

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Hugh Gunion R4388

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Ohio } Ss

Jefferson County } On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common pleas now sitting in and for the county of Jefferson aforesaid Hugh Gunion a resident of the county of Jefferson and State of Ohio aged seventy 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 provisions made by the act of congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the fall of 1776 and served as herein after stated to wit First; in the fall of 1776, the day or month this declarant cannot now recollect, he was drafted for and served a tour of six months as a private Col James Porter under Capt. John Miller, Lieut Jacob Miller and Ensign Joseph Graft, 2<sup>nd</sup> He was drafted, he thinks in the month of August, in the year 1777 for the term of three months, and he served the said term of three months under Col. James Porter Capt. John Graft, he thinks Isaac Hare was Leut. & and Peter Graft Ensign, but owing the length of the service he performed after this as an enlisted soldier he cannot now recollect the Regiment to which he belonged now where this service was performed, nor the particulars respecting it, but he is positive that the above service he did perform. 3<sup>rd</sup>. He he enlisted in the army of the United States in the month of September in the year 1778 with a seargeant whose name he does not now recollect nor does he now recollect the name of the Reg't. to which he, this declarant then belonged; but he recollects perfectly well that the buttons on his coat was marked with the letters U.S.A. This first part of his enlistment was performed in the south principally in North and South Carrolina [see endnote], under Col. Thomas Potter or Porter and Capt. Jacob Ricker this declarant served under these officers he thinks for the space of six months; after which he was put in the 17<sup>th</sup> Reg't. of the Pennsylvania line under Gen Anthony Wayne Capt Smith Lieut not recolected Ensign John Thompson. This declarant thinks he was about one year under Gen Wayne and, as he understood, Gen Washington wanted a reenforcement of able bodied men, this declarant was then taken up North River into the State of New Jersey and served as a private under Capt. John Steel, ensign John Thompson, he thinks in the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment. This declarant states that he enlisted for the term during the war, and served in the army of the United as a private in the militia for the term of nine months and as an enlisted soldier at least three years – he further states that he was a taylor by trade and and a good part of the time of his enlistment he was employed in making clothes for the soldiers but that he got no pay for his services as a taylor. This declarant further states that he was at the battle of Trenton [26 Dec 1776], and there the Americans took six or seven hundred Hessians prisoners of war, and in that engagement he was wounded by a musket ball, in the forepart of his left thigh, the marks of which is yet apparant. That the said ball was taken out of his thigh immediately after the battle was over and, that he this declarant received but little injury from the wound he states that the force of the ball was broke by his cartridge Box, this declarant further states that he was at the battle of Stony point [16 Jul 1779], he thinks Smith was his captain at this battle, he states they had severe work that the evening before the engagement, Gen Wayne gave orders for them to lie on their arms, and to keeps as still as death, in the night, this declarant thinks they were marched about 1½ miles, at a very slow march, to the place of the engagement, and they had left all their fires burning at the place of their encampment – He this declarant also states that he was at the battle of York Town [siege of Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], and saw the capture of Lord Cornwallas. He states that the French Fleet lay across the mouth of the bay, and would not let the Brittish out; the Brittish one night sent down a fire ship, to break through, but she was sunk, this declarant state that he saw this transaction whilst he was standing guard at one of the Redoubts, he states that the engagement lasted for two or three weeks and that they were fighting by spells all that time, after the British were taken this declarant was sent as a guard to guard some of said prisoners to Frederick Town – from thence to Lancaster in the State of Pennsylvania, there he was discharged after serving at least three

years as an enlisted Soldier. He states he got a written discharge from Capt Steel, and he also got a certificate for land both said instruments he states are lost. He, this declarant further states, that when he first entered the service, and during all the time of the Revolutionary war when he was not in the service, he lived in Dromon Township in Lancaster County state of Pennsylvania. He further states that he first after his enlistment he marched from Lancaster in Pennsylvania into South Carolina, then he was sent west against the Indians, And that they had a scrimmage with the Indians, and the Indians were defeated next they went to Long Island, From thence through New Jersey State, From thence back again near to North Carolina, From thence we were marched to New Jersey again and was marched back & forth frequently, the places, by reason & infirmity this declarant cannot now recollect, This declarant further states that he was in several scrimages that he cannot now particularize, but he recollects well that in one of said scrimages in South Carolina, he got a severe stroke on his head, by the sword of a light horseman, the scar of which he will carry with him to his grave. This declarant further states that he was very illiterate when he entered the service, in what manner his name was spelled on the rolls he cannot tell, but he was called and known there by the name of Hugh Gulyon, Hugh Golyon Hugh Gullon or Hugh Goylon but his true name & the way his forefather has written it, is Hugh Gunion Hugh hisXmark Gunion  
The following are the answers of the applicant to the interrogatories propounded by the court as prescribed by the War Department

- I I was born in the county of Down in Ireland on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April AD 1755.
- II I have a record of my age, it is set down in my bible.
- III When called into service I lived in Lancaster County State of Pennsylvania From thence I removed in the year 1783 into the state of Maryland. From thence in the year 1800 I removed to Washington County State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1806 I removed to Jefferson County state of Ohio & I have lived here ever since.
- IV The tour of six months & the tour of three months I was drafted the remainder of the time I was in the army I was an enlisted soldier
- V Gen Washington, Gen Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], Gen Wayne, Gen Linkhorn [sic: Benjamin Lincoln], Col Potter Col. Steel Capt Smith Capt Steel, Capt Ricker Lieut Arch'd. Steel [Archibald Steel] Capt Miller & Capt Graft [were Continental soldiers where he served]. He knows of no person now living who can testify to his services in the revolutionary war
- VI I received a discharge from Capt John Steel but I have lost it it was part written & part printed
- VII Joseph Dun Esq'r. Rev Ab'm. Scott Nathaniel Crawford Edward Mansfield Hugh McCallaugh [are neighbors who can certify his veracity and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution]  
The general circumstances of my services are such as I have before related  
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State Hugh hisXmark Gunion

NOTES:

Pennsylvania Continental troops did not serve in the Carolinas until after the surrender of Cornwallis on 19 Oct 1781. I could make little sense of the sequence of events in Gunion's declaration.

A letter to the Pension Commissioner dated 14 July 1837 requests an explanation for the rejection of the claim of Hugh Gunion, who was still living. A letter dated 21 July 1846 from a Congressman to the Commissioner of Pensions states that the heirs of Hugh Gunion were seeking a pension for their father's service. On 10 Aug 1847 Rachel Gunion informed the Pension Commissioner that she had appointed an agent to investigate her claim to a pension due to her late husband, Hugh Gunion. A letter from the agent dated 18 Aug 1847 stated that he had been trying unsuccessfully for more than a year to get an explanation for why Hugh Gunion's application was rejected. The file contains no explanation, but the book *Rejected or Suspended Applications for Revolutionary War Pensions* (Washington, D.C. 1852) gives the following reason: "Service in the line and militia of Pennsylvania, requires proof and specification."