

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hugh Gaston S10729

f27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

(modified 7/18/08) & 8/3/15 & rev'd

5/2/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1834 personally appeared before me Samuel Pitts a Justice of the Peace in and aforesaid County & State Hugh Gaston a resident of the County and State aforesaid (he being unable to attend Court by reason of bodily infirmity) aged Eighty three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> A.D.1832.

That he entered the service some time in the year 1775, that he enlisted for the period of six months in a Company of Rangers commanded by Captain Cashaw [sic, Eli Kershaw] in Colonel Thompson's [William Thomson's] Regiment. He took the State oath and served until he was discharged – during his service as an enlisted soldier he was at the battle at a place called Reedy River [Great Cane Brake, December 22, 1775],<sup>1</sup> at this place the Tories were defeated and many taken prisoners and carried to Charleston South Carolina and from thence to Sullivan's Island where he was employed in guarding them until he was discharged. This excursion against the Tories is commonly known by the name of the "Snowy Campaign" [December 23-30, 1775]<sup>2</sup> -- He afterwards served in the militia in the years (1776) (1777) for various periods of time until the close of the revolution, first under the command of Captain William Gaston and afterwards under the command of Captain McClure [Hugh McClure]. While in the militia he served for the space of one, sometimes two, months at a time when the emergency of the times required it. Under the command of Captain Gaston he was stationed for a short time within ten miles of Charleston, thence he was marched to Purrysburg near the Savannah River where he was discharged. While under the command of Captain McClure [John McClure] he was at an engagement with the Tories at Mobley's Meeting house [May 1780],<sup>3</sup> where the Tories were defeated. Afterwards at Moncks Corner [April 14, 1780]<sup>4</sup> they were surprised by the enemy and compelled to retreat – they retreated up the Santee River where they were reinforced by a party of men from North Carolina. He was at battle at James Williamson's plantation [July 12, 1780, also known as Huck's Defeat, or the battle at Brattonsville]<sup>5</sup> near the south fork of Fishing Creek where the Tories and British were defeated. Colonel Lacy [sic, Edward Lacey] was commander

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_cane\\_brake.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_cane_brake.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_snow\\_campaign.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_mobleys\\_meetinghouse.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mobleys_meetinghouse.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_moncks\\_corner.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moncks_corner.html)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_williamsons\\_plantation.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html)

at this place. He was also at a battle at Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780]<sup>6</sup> where General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was highest in command. He further states that the discharge he received was a verbal one and that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person whose evidence he can procure who can testify to his services. When called into service he resided in Chester District in the State of South Carolina. 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 the agency of any State.

Interrogatories proposed by the Court to Hugh Gaston and answers there to:

1<sup>st</sup> : Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born as I believe in the State of Pennsylvania or New Jersey March 12, 1751.

2<sup>nd</sup> : Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

A. I had a record of my age in my father's Bible, the Bible is not now in existence.

3<sup>rd</sup> : Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived sent to the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

A. When called into service I was living in Chester District in the State of South Carolina, after the revolution he resided in Chester District South Carolina. About nine years since, I left South Carolina and removed to Wilcox County in the State of Alabama where I now live.

4<sup>th</sup> : How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for whom?

A. At first I enlisted for the period of six months, after the expiration of that time, I served at various times in the militia in all amounting to about four months, as I believe.

5<sup>th</sup> : 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?

A. I know Colonel Thompson and General Sumter. I also remember Captains Gaston & McClure and Col Lacey – many of the names of individuals of the revolution have faded from my memory. I was at the battle at Reedy River in the Snowy Campaign & at Mobley's Meeting house, I was at the surprise at Moncks Corner and at an engagement at Williamson's plantation also at Rocky Mount, and for further particulars, I refer to the preceding declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> : Did you ever receive a discharge from service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

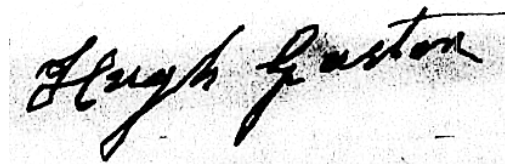
A. I received a verbal discharge from Colonel Thompson – he never received a written discharge.

