
Pension Application for Amos Tolles

S.32021

State of Connecticut SS.

Litchfield [County]

August 8th 1833. On this 8th day August aforesaid Personally appeared before me Lancelot Phelps Esq a Judge of the Court of Probate for the District of New Hartford in said County of Litchfield, Amos Tolles of Winchester in said County aged sixty seven 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 the 7th day of June 1832.

Question by the Court. Where and in what year were you Born.

Answer, in the town of New Milford County Aforesaid and on the 24th day of May 1766.

Question. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it.

Answer. I have no record of my age. The information of the [sic] and place of my birth is derived from my parents.

Question. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live.

Answer. When called into service I lived in the town of New Canaan; County of Columbia and State of New York. Since the Revolutionary War I have resided in said County of Litchfield and for the last thirty seven years I have resided in the town of Winchester in said County; where I now reside.

Question. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer; or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?

Answer: At the time I was called into the service (which was in the spring of the year 1782) The militia of that part of the State of New York, where I then resided were called upon to Class (1) themselves into classes of twelve men; each class were required to furnish one recruit for actual service for nine months; and on furnishing such recruit were to be exempt from being called upon to go into Actual service themselves during said nine months except upon some special emergency as in Case of Alarm &c. I was hired by one of those classes for said term of nine months and I received part pay before I started on the tour and the balance was afterwards paid by said Class for the whole term of nine months.

Question. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served. Such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer. There were no Continental troops nor any Regiment of Militia on the Station where I served of course there was [an] officer higher than a Captain who was the Commanding officer. By an arrangement with the class that hired me I was to proceed to Albany which I accordingly did in company with a number of others at which place we were put under the command of Capt Gray (2) (whose first name Silas I believe) under him we were marched (through a then wilderness) to Schoharry [Schoharie] where the commanding officer of the Station was Capt. Harrison (whose first name I believe was George) The name of the Lieutenant was Throop (3) (his first name not recollected), the name of the first Serjeant was Olds (4)—and one other Serjeants name was Rowley; (5)and one of the Corporals names was Wooley; (6) the names of the other officers of the Company is not by him recollected. At Schoharry there were at that time three Picket Forts and that he there did Garrison duty some part of the time in what was then called the Middle and some part of this time In what was called the Lower Picket Fort; and was frequently out on scouting parties. That some part of the time while at Schoharrie he did duty under Capt. Gray and some part of the time under Capt Harrison; and

that during the whole campain [campaign] he was in no Civil pursuit. And that he was actually out on said tour somewhere from seven and a half to eight and a half months. He has no doubt but the precise time he cannot state. That he knows of no one now living who belonged to the same company with him, nor any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. 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 any agency or State. He further says that they were not attached to any Regiment or Brigade.

Question. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so; by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer. I never received a written discharge; we were at the end of the service verbally dismissed by the Commanding Officer and permitted to return home.

Question. State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. There are in the neighborhood where I live as I believe a large number who have been acquainted with me for more than twenty years and I should expect and believe that they would inform by say[ing] the same thing. Viz. That my character for veracity is good and their full belief of my service as a Revolutionary Soldier and among them I will name Rev. James Beach & Seth Marshall Esqr. (Signed) Amos Tolles

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Lancelot Phelps Judge of the Court of Probate for the district of New Hartford.

Letter in folder dated March 2, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.32021, it appears that Amos Tolles was born, May 24, 1766, in New Milford County, Connecticut.

While a resident of New Canaan, Columbia County, New York, he enlisted in the spring of 1782 and served between seven and one-half and eight and one-half months as a private in Captains Silas Gray's and Joseph Harrison's New York companies.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 8, 1833, at which time he was a resident of Winchester, Litchfield County, Connecticut.

There are no data relative to family.

Amos Towles, Certificate No. 22587, issued October 11, 1833, rate \$26.66 per annum; commenced March 4, 1831, Act of June 7, 1832, Connecticut agency.

This is the history of the only soldier names Amos Towles found on the Revolutionary War records of this bureau.

End Notes—S.32021—Amos Tolles

1. Amos was in Captain Elijah Bostwick's First Company in Colonel William B. Whiting's Seventeenth Regiment of Albany County Militia as a private. The following were officers of this company: William Hollenbeck as the first lieutenant, Elijah Toles as the second lieutenant, Samuel Allen as the ensign. Bostwick and his company officers were commissioned on June 16, 1778. On March 6, 1779, Allen was commissioned second lieutenant as Toles had declined the appointment and Isaac Soul was commissioned the ensign. On June 29, 1781; Jeremiah Hubbard was commissioned ensign as Soul had moved out of the state.
2. Silas Gray was appointed Captain in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies on April 10, 1782. Captain Gray and his officers did not recruit enough men to fill their warrants for commissions and were considered supernumerary officers otherwise meaning not enough men to form a company for their ranks. By July of 1782

Captain Gray and Anthony Whelp were discharged and by the end of July Captain Nathaniel Henry was discharged. The recruits from these companies were put into other companies to fill their quotas. Amos was put in Captain Joseph Harrison's Company in Willett's Regiment. His last name is written or interpreted incorrectly as Amos Tods. The 1782 muster roll or receipt roll existed in 1887 in the New York State Comptrollers Office when the names were extracted for an alphabetical roster of the state troops in Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York, ed. Berthold Fernow, Vol. XV, State Archives, Vol I, Albany, NY. Amos Tods name is listed on page 490 in the first column and as Amos Tolles in the second column. This is a invaluable book as many of the records used for this book were burned in the capitol fire of 1911 in Albany.

3. Amos is referring to Lieutenant Peter Loop of Captain Harrison's Company. The only officer named Throop to serve in Willett's was Major Josiah Throop in 1781.
4. Sergeant Gilbert Olds of Captain James Cannon's Company in Colonel Willett's Regiment.
5. Sergeant Seth Rowley in Captain Harrison's Company.
6. Corporal Wooley was not found in Willett's Regiment. He may have been from another regiment serving at the same station or it is a corruption of a name.