

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Tatum ¹ W999
Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary Tatum f65NC
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 15]

State of Tennessee, Dickson County

On this Third day of November 1840 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Dickson & State of Tennessee – the said court being a court of Record, Mary Tatum, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged Seventy-five years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838, entitled “An Act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows:” That she is the widow of John Tatum who was a private soldier in the Army of the United States in the Revolutionary War, that the said John Tatum her husband enlisted as a regular soldier for the term of two years & a half either in the County of Orange or Granville in the State of North Carolina under Captain Dickson [possibly Tilghman Dixon] & Lieutenant Walton [possibly William Walton], as she has often heard her said husband say & which she verily believes: She further states that she has no recollection at this time what other officers belonging to or commanded the Regiment or Corps to which he belonged, nor does she now recollect precisely the year in which he enlisted but believes that it was sometime in the year 1778, which was about five years before their intermarriage – She states further that her husband was marched to Halifax in North Carolina, and was thence marched to the North and joined the Main Army under General Washington where he remained until the expiration of his term of enlistment. She has often heard him speak of being in the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] which he represented as a hard fought battle, & that the Army in that engagement suffered immensely from the excessive warmth of the weather. She further states that her husband was absent three years from the time of his enlistment until his return home. And after his return from the North he volunteered for a short term of service, at the expiration of which he substituted himself in the place of a man named William Rose in Orange County North Carolina, and was engaged in that tour of service when peace was proclaimed. She has no knowledge of the officers under whom he served during the last two terms of service nor has she any documentary evidence showing the services of her said husband or sustaining her claim to a pension.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Tatum in October 1783, and that her husband the aforesaid John Tatum died on the 3rd day of August 1824 in the County of Dickson aforesaid. She states that they were married in the County of Granville in the State of North Carolina by Micajah Bullock Esq. then an acting Justice of the Peace of said County, who was duly qualified & authorized by law to perform the marriage ceremony, and that there is no person in existence to her knowledge who was present when their marriage took place nor has

¹ BLWt34534-160-55

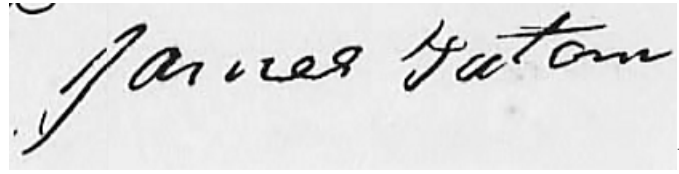
she any Records of any kind affording proof of the same. She states that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, that is at the time above stated, and she further states that she is now a widow and has never been married since the death of her said husband.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ Wm Hightower, Clk

S/ Mary Tatum, X her mark

[p 23: On April 24, 1841 in Dickson County Tennessee, James Tatum gave testimony that he has a record of his age taken from his father's family Bible showing that he was born February 12, 1785; that his father John Tatum and his mother Mary Tatum lived together as man and wife until the death of his father which took place in 1826; that his parents raised 11 children of which he, James, is the eldest.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Tatum". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first letter "J" is large and loops around the start of the name. The signature ends with a small vertical stroke.

[p 24: On April 24, 1841 in Dickson County Tennessee George W Tatum gave testimony that he is the son of John and Mary Tatum; that he took a transcript from the family Bible belonging to his father which states that he, George W Tatum, was born October 22, 1802; that his father died in 1826; that the old family Bible containing the record of the children of his parents is now in the possession of his brother Richard Tatum who resides at a remote distance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. W. Tatum". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first letter "G" is large and loops around the start of the name. The signature ends with a small vertical stroke.

[p 8]

State of Tennessee Dickson County } Sct.

This day being the 14th of May 1842 John Tatum personally appeared before me Thomas Palmer an acting Justice of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid, and he being first duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposed as follows to wit –

He the said John Tatum states that his father John Tatum deceased and his mother Mary Tatum now an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress providing for the Widows of Revolutionary Soldiers, were the parents of Eleven Children whose names are James, John, Sally, William, Betsey, Stephen, Richard, George W, Nancy, Jemima & Susan. He states that his brother James is the oldest child by that marriage (Polly Tatum being by a former marriage) and that he this deponent is the second child born of his said parents. That this deponent is now of the age of fifty-five years, having received that account from his parents, and he finds it corroborated by the entry of his age in the Family Bible, of the correctness of which he entertains no doubt. He states that he has now in his possession the old Family Bible which was owned by his father as far back as deponent can recollect. That he with his own hand this day cut from that Bible the leave containing the original family Register, which leaf is appended to this Deposition, and at the bottom of which are written these words “Cut from the Family Bible of John Tatum deceased this 14th day of May 1842.

Test John C. Collins

S/ John Tatum, X his mark”

The Deponent further states that the two first names on that leaf are the names of his father & mother and the entries contained their ages as they have informed him – the third name

is that of Polly Tatum the half-sister of deponent by a former marriage. Deponent states that this leaf contains the names & ages of all the children except of his youngest sister Susan Tatum – that the original leaf herewith appended having been dirty and some names almost illegible the whole together with his youngest sister's were transcribed into a Methodist Magazine then belonging to his father and which is now in the possession of his Sister Jemima as he is well informed. He states that his father the said John Tatum was an illiterate man & unable to write, and that the entries containing their several ages were made as occasion required, at the request of his parents and were recognized by them as being correctly made.