7<sup>th</sup> : State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

A. I know Thomas S. Witherspoon a minister of a Gospel and Samuel S. Gamble, said Witherspoon resides in Monroe County and Gamble resides in my neighborhood.

Sworn to & subscribed to before me this 25 April 1834.

S/ Hugh Gaston

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

S/ Samuel Pitts, J. P.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_rocky\\_mount.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html)

[p 20]

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County – Peter Kelly<sup>7</sup> aged eighty-three years, a revolutionary soldier & pensioner who being duly sworn deposes & says that he is well acquainted with Hugh Gaston (who now claims a pension under the Act June 7 A.D. 1832) and that he (said Kelly) served under the command of Colonel Thompson in the year 1775 and 1776 and that he was present at the excursion against the Tories on Reedy River and throughout the whole of the Snowy Campaign. He knows that Mr. Hugh Gaston enlisted for the period of six months in a company of Rangers commanded by Captain Cashaw in Colonel Thompson's Regiment – and that Mr. Gaston was at Reedy River at the taking of the Tories and that the prisoners were carried to Sullivan's Island where the said Gaston was employed in guarding them. He knows that when the period of Mr. Gaston's enlistment expired he was discharged & returned home.

Sworn & subscribed or me November 21 A.D. 1834

S/ Peter Kelly, X his mark

S/ Samuel Pitts, JP

[p 21]

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

Personally appeared before me Samuel Pitts a Justice of the peace in and for the said County Hugh Gaston who being unable to attend at appeared before a court of Record in said County by reason of bodily infirmity and who after being duly sworn according to law, on oath, makes the following additions and amendments to his original declaration (herewith annexed) in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1832.

viz: That he enlisted for the period of six months in Colonel Thompson's Regiment under the command of Captain Cashaw. During this period he was at the battle at Reedy River against the Tories, the battle commenced early in the morning and lasted only a few minutes. The Tories fled & many were taken prisoners, who were taken to Charleston & thence to Sullivan's Island. This campaign was performed in the dead of winter – and the latter part of the year 1775 the first part of the year 1776. (this deponent is unable to state the precise time) – but he is positive that the expedition was called the Snowy Campaign. After guarding the Tories at Sullivan's Island for some time the term of his enlistment expired & he was discharged & returned home. While engaged in the militia under Captain Gaston he was stationed at the ten mile house near Charleston, from thence he was marched to Purysburg near the Savannah River & encamped there some considerable time in watching the movements of the enemy. He was there discharged, afterwards he was called out in the militia under the command of Captain McClure when he was at the battle at Mobley's Meeting house where the Tories were defeated, the battle was fought at break of day & lasted a short time several Negroes were killed & some Tories were taken prisoners. After the battle the militia returned home.

He was afterwards called out to defend & guard provisions toward at Moncks Corner where Captain McClure with the militia were surprised by the enemy's horsemen & compelled to retreat up the Santee River where we were reinforced by a party of men from North Carolina – afterwards hearing of the fall of Charleston they returned home – He was afterwards at the battle at James Williamson's plantation-- the night previous to the battle they encamped at Clem's branch when they crossed the Catawba River and attacked the united forces of the British & Tories about day break – the action continued but a few minutes. -- Captain Hook [sic, Huck] a

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7 [Peter Kelly S32352](#)

British officer was killed – several of the enemy were killed & some taken prisoners – afterwards he was at the battle at Rocky Mount – the battle commenced early in the morning & continued upwards of three hours. Tories & British took shelter in a large log house where they defended themselves from the attack of the friends of liberty under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. This deponent further says that he was not engaged in any regular civil pursuit during the revolution, but was ready at a moments warning to take the field when the emergency of the times required his service.

By reason of old age and loss of memory he is unable to state the dates of the events but he is satisfied that the facts set forth above are substantially correct.

