

**REVEREND TIDENCE LANE,
REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER AND EARLY TENNESSEE MINISTER**

Tidence Lane was born near Baltimore, Maryland on August 31, 1724. He was christened as "Tidings" at St. Paul's parish. Tidence was in Lunenburg County, Virginia, by the 1740s when he appears in a tithables list. He married Esther Bibbin/ Bibber on May 9, 1743 in Randolph County, North Carolina.

Tidings Lane came to what would become Tennessee during the 1770s and settled on Boone's Creek, now Washington County, Tennessee. There, he established the Buffalo Ridge (Baptist) Church in 1779, the oldest church in the state of Tennessee.

Tidence Lane appears in the first tax list, 1783, of Greene County. Tidence and three of his sons are documented Soldiers of the Revolutionary War. These sons were Tidence Lane Jr. (1763-1841 Jefferson County, TN); Isaac Lane (1760-1851 McMinn County, TN), and Aquilla Lane (1753-1819, McMinn County, TN). Brothers, Tidence Junior and Isaac, both served under Col. John Sevier at Kings Mountain, Tidence Junior as a Captain and Isaac as a Lieutenant. Tidence Lane Senior and his three sons all applied for Revolutionary War pension.

[Tidence Lane and Sons of Early Tennessee, TNGenWeb Project and the Combs Research Group, C. Hammett, 2001.]

Tidence Lane Senior was the first pastor of the Bent Creek (now Whitesburg) Baptist Church in Hamblen County, where he died on January 30, 1806.



Tidence Lane Cemetery, Whitesburg
Photo Courtesy of Sue and Doug, Find-A-Grave

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION APPLICATION BY TIDENCE LANE SENIOR

State of Tennessee
Jefferson County

On this 3rd day of September personally appeared before me Robt. McFarland Jr. a justice of the peace for the county of Jefferson, Tidence Lane, a resident of Jefferson County and State of Tennessee 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 7, 1832.

That the Declarant, Tidence Lane, was born in Randolph County, North Carolina on the waters of Deep river, in the year 1763. At the age of 18 years he removed with his father to the mouth of Boon's creek on the Watauga river in Washington County, then a part of North Carolina now one of the counties of East Tennessee. In the year of his moval, 1781 in the winter of said year, early in February, he was drafted, at the house of Captain Elijah Witt, near the buffalo ridge, by Capt. Elijah Witt to march in an expedition against the Cherokees in the Tennessee. Our rendezvous was at the old field on Watauga river Colonel Sevier took the command of the men at the old fields, where we remained about two weeks, when we returned home and made preparations for the expedition, and in a few days repaired to the place of Rendezvous on Camp Creek, where we remained two weeks, waiting for the collection of the men. Colonel Sevier commanded the expedition - Colonel Robertson and Major Wharton,?? were the regimental officers. From Camp Creek we marched across the Bald Mountain, and encamped the first night on a little creek on the other side of the mountain. The three succeeding days we spent in marching to the river French Broad, which we swam, them of us who crossed where we first struck the river - the balance of the company marched higher up the river and forded. That night we encamped on the other side of French Broad, thence we marched on, crossing Pigeon river, to the Tennessee, and in three or four days reached the middle settlements of the Cherokee Nation. When we got within a mile of the settlements, our men were divided. There were one hundred and forty four men in the expedition. Colonel Sevier attempted to cross the mountain with one part of the men, and Colonel Robertson took the road around the mountain with the balance. When Colonel Sevier, in whose division Declarant was reached the top of the mountain, he found it extremely difficult, on account of its steepness and the rocks, to get down and therefore returned and took the road. We soon overtook the other division, and entered the Indian towns together. The Indians retreated before us, and deserted their towns. A small force 15 or 20 men, who were on foot, was left at the first town. We marched through all the towns in the middle settlements, and after burning the towns ten or twelve in number, we returned back to the town, which we first entered. We then found that the

