

William Tong (1756-1848)

### Biographical Sketch

William Tong was in the Revolutionary War when he was 23 and fought at Brandywine. After the war, he removed to "New Purchase" Kentucky and settled in "New St. Francois R." He was a shoemaker and Episcopalian until 1844 when the Southern Methodist. In 1820, he moved to Missouri and settled near St. Michael on little St. Francois River. He filed for a Revolutionary War pension claim on 7 Jun 1832 in Fredericktown, MO (Book A of Madison Co., MO Courthouse records). It was to be heard November 1833. Politically, he was "Jeffersonian" and a gifted speaker. Journal of Rev. Jacob Lanier, edited by Elmer T. Clark, 1918, Transcribed and re-edited by Theodore H. Wolff, 1963, Publication: G.A. Brewer, 1980, Marion MA

William Tong was born 9 Aug 1756, oldest of seven children. Two sons and five daughters. Lived on Piscataway Creek which fed the Potomoc. It was seven miles from Mt. Vernon. His father was John Tongue and mother was Jane. John and Jane's parents came from England in 1730's to Maryland and were raised in Prince George County, Maryland. William Tong was in Washington Co., Maryland in 1793. By 1807 in Ohio County, Kentucky, by 1819 in Madison County, Missouri and by 1839, William and Elizabeth were in Mt. Jefferson, Illinois. William was a shoemaker and a Revolutionary War veteran from 1775-1783. On 13 Nov, 1834, he rode a horse from Fredericktown, MO to Washington, D.C. for his pension. He was granted \$40 from both federal and state government per year. He was in Fredericktown when he compiled his autobiography on 7 Oct 1844. History of Iron County, Missouri, 1857-1994, p. 14-15.

He mentions a family Bible in Missouri. (On front of Bible is found: "Harriet Long, presented by her mother [which would be Elizabeth Thomas]." Mrs. Long was born Harriet Tong and married H. M. Long who died in 1874. She married a Mr. Stewart, but is buried in Methodist Cemetery in Caledonia, MO by Mr. Long. Text: William Tong, d. Feb. 8, 1848, aged 93 years.) The record also states he was living near Bladensburg, Prince George's County when he joined the Army in 1775. Lived in Prince George's until 1791, then went to Washington County, Maryland where he was until 1807. Then went to Ohio County, Kentucky and was there until 1819, when he went to Madison County, Missouri. Pension Record, W.133, Madison County, Missouri, National Archives

John Hezekiah Tong says he was born 25 Nov 1800 in Hagerstown, Washington, Maryland and that he married Margaret Compton in St. Louis, Missouri. He died in Clarksville, El Dorado, California. It is written that his father is William Tong, b. 1756 in Prince George's County and that he married before 1786 to Elizabeth Thomas in Maryland or Kentucky. She was born in 1774 in Charles County, Maryland and died in 1855. William died 8 Feb 1848 in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Records of Families of California Pioneers, Vol. 26 DAR, p. 222-227

William Tong was oldest of 2 sons and five daughters. His grandparents came from England the same time as George Washington's grandparents. His parents were both born and raised in Prince George's County. In Feb. 1775, he joined the Independent MD Militia; in Feb. 1776

served in Independent MD under Rezin Bell and joined the Continental Army, MD Regiment, under Thomas Dent in Sept. 1777. He fought at Brandywine and Germantown and his group was not disbanded until 1783. Tong, Tonge, Tongue and Allied Families, Author: William H. Stout

"William Tong - Abstract from Mt. Vernon News -- August 29, 1908 - "William Tong, a Revolutionary soldier, who died in Mt. Vernon in 1848 or 49 and who served eight years in the MD Militia was buried in Old Union Cemetery ... in Shiloh and Mt. Vernon Twp. Mr. Tong's daughter became the wife of Joshua T. Barret, the father of Benson Barret, post-master at Mt. Vernon during the Civil War." Original issue of paper in on file at Newspaper Room of Illinois Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois