

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gaspenson S1818

f16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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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 Tennessee, Anderson County: At August Sessions of said County 1832

On this 29th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, at a Circuit Court held for the County and State aforesaid, by the Honorable Edward Scott one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of law and equity for said State, being a court of record, and having the power of fine and imprisonment, John Gaspenson – aged 89 years a resident of said County and State, who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of a law of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was born in Gloucestershire England some time in the year 1744 that he came to America as a soldier in the British Army under General Howe about the commencement of the Revolutionary war – that he continued to serve in the British Army in various places during the war until about six weeks before the siege of Ninety Six [May 22-June 19, 1781], which was then in possession of the British under the command of Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger] – then about six weeks before the siege of said fort, he was severely chastised by his officer for doing, what he conceived to be his duty to do, upon receiving which chastisement he immediately deserted from the British Army then at Ninety Six in company with James David and Ephraim Haynes two British soldiers – that after he had left the British Army he went up on the Tyger River where he lived about one month among the Whigs – he then came up to Burke County N. C. where he took some man's place in a company who were going against the Indians – in this expedition he was out about three weeks after his return to Burke County he entered the Army of the United States as a volunteer in a company of horse which was commanded by Captain or Cornet, Thomas Canada [Thomas Kennedy] and Lieutenant Hiland, afterwards promoted to a Majority – this company was attached to a Regiment of horse commanded by Colonel White – applicant entered the Army at Morganton Burke County N. C. for an indefinite period of time – from Morganton his company marched under the command of the said Captain Canada through Salisbury N. C. and Charlotte N. C. and on to Drowning Creek, and Cross Creek when the said company joined the Main Army under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Colonel John McDowell [sic, Joseph McDowell?] and the said Colonel White – the whole Army then marched on towards Wilmington, to a place called the brick-house [November 15, 1781] not many miles from Wilmington – in this house there was a party of British and Tories stationed, to capture which a part of the American force was detailed under Captain Canada – applicant was one of this party and succeeded after a brisk opposition from the enemy in destroying the house and taking several prisoners – in this engagement applicant was wounded in the right side with a bayonet and received a skin wound in the left arm after this affair applicant with his company joined the Main Army and proceeded on to Wilmington, of which they took possession the British having evacuated it – From Wilmington applicant under the command of his said Captain Canada, Lieutenant Hiland and Hezekiah Haregroves, [sic, Hargrove? or Hargrave?] Sergeant, with 12 or 15 men proceeded along the country upon the waters of Deep River when one morning as they were eating something at a house on their route, they were surprised by a body of Tories under the command of Colonels Fannon [sic, David

Fanning] and Elrod [John Elrod], upon their approaching the house Captain Canada and five or six of his men attempted to make their escape but were pursued by the Tories and all taken prisoners – while the Tories were in the pursuit of Canada and those who went with him applicant made his escape on foot with the Lieutenant, Sergeant, and the balance of the man, and were closely pursued by the Tories after they had captured Canada and his party, but they took refuge in a swamp for some time and escaped their pursuit – that same night applicant and his party met with a force of American militia who were marching to the relief of some of General Rutherford's men, and the next morning started with an additional number of men to recapture Captain Canada, if possible, but in marching for this purpose they met Canada who had been paroled and who thereafter refused again to join the American Army – applicant states that he continued to march about through the country after the Tories until some time in January or February when he left the Army or company with which he had been doing service somewhere above Cross Creek – applicant states that he was in the American service he claims six and seven months – he states that while near Wilmington he heard of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown [October 19, 1781] – he states that being an entire stranger in the Country at that time and totally unacquainted with its geography, he cannot recollect with accuracy the respective localities of the rivers and places over which he marched – he states that for about 30 years after the war he resided in Rutherford County N. C. when he moved to Georgia where he lived about two years, when he moved to Burke County N. C. where he lived about nine years, when he moved back to Rutherford N. C. where he lived about one year, when he moved to South Carolina where he lived about two years, when he moved to Knox County Tennessee, where he lived about five years, when he moved to Anderson County Tennessee, where he has lived ever since – applicant states that he has no record of his age, but from the best information he has he thinks he is 89 years old – he states that he never got a discharge for his services, nor has he any documentary evidence whatever of his service, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure war who can testify to his services – 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.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 29th of August 1832.

S/ Arthur Crozier, Clk

S/ John Gaspenson, X his mark

[John Chiles and Samuel Edmundson gave a supporting affidavit.]

[Fact in file: Veteran died February 26, 1835]

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