Indians had taken the cattle that we had gotten there before we left it and one of the men ??---Terry, was shot in the thigh by the Indians. When we got to the town, first entered, the Indians from the surrounding hills fired upon us - we returned their fire. That night the Indians fired on our encampment. One of our men was slightly wounded and a horse killed. The next day we started for home. On our return we divided, some taking a new route the others keeping the old ??-----, by which we had marched down. We got to our homes and were discharged at Jonesborough late in the month of May - after a tour of three months. The Declarant received his discharge from Captain Elijah Witt in whose company he was. Declarant does not recollect the names of the other officers, if there were any: but believes that there were none. We were all mounted and Declarant believes that he had no lieutenants, ensign or sergeants. The Declarant gave his discharge to his Captain who took it to the officer as committed appointed by the legislature of North Carolina to adjust the claims for Military Service and ??----from him or them a certificate of his being entitled to pay for a tour of three months, which certificate then Declarant sold to one of the merchants of Jonesborough for four or five dollars.

The fall of 1782, in the 1st of September the Declarant was again drafted at the house of Elijah Witt, the muster grant of the company, by Captain Thomas L. Gandiman; Lieutenants, Ensign and Sergeants if any, are not recollect - We were mounted men. Our place of Rendezvous was at Evan's Ferry on French Bread River. Colonel John Sevier again commanded us, the other officers are not recollect. There were 6 or 700 men on this expedition. We crossed French Bread at Evan's ferry, thence on an Indian trail to the Cola Ford on the Tennessee River - thence to the Tilico plains. At the Tilico plains, we fired on the Indians and pursued them through the plains - killed several and burnt the town; then marched up the river and croped it - thence to the Coosa River, where we burnt several towns; here we remained several days. We kept down the Coosa croped and recroped it repeatedly, burnt several towns on the Coosa, went down the Coosa to the Big Swamp Spring, we remained for some time on the Coosa river, burning the towns and pursuing the Indians - killing some and taking some prisoners. We then returned nearer the mountains. One part of the men attempted to return through the mountains and got lost. Major George Rupell tuloted them to the old trace. The Declarant belonged to the division, which returned by the old trace, after they struck the Hiwassee River. The Declarant was discharged by Captain Hardiman at Jonesborough, and disposed of his discharge in the same way as before - receiving a certificate for three months pay, which he sold for a trifle - the State not being then able to redeem them with silver, and the paper ??-- by it being greatly depreciated. This Declarant served the two tours above mentioned - in the years 1781 and 1782 - each tour being one of three

months- making a service of six months during the revolution. The Declarant was in Genl Martins campaign in 1786 and was in the battle of the Lookout Mountain under that officer-which battle his Capt. John Hardin was killed. The Declarant was afterwards in Genl C. Doughutys campaign in 1791 for these two last tours he does not claim a pension, the act of June with not providing for the services tendered in them. The Declarant moved to the mouth of Boon's creek on the Watauga in 1781 and remained in Washington County five years - he then moved to Greene County, that part of it which now forms Jefferson, where he now lives on the waters of Bent creek, and where he has lived for forty seven years. The Declarant has no documentary evidence of his services, and knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service in the Revolution. He humbly relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity accept the presents, and declare that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Question 1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer 1st. I was born in Randolph County North Carolina on the water of Deep River, in the year of our Lord 1763, 12th day of May.

Question 2nd. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer 2nd. I have a record of my age in my Bible at my house.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer 3rd. When called into service I was living at the mouth of Boon's Creek, on Watauga river in Washington County. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Washington County and in Jefferson County where I now live.

Question 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

Answer 4th. In the two tours, in which I was engaged during the Revolutionary, I was drafted.

Question 5th. State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the troop, where you served; Such continental and militia Regiments, as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer 5th. There were no regular officers with the troop where I served. The general circumstances of my service are detailed in my declaration. The first expedition, in which I was engaged, numbered 144 mounted men, under the command of Colonel John Sevier - against the Cherokee Indians. The second expedition

number 6 or 700 men under the same officers, against the Cherokee Indians. There are two other expeditions mentioned in my declaration, which did not take place during the Revolution and are not provided for by the present law.

