

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Tatom (Tatom) W6248

Sarah Tatom

f46NC

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

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State of North Carolina, Sampson County

On this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me John Wright one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Sampson aforesaid Joshua Tatom a resident of Sampson County in the State of North Carolina aged 76 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

Under General Ashe [John Ashe], General Brian [sic, William Bryan], Captain Daniel Williams his other officers he at present forgets in the first of the fall of the year 1778 perhaps in the last of the summer of that year and left service at the expiration of seven months or thereabouts having been drafted or balloted for nine months as one of the State Troops, as he believes; that when he entered the service he resided in Duplin (now Sampson) County N. C. on Coharie [River]; that he was in the battle of Briar Creek in Georgia [March 3, 1779],<sup>1</sup> in which the Americans under General Ashe took a flight, & crossed over Savannah a little above the mouth of Briar Creek; that he embodied under Captain Williams in Elizabeth Town Bladen County and marched on towards Charleston in South Carolina to a place called Ten Mile or Seven-mile Swamp, where he remained a few days thence on for Augusta where he crossed the Savannah, thence on for Briar Creek in pursuit of the enemy, aiming to make an attack upon them before they joined their other troops below, that at Briar Creek the Americans halted, the enemy having burnt the bridge across that Creek; that while he was posted there, believing that the enemy we were in advance below us (the Americans) they unexpectedly came upon us in the rear, an engagement ensued, but there was no firing in the quarter where he was, but he fled & crossed the Savannah at the place aforesaid, and afterwards collected under, with others probably a hundred in number, a Colonel Williams, the next day after the battle, and marched, thence, under him to Zuglar's Ferry [sic, Zubly's Ferry<sup>2</sup>] about two or 3 miles above Savannah Town, where he continued till he was discharged, having been in actual service about 7 ½ or eight months, he is confident that he served at the least as much as seven months and will claim only for that period, that he was drafted or balloted for nine months, but while he was at Elizabeth Town in Bladen County he was relieved by his brother Laban Tatom with the consent of Captain Williams for about six or eight days and afterwards he exchanged places, with a private by the name of Bullard who was a militiaman, in the State of Georgia just before the battle at Briar

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/zublysferry.htm>

Creek; that he served with some Continental troops at Briar Creek; that the regular officers he knew were Curtis Ivey & Daniel Williams, which latter had been a regular officer but was not when he served under him as this applicant believes, his company being called nine months men; that he personally knew no regular officers in South Carolina or Georgia, but that General Lincoln was chief in command out there; and that he saw him on several occasions passing by him; that he has no documentary evidence but thinks he can prove he was in service by his Brother Laban Tatom; he knows however of no person by whom he can prove all his actual service.

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

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S / Joshua Tatom [sic]



Test: S/ John Wright, Jr., JP

Answers of Joshua Tatom the aforesaid applicant propounded to him by John Wright Esq. the Justice of the Peace aforesaid prescribed by the War Department

To the 1<sup>st</sup> I was born about seven or 8 miles from the town of Halifax N. C. as near as I can ascertain in the year 1756 or '57

To the 2<sup>nd</sup> I have no record of my age, my father's house was burnt when I was young

To the 3<sup>rd</sup> When called into service I was living on Coharie in Duplin (now Sampson) County, NC. Since the Revolutionary War, of principally lived in Sampson County except about three years when I lived in Bladen County NC. I now live in Sampson County N. C.

To the 4<sup>th</sup> I was drafted or what was called balloted in.

To the 5<sup>th</sup> The only regular officers with the troops where I served that I can recollect was General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]; there were some Continental troops at Briar Creek, whether there was a Regiment or who commanded them I don't know. I don't remember of seeing any militia Regiment, but those I served with in the expedition to Briar Creek, and the only field officers I recollect of them were General Ashe- & Bryan, the general circumstances of my service are stated in my declaration.

To the 6<sup>th</sup> I don't recollect to have ever received a written discharge. If I did, I've lost it.

