

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Tinsley¹ W8789 Sarah f68VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/14/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 26]

State of Kentucky County of Shelby: Sct.

On this 11th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Shelby County now sitting William Tinsley a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

He was born in the State of Virginia in the County of Caroline on the waters of the Rappahannock River in the year 1763 the record of his age he left in Virginia, he lived from the day of his birth until he was called into service in the County and State aforesaid and continued to live in the said County until 1796 when he moved to Kentucky and settled in Shelby County where he now lives and has continued to live since his immigration from Virginia with the exception of six or eight months which he spent in Frankfurt Kentucky shortly after his coming to this State – He was called into service by draft he did not volunteer, nor was he a substitute for anyone. He was drafted in the year 1779 but does not recollect the month that he entered the service – the Captain of the company to which claimant was attached was David Jamison Thomas Armistead was the Major and Samuel Mathews the Colonel and William Elliott or Ellit was foreigh [forage] master, he was drafted for a tour of three months the Company rendezvoused at H. Lynches Tavern and marched from thence to Williamsburg where there was a large body of troops under the Command of Colonel Mathews & where they remained until the British landed at Burrell's ferry about five miles from Williamsburg, at which time this Claimant was out on guard and was at the ferry and slight resistance was offered in the American and British soldiers exchanged several fires and then the Americans retreated to Williamsburg and when we arrived there the main body had retreated seven or eight miles out of town to which place we followed them where they remained a day or two, this Claimant with other soldiers was called out at night to storm the British picket erected [?] near William and Mary College in Williamsburg where they had a good deal of firing but it being very dark and raining the Americans were forced to retreat to the main Army before the American Army left their last position the British Army left Williamsburg and went around to Richmond, the American Army then marched to Richmond this Claimant started with them, but was taken sick & with several others invalids was left in the town of Hanover in Hanover County where he remained only a

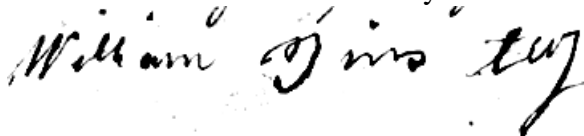
¹ BLWt53745-160-55

few days when the time for which him & his company were drafted expired and they were discharged another Company coming from Caroline to our relief – he received no written discharge.

This Claimant was again drafted in the following year to wit in the year he thinks 1780, he did not volunteer nor was he a substitute for anyone, he does not recollect the month that he entered the service, he was drafted in the said County of Caroline in the State of Virginia for a tour of three months. This Claimant is old and frail and his memory he must acknowledge is greatly weakened he therefore cannot distinctly state who when [sic, were] the officers in this last tour, his Captain he thinks was Jerry Upsher [probably Jeremiah Upshaw] the company was marched from Caroline direct to Richmond where we remained a good while making during our stay there several excursions from Richmond we were marched to Petersburg where we remained a few days and were discharged other soldiers coming to our relief, he never received a written discharge, he was engaged in no battle during this last tour. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Tinsley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Tinsley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[John Holland, a clergyman, and William Tinsley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
[Henry Wiley gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

I Reuben Saunders² of the County & State aforesaid expressly certify that he is well acquainted with William Tinsley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that the said Tinsley and myself served as messmates in the same company in the first tour spoken of in his above declaration and he the said Tinsley served as therein stated. I believe that he served on the second tour though I do not know it. And the said Tinsley is a man of good character and worthy of belief and is reputed and believed to be able revolutionary soldier in his neighborhood and in which I concur.

S/ Reubin Saunders

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reubin Saunders". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[f p. 15]

The following is the Amended Declaration of William Tinsley to his Declaration made on the 11th day of March 1833 for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. I served as a private soldier in both tours mentioned in my prior Declaration for the period of three months in each tour and for the time during which the service was performed I was not employed in any civil pursuit [indecipherable word] the greater portion of the time that I was in the service I was in the field marching from place to place. I remained in Richmond sometime when on my second tour but whilst there made many excursions through the country. I served in companies called into service by draft by competent authority the names

² Sic, Reuben Sanders FPA S1251

of the officers in the first tour are mentioned and embodied in my Declaration. I cannot by reason of my loss of memory state further than is stated in my Declaration who were my Officers in the second tour. I served out the full period of three months in each tour – the places where the services were performed all pointed out in my Declaration

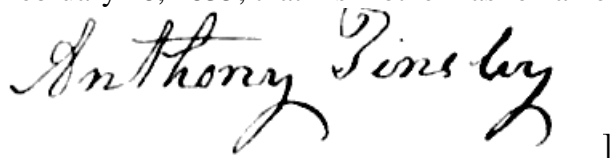
S/ William Tinsley

1st I was born in the State of Virginia in Caroline County in the year 1763 – 2nd I have no record of my age, my age was recorded but left in Virginia – 3rd When I was called into service I lived in Caroline County Virginia where I resided until the year 1796 at which time I moved to the State of Kentucky Shelby County where I now live and have lived since 1796 except about eight months shortly after I came to Kentucky. 4th I was drafted for both the first and second tour did not volunteer nor was I a substitute for anyone – 5th David Jamison was my Captain, Thomas Armistead was the Major, Samuel Matthews the Colonel and William Elliott or Ellis foreign master [forage master?] these were the Officers that I recollect in the first tour – in the second for reason stated I recollect none except I think the Captain Jerry Upsher – 6th I received no written discharge either in the first or second tour. – 7th John Holland, Henry Wiley & Reuben Saunders

S/ William Tinsley

[f p. 21: On April 27, 1843 in Shelby County Kentucky, Sarah Tinsley, aged above seventy-three years, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Tinsley a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$20 per annum for his service in the revolutionary war; that she married him July four, 1793; that her husband died February 28, 1734. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 18: On December 16, 1850 in Franklin County Kentucky, Anthony Tinsley a resident of Shelby County Kentucky gave testimony that he is the oldest child of his deceased father William Tinsley and his mother Sally Tinsley now of Shelby County Kentucky; that he was born August 25, 1794 as appears in the original family record once in his possession and which he enclosed to his former member of Congress the Honorable William P Thomasson in the year 1844; that his parents were married in the year 1793; that they raised a large family of 10 children and lived together as husband and wife until the death of his father which took place on February 28, 1835; that his mother has remained a widow since the death of his father.

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[f p. 24: On May 8, 1855 in Shelby County Kentucky, the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement again signing her application with her mark.]

[facts in file: Veteran married Sarah Samuel in Caroline County Virginia on July four, 1793.

They had the following children:

Anthony born August 25, 1794, resident in Shelby County Kentucky in 1844

Thomas born June 20, 1796

Archibald born November 16, 1799

Ann born July 1 1803

Kitty born December 5, 1805

William born March 10, 1807
Mary born June 17, 1809
Spencer born May 10, 1811
Harrison for one May 8, 1813
Abner born May 10, 1815
John born May 1 1817_____

Anthony Tinsley had a wife named Sarah who died January 14, 1836; he then married Levicey on August 24, 1837; Anthony had the following children

Levicey Jane Tinsley born May 1, 1835
Isabella Tinsley born December 7 1838
John Henry Tinsley born April 8, 1841]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for service as a private for six months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a similar amount]