Question 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer 6th. I received a discharge at the end of each of the tours I served during the revolution. They were given by my Captains. Capt. Witt and Capt. Hardiman, and were returned to them by me and they procured certificates for the pay for the tours - which I got and sold for a trifle.

Question 7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for vivacity, and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer 7th. I would refer to the Rev. Pleasant A. Witt. Capt. John Riddle & Arch? Austin who can be opened mined and will testify as required by the was department.

Signed Tidence Lane

Sworn & subscribed to before me.

Robert McFarland
Justice of the Peace
for Jefferson County

W. Pleasant A. Witt a clergyman residing in the County of Jefferson and John Riddle & Arch " Austin residing in the same county, hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with Tidence Lane, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration an as & annexs (Annex's) & answers, that we believe him to be seventy years of age, that he is a man of vivacity; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Pleasant A. Witt Clergyman

Sworn & Subscribed
to before me the 30 of
September 1833

John Riddle
A. Austin

Robert McFarland
Justice of the Peace
for Jefferson County

WILL OF TIDENCE LANE SENIOR

WILL OF TIDENCE LANE (DANDRIDGE COURTHOUSE)

"In the name of God, amen, the second day of July, 1805, being sick in body, but sound in mind, thanks be to God: Calling to mind the uncertain estate of this transitory life and that flesh must yield to death when it shall please God to call, do make, constitute, ordain and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, revoking and disannulling by these presents all wills heretofore by me made and declared either by word or writing and this is to be taken only for my last will and testament and none other. And first, being sorry for my⁶ sins past, do most humbly desire forgiveness for the same. I give and commit my soul unto God my Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of Christ Jesus I trust and hope to be saved and to have full remission of all my sins and that my soul with my body at a general day of the resurrection shall rise again with Joy and through the merits of Christ's death and passion, possess and inherit the kingdom of heaven prepared for his elect and chosen: and my body to be laid in such a place where it shall please my Executor hereafter name to appoint. And now for the settling of my temporal estate and such goods, Chartels and debts as it hath please God far above my deserts to bestow on me. I do order, give and dispose the same in manner pleased God far above my deserts to bestow on me. I do order, give and dispose the same in manner and form following, viz., First I will that all my debts and dues I owe in right or conscience to any person whatever shall well and truly be paid, or ordered within convenient time after my decease by my Executor hereafter names. Items I give and bequeath to my son John one Book entitled Boston's Fourfold State. Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter

Sarah (Tidence Jr.s twin, married Thomas Horner), one calico habit, a petticoat, apron, handkerchief and cap. Item I give and bequeath to my son Acquilla one cow, two sheep., tow books, one entitled, "every man his own lawyer" the other the Baptist confession of faith." Item I give and bequest to my son Richard one cow, and calf, two sheep, my big plough and one hoe. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Senea one striped habit, a skirt, apron, handkerchief, cap, necklace and hurssa. Item I give and bequeath to my son Tidence one spotted cow and one steer, two sheep, myoid

Bible and testament. Item I give and bequeath to my son Tidence's wife Mary (Cude), one feather bed, and two sheets. Item I give and bequeath to my son Dutton one black three-year-old steer and a Book, Willson on the Sacraments. Item I give and bequeath to my son Samuel all my land where on I now live and also my Negro Man Jack and my two horses and two featherbeds and furniture and my hogs, together with all the rest of my household furniture and utensils and all my iron tools of every kind not hereto fore mentioned. I do further constitute and ordain my beloved son, Samuel, my Executor, to see this my last will and testament executed. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Tidence Lane

Postscript

In October 2017, the remains of Tidence Lane and his family members were reinterred to the First Baptist Church Cemetery in Whitesburg, Tennessee. The Greenville Sun provided news coverage on this famous Pioneer Preacher and Revolutionary War Soldier.

[Photo Courtesy of the Greenville Sun]