To the 7<sup>th</sup> John Wright Sr., John Wright Jr., Esq., George Robinson, Esq., Laban Tatom, Archibald Murphy, John Treadwell, Archibald Patterson, Joseph Herring & oh others I could name

Test: S/ John Wright, JP

S/ Joshua Tatom

State of North Carolina, Sampson County

On this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me John Wright one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Sampson aforesaid in the State aforesaid Laban Tatom a resident of said County & said State aged 74 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that Joshua Tatom the aforesaid applicant, stated in the foregoing declaration aged about 76 years, was in service in the war of the Revolution under Captain Daniel Williams and that Captain Williams's company was called nine months men, that this deponent served in the place of the aforesaid applicant Joshua Tatom at Elizabeth Town in Bladen County seven or eight days, and that said applicant was absent from home as this deponent believes as long as eight or nine months, and understood and believes he was in the Battle of Briar Creek.

Sworn & subscribed the day & Year aforesaid.

S/ Laban Tatom, X his mark

Test: S/ John Wright, JP

[Laban Tatom and Archibald Murphy gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 16: On July 7, 1841 in Sampson County North Carolina, Sarah Tatom, aged 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Joshua Tatom, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in the last of August she believes in the year 1779 "from the fact that William Robinson Esquire a highly respectable and credible Witness deposes that he was at their house after they were married in May 1780, and this affiant recollects of his being there, shearing sheep, her husband the said Josh work kept stock for the Father of said William Robinson on shares and she knows that she was married the August preceding to that...."; That she has no record of her marriage; that they were married by the Reverend Fleet Cooper, a Baptist clergyman; that her husband died June 29, 1833; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

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State of North Carolina Sampson County

On this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August A.D. 1841 before me Patrick Murphy Clerk & Master of the Court of Equity for said County personally appeared Captain William Peterson a resident of said County aged fifty-two years the 4<sup>th</sup> of last April who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that the family Record hereunto annexed is in his own handwriting, that his wife is the daughter of Joshua Tatom deceased & his widow Sarah who is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 – that he ascertained his wife's age and the time of her birth from the age of Anna Johnson who was born and raised in the same neighborhood with this affiant's wife about a mile or something less apart, that it was the reputation of the neighborhood among the old ladies that this affiant's wife was precisely three months younger than Mrs. Anna Johnson whose maiden name was Williamson, that this affiant took or examined a book in which Mrs. Johnson's age was recorded and set down his wife's as recorded in the little book hereunto attached fixed for the purpose three months later, that he has no doubt and believes that the same is correct – is in his own handwriting and has been done between 15 and 20 years ago, that his wife is said to be and he believes is the sixth child of said Sarah Tatom by the marriage with her husband the said Joshua, – that Dickson Tatom was said to be the oldest child and something near ten years older than this affiant – has been dead about 10 years and if alive would be about 60 years of age.

S/ William Peterson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Peterson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[Other facts in the file: Tatom died in Sampson County, NC on June 29, 1833; he married Sarah Simms in August 1779; they were married by Rev. Fleet Cooper, a Baptist minister; children of Joshua and Sarah Tatum named in the file include Dickson, the eldest (died 1831), Nancy (6<sup>th</sup> child, born June 1, 1793, married William Peterson). Bible record of William Peterson and Nancy Tatum Peterson:

William Petersen, son of John Peterson and Mary, his wife, born April 4, 1789

Nancy Tatum, daughter of Joshua and Sary, his wife, born June 1 1793

Julian Peterson (daughter) born November 22, 1813

William Dixon Peterson born February 12, 1815  
Gorg (?) Peterson (son) born September 3, 1818  
Elizabeth Peterson born April 8, 1820  
Munrow Peterson (son) born May 16, 1821  
Guilluad (?) Peterson (son) born March 13, 1823  
Wiley Rufus Peterson born may 8, 1825  
Treary (?) Peterson (daughter) born June 29, 1827  
Fleet C. Peterson (son) born April 13, 1829  
Nancy Gen Peterson born January 21, 1832  
Rebeca a Peterson no birthdate given]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]