

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gates R3943
Transcribed by Will Graves

f9NC
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[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.]

State of South Carolina, Laurens County October 1832

On this 17th day of October personally appeared in open Court before Judge of the Court of ___ now sitting John Gates a resident of the State and district aforesaid aged sixty-eight 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. I the said John Gates was born in Guilford County North Carolina, near Dan River on the 3rd December 1764 & entered the United States service in February 1781 a short time previous to the celebrated battle at Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] under the command of Captain Josiah Gates who was commanded by Colonel James Martin of the same State & County as aforesaid. I entered the service as a volunteer for the term of six months, we were called minute men at that time being considered ready to march whenever required. Our Regiment marched to join said General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at or near Guilford Court House but on our arrival within 5 miles of that place, at Charles Bruce's Store we met Colonel Washington's [William Washington's] Horse & infantry (it being Sunday) & received information from Colonel Washington in which direction General Greene was – we marched in pursuit & Joined his Army the next day in Caswell County & thence proceeded under his command to Halifax Virginia. We remained probably about ten days at Halifax – and from thence received orders to return to our differen settlements in small squads not exceeding eight or ten in number to guard & protect the neighborhood from the incursions of the British & foreign parties. Colonel Martin accompanied us – We were to rejoin General Greene shortly afterwards at the High Rock Ford on Haw River in Guilford County, during the march my feet became so blistered & sore that I was unable to proceed in consequence of which Colonel Martin gave me a furlough – this is the reason why I did not return with the rest of the Regiment to share in the battle of G. Ct. House. On General Greene's leaving for the South we were left to protect the settlements, & I was not again in actual service until November following when I was ordered out under Lieutenant Walker of the Dragoons (as a Dragoon furnishing my on horse) to guard the assembly of North Carolina which was then held its sessions in Salem. Captain Bush commanded the infantry of the guard – after the adjournment of the Assembly (& Governor Caswell having died in the meantime) the guard accompanied Lieutenant Governor Alexander Martin brother to Colonel Martin my first commander to Salisbury, who succeeded Governor Caswell, I received no discharge except from Lieutenant Governor Martin, which was verbal. Some time in January 1781 or not long after the battle near Camden 16th of August 1780 called Gates defeat the militia in my neighborhood was formed into classes of ten men each from among whom one man was to be drafted for the US service for the period of Eighteen months – we were either compelled to hazard a draft, or to furnish a substitute in consequence of which we paid \$15 each to a man by the name of Johnson who was received as a substitute. I hereby relinquish any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any State to my knowledge nor did I ever received compensation for my services. Sworn to & subscribed this 17th day of October in the year

1832 – at the close of the War I moved to South Carolina & have lived in Laurens District for the last 45 years.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year above written.

S/ John Gates

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

S/ John Garlington, Clk

[Joseph Babb, a clergyman of Laurens District, and John K. Griffin of Newberry District gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: an unsigned note in this file indicates "doubtful whether he served 6 mo[months]—Rejected"
The Act of 1832 required applicants to prove that they served at least 6 months of active, actual duty in order to qualify for a pension.]