He states that he well recollects the circumstance which caused the fourth name on the second page of the leaf to be stricken out the child at first called Margaret was afterwards christened Nancy.

Deponent states that there is no family record of the marriage of his father & mother. He states that his father resided in North Carolina as he has always been told, and while deponent was of very tender age, removed to Georgia where he resided 10 or 12 years and then removed to Dickson County Tennessee where he resided till his death which took place in 1824 or thereabouts. He states that his father was always esteemed and reputed to have been a Revolutionary Soldier

S/ John Tatum, X his mark

[the Bible record is not reproduced here because, as noted by the affiant, it is almost totally legible—see below for a transcription taken from a summary of the file contains prepared by the War Department in responding to requests for information from this file.]

[p 17]

And Benjamin Clearwaters² also appeared in open court and made Oath in due form of Law that he was for several years in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War as a private Soldier and belonged to the third Regiment of Dragoons commanded by Colonel Washington [William Washington]; that while in the service he became acquainted with John Tatum, the husband of Mary Tatum who has made the foregoing declaration; that he was a regular soldier and a private and was commanded as well as he now recollects by Captain Dickson [sic, Tilghman Dixon?] & Lieutenant Walton and to the best of his recollection he thinks the Regiment to which said John Tatum belonged was commanded by Col. Elbert, but of this he cannot state positively. He further states that he cannot at this distance of time precisely recollect dates, but he well recollects seeing and knowing the said John Tatum during two summers immediately preceding the capture of Charleston in South Carolina which he believes took place in the year 1780 [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] according to the best information which he now possesses on that subject; that a few months before the fall of Charleston he was marched from the Main Army in the North which was commanded by General Washington where he had known the said John Tatum and was marched to South Carolina where he was when Charleston was taken – after leaving the North he never knew anything of the said John Tatum nor heard of him until a short time before his death which took place in Dickson County Tennessee about 16 years ago as he is informed & believes.

Sworn to and Open Court.

S/ Benjamin Clearwaters, X his mark

S/ Wm Hightower, Clerk

[p 18]

And William Tatum Senior also appeared in open Court & made Oath in due form of law

2 [Benjamin Clearwaters W4925](#)

that he is the brother of John Tatum who is mentioned in the foregoing declaration, that the said John Tatum enlisted as a regular soldier in the Revolutionary War for the term of two years & a half in Granville County in the State of North Carolina, a month or year he cannot now recollect; he thinks to the best of his recollection that his Captain was named Dickson – the said John Tatum was marched to the North & joined the Army under General Washington, and was in the battle of Monmouth, as this affiant has often been informed by the said John Tatum. He states that it was about three years after the enlistment before his brother John returned home to Granville County – that after his return, he substituted in the place of one William Rose for a short tour of militia service, after which this affiant and the said John Tatum volunteered for a short term of service as militia men and were employed at Hillsboro in Orange County in North Carolina in making shoes for the soldiers, and were discharged before the term of service expired in consequence of peace being proclaimed. This affiant further states that he was not present at the marriage of his brother the said John Tatum with his wife Mary Tatum who is now applying for a pension, but that they lived in the same neighborhood, and he knew them to live together as man and wife, that they stated they were married and were reputed to be man & wife wherever they were known from the time of their marriage until the death of the said John Tatum; that they had 11 children with whom this affiant is well acquainted, and who have inherited and received a property which belonged to their father the said John Tatum in his lifetime. This affiant further states that his brother John Tatum removed first to Georgia and then to Dickson County in Tennessee, where he resided until his death which took place about 16 or 17 years ago. He further states that the marriage took place after the said John Tatum left the service as a soldier in previous to the first of January 1794 – and that the said Mary Tatum is now a widow, and has so remained ever since the death of her said husband John Tatum.

Sworn to in open Court

S/ William Tatum, X his mark

S/ Wm Hightower, Clerk

[facts in the file: John and Mary Tatum had 11 eleven children named

Bible record almost illegible—use transcript with care

John Tatum was born [illegible]

Mary [Polly] Tatum was born April 24 1767 [Tatum's child by an earlier marriage]

James born Feb. 12, 1785

John born April 8, 1787

Salley born August 24, 1789

William born March [illegible]

Betsy born July [illegible]

Stephen born Nov. 27, 1797

Richard born August 22, 1799

George W., born October 22, 1802

Nancy [originally named Margaret, but christened "Nancy"] born January 9, (or 11th) 1805

Jemima

Susan

That John Tatum had at least one child, Polly Tatum, by 'a former marriage.' Polley was born December 23, 1782.]

[p 14: On July 23, 1855 in Dickson County Tennessee, Mary Tatum, 88, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war soldier stating that she was married to John Tatum in Granville County North Carolina on August 16, 1770; that they were married by Cager Bullock, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Wright; that her husband died in

Dickson County Tennessee on August 16, 1824. She signed this application with her mark.]

[p 54: In a letter dated December 16, 1874, W. H. Horner states that Mary Tatum died November 4, 1861; that prior to her death Mary Tatum made a deed of gift of everything she had to Horner's wife, Souses Horner [sic][presumably formally Susan Tatum] and Nancy Tatum.

W. H. Horner]

[p 56: In a letter dated November 6, 1875, W. H. Horner states that Mary Tatum "...was on my hands blind and helpless for the last 12 months of her life. She left no assets to reimburse me for the last sickness &c. I wish to know if I can draw enough to reimburse me for expenses &c...."]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum based on her husband service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]