S/ Hugh Gaston

Sworn & subscribed before me November 13, 1834

S/ Sam Pitts, JP

[Thomas S. Witherspoon, a clergyman and Samuel S. Gamble gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of aforesaid Hugh Gaston who being duly sworn deposes & says that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below viz: For six months I served as an enlisted soldier -- & for four months I served in the militia – and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed to before me April 24, 1834

S/ Hugh Gaston

S/ Sam Pitts, JP

[p 11]

Fishing Creek Church

Chester District South Carolina

That the bearers Mr. Hugh Gaston, Lay-Elder and Mrs. Martha Gaston his wife has been the greatest part of their life in the district and twenty-three years in this congregation – that they have conducted themselves with sobriety, honesty & industry – free from any public scandal or ground of church sensor, known to us – that they have been admitted to a participation of all the privileges to which professed Christians are entitled – that Mr. Gaston has long exercised the office of a Lay Elder in the Presbyterian Church with integrity & fidelity, and as they have signified their wish to be dismissed from us that they may settle in the State of Alabama & connect themselves with some religious Society they are, they are hereby dismissed & they are recommended as above stated.

Certified by order of Session this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 1823

S/ John B Davies, V. D. M.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia.]

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<sup>8</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of

[p 2]

[Book] R [No.] 463

2 June 1785

Mr. Hugh Gaston his Account of Sundries for Militia use

Amounting to £37.11.5 Stg [Sterling]

N:B: a Mare charged £100 [old South Carolina Currency] or £14.5.3 ½ Stg is included in said

Amount has no Receipt for the delivery

since certified

Ex<sup>d</sup>. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]

J. M<sup>c</sup>. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina

To Hugh Gaston

Dr [Debtor]

For 136 Days of self and Horse Under

Captain John McClure at 20/ [20 shillings old SC currency] per day

£136

For 12 Days as Quarter Master

Under Captain Hugh McClure at 45/per day

27

For 1 Mare lost near Moncks Corner

Praised at £100 under the Command of General Huger

100

~~For Pair Saddle Bags £4.17.6~~

~~Lost at the Battle of Hanging Rock~~

4.17.6

£263

Stg. £37.11.5

Personally appeared Hugh Gaston and made Oath that the above Account is Just and true, Sworn before me the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1783

S/ James Knox, JP

[p 4]

Received 9 June 1785 full Satisfaction for this account in Indent No. 463 Book R per order

S/ Robert Knox



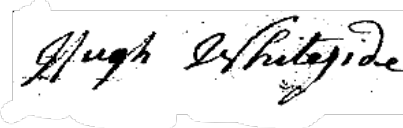
[p 5]

I do hereby Certify that Gaston Served as Soldier in a foot Company of militia in an Expedition to Purrysburg in Colonel wins [Richard Winn's] Regiment under the Command of Major Brown 61 Days Entered the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1778

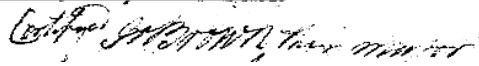
Certified by me

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1785

S/ Hugh Whiteside, Captain

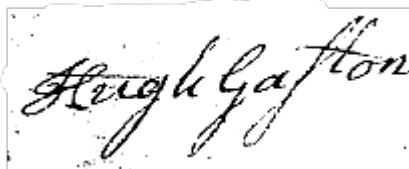


Certified S/ Jo Brown then Major



I do hereby empower and authorize Robert Knox to receive an Indent for the amount of my Account against the Public for service &c

S/ Hugh Gaston



To Edward Blake & Peter Bocquet Esquires  
Commissioners of the Public Treasury

I hereby Certify that the above was signed and acknowledged before me the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1785

S/ Jas. Knox, JP

[p 6]

Hugh Gaston for a Mare lost at Moncks Corner at the Surprise of the Troops under General Huger and for 61 days duty as a Private footman in Colonel Winn's Regiment under the Command of Major Brown – no valuation for the Mare – the Duty at 10/per day is Currency

£30.10

Stg. £4.7.1 ½

- not attested

This person has an account in No. [Illegible] wherein a Mare is Charged at £100 Currency but not Certified

Ex<sup>d</sup>. J. M<sup>c</sup>. A. G. [Examined by John McCall, Adjutant General]

The Mayor to be appraised

This man already passed in his Account passed by the Committee & [undeciphered abbreviations] to be certified that the duty herein charged is not included in that performed under Captain John McClure

S/ E D

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1785

This is to Certify that Hugh Gaston of my Company lost a certain Bay Mare at Moncks Corner in the public Service at the time the Troops under the Command of General Huger were Surprised at that place

Certified by me

S/ Hugh Knox, Captain



[p 9]

