturbance took place between Great Britain and her then Colonies in 1775, (being then very young) I enter'd a Volunteer Company of horse commanded by Col: Francis Goode, in the same year I enter'd with the same Gentleman into the Minute service, in the spring of 1776 when the Seven additional Regiments were Rais'd, I joind the fifth as a Volunteer, or cadet, the fall of same year, was promoted to an Ensign, and in due grade to Command of a Company by brevt from Genl. Muhlenburg, as the Commissions for the promotion in our Regiment were not furnish'd even at the reduction of the number in 1778, in that year after the Campaign was ended, I became supernumerary by casting of lots, I hope I may say without boasting, that whilst I was in actual service I did my duty in the following battles, that is to say, at Trenton, Princeton, Quibble Town, Coots's Mill, Brandawine, (being at the two latter in the light Infantry under Col: Richard Parker) at German Town, White Marsh, and Monmouth, besides others of minor importance. Nor did I remain idle after I became a Supernumerary, having whenever the Militia were call'd out Volunteer'd in some way or other until the taking of Cornwallis at York - . The truth of this statement must principally rest upon my veracity, as I know of but one Officer of the Fifth Regt. now in Virginia and him I have not seen of a long time - perhaps Genl. Wood (altho' I did not belong to his Brigade) may have some recollection of me, if not, as Col: Thos. Parker (who was of an inferior grade to me in the same Regt.) is absent) I know of no one, to whom I can refer you, but Majr. Archibald Denholm, Col: Matthew Cheatham, and Col: John Jordan who perhaps may not have left Richmond - I am Gentlemen with Great Respect your Servant to Command.

Henry Tatum"

by Will Graves

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Chesterfield County Legislative Petitions

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

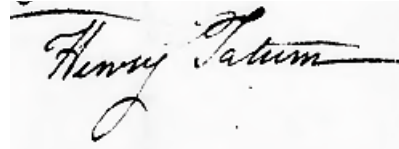
The Petition of Henry Tatum humbly Sheweth = That your Petitioner was a Lieutenant of Infantry from this State in the Continental line, that he entered the service in the beginning of March 1776 & continued therein until the Reduction of the Regiments in October 1778 when your Petitioner agreeable to a Resolve of Congress became a supernumerary. That your Petitioner supposing himself entitled to land, made application for it, but was informed that agreeable to the letter of the law he was not entitled to any land as he had not served three years, or during the war, – Your petitioner thinks it extremely hard that he should be excluded from the benefit of that emolument as he had served three full Campaigns. The Regiment not being Reduced until the Army Retired from White Plains to West Point for winter Quarters. And that after that period, conceived himself very amenable in the case the Regiments should be again filled up, or the service require it to be called on & bound to attend.

That Your Petitioner previous to his entering into the Regular service, had from the spring of 1775 been in a Volunteer Company of horse under the command of Colonel F. Goode

of Chesterfield County and after he the said Goode was appointed to Command a Company of Minute Men Your Petitioner entered himself in the said Goode's company & did duty therein until the beginning of March following when your Petitioner entered the Regular service as before related – That your Petitioner after his return home in the winter of 1778, had repeatedly served as a volunteer in the Militia of his County, under Colonel Robert Goode.

Your Petitioner humbly presumes, that the intention of the law granting Land to the Army, was to reward the Officers and Soldiers agreeable to the service they had rendered. Therefore as it was not his fault that he did not serve for three years (although he did three full Campaigns) in the Regular Army, and as he had previously served one in the Minute Company besides subsequent repeated Volunteer expeditions in the Militia Your Petitioner Praise to be allowed so much land as Officers of his Rank have been accustomed to receive, who have continued three years, or until the end of the War in actual service or so much thereof as your Honorable house shall seem Just and reasonable, and Your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever Pray &c

S/ Henry Tatum

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry Tatum", written in black ink on a light-colored background.

[Bottom]

Tatum's petition
November 21, 1796
Cts. Justice
Nov. 24, 1796 rejected
Reported

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

Addendum to Henry Tatum W6242

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 29 Jan 2022.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Tatem, Henry.]

June 12 1784

I do hereby Certify that Lieut. Henry Tatum Enter'd the Service in March 1776 and continued therein until the Reduction of the Reg'ts in 1778 at which time he became a Supernumerary agreeable to a Resolve of Congress

Tho. Gaskins Lt Col [Thomas Gaskins BLWt867-450]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tho. Gaskins". The ink is dark and the background is slightly textured.

June 12th 1784

I do hereby Certify that Lieut. Henry Tatum Enter'd the Service in March 1776 and continued therein until the Reduction of the Reg't. in the year 1778 at which time he became a Supernumerary agreeable to a Resolve of Congress, also that the s'd Lt. Tatum was in the Minute service Prior to his Entering the Regular service.

Will Fowler Capt C L [William Fowler VAS3627]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Will Fowler". The signature is highly stylized with large loops and flourishes. The background is heavily textured and noisy.