To the President & Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Hugh Gaston Humbly Sheweth That during the Revolutionary War with Great Britain your petitioner was a soldier in the militia service of his Country and that

shortly before Charleston was taken [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] possession of by the enemy he was [word written over and undeciphered] Moncks Corner under the command of Captain John McClure where the Troops under the Command of Colonel Washington [William Washington] were surprised by a party of the enemy and in their retreat from that place he left behind him and Lost a Bay Horse of the value of at least 65 Dollars and that he has never Received any payment therefor or recovered the same. That he endured much fatigue and suffered many privations incident to such a state of Warfare both in his own person and that of his friends who were anxiously engaged in the same Cause in the defense of our Common Country and endured many of its Calamities and thought these things were long passed and your petitioner hopes that your Honorable body will make him some Compensation for the loss of the Creature above mentioned.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c  
S/ Hugh Gaston

[p 10 & 13]

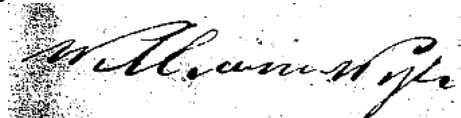
South Carolina Chester District

Captain William Wylie appeared & made Oath that he was present at Moncks Corner at the time the American troops under Colonel Washington were surprised by a party of the British. That he was in the same Company with Hugh Gaston under the command of Captain John McClure & that he knew the bay Mare which Hugh Gaston had there & that he lost her at that time while in the Service of his Country & that he believed the said Mare to be worth Sixty-five Dollars; & That the said Gaston was a faithful Friend to his Country & Suffered much Fatigue & many privations in her Service during the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to & signed November 27<sup>th</sup> 1818

Before me S/ P. Wylie, JP

S/ William Wylie



South Carolina Chester District } Personally appeared Hugh Gaston before me the subscribing Justice, who after being duly Sworn saith upon Oath, that the Lost property stated in the petition was worth Sixty-five Dollars & that he has never received any of said property or payment therefor, either by Discount or otherwise directly or indirectly

Sworn to & signed November 27<sup>th</sup> 1818

Before me P Wylie, JP

S/ Hugh Gaston

[p 12]

To the Speaker and Members of the house of Representatives of South Carolina

The petition of Hugh Gaston humbly Sheweth That during the Revolutionary war with Great Britain your petitioner was a Soldier in the Militia Service of his Country & that shortly before Charleston was taken possession of by the enemy he your petitioner was near Moncks Corner under the command of Captain John McClure where the troops under the Command of Colonel Washington were Surprised by a party of the Enemy under the Command of Colonel Tarleton [Banister Tarleton] & in their retreat from that place he left behind him & lost a Bay Mare of the value of at least Sixty-five Dollars & that he has never Received any payment therefor directly or indirectly or the property lost, Your petitioner furthermore saith that he endured much fatigue & Suffered many privations incident to Such a State of Warfare both in his own person & that of his friends who were anxiously engaged in the Same Struggle for freedom & in defense of our Common Country & suffered many of its Calamities & although these things

Are long past your petitioner hopes that your Honorable body will make him some Compensation in his old age for the property lost in the Cause of Our Common Country where your Petitioner has waited so Long & until the State is so able to pay Annual petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c

S/ Hugh Gaston

[p 16: Same petition as above except address to the South Carolina Senate]

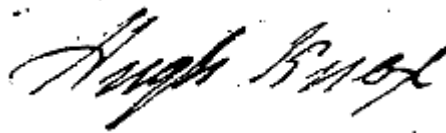
[p 17]

The State of South Carolina Chester District } Personally appeared Hugh Knox Esquire before me the Subscribing Justice and being Sworn agreeable to Law saith upon his Oath that the deponent, Hugh Gaston and others being on duty under the Command of Captain John McClure near Moncks Corner in the month of April in the year 1780 the said Hugh Gaston there lost a valuable Mare at the time Colonel Washington's Troops were surprised by the British at Moncks Corner, the deponent further saith upon his Oath that he believes said Mare was worth Sixty-five Dollars.

Sworn before me this  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 1819

S/ P Wylie, JP

S/ Hugh Knox

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugh Knox". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted.

[p 19: The petitioner was not granted. The reasons were not stated.]