

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Cannon S32166

f21SC

Transcribed by Will Graves 7/22/06

rev'd 5/21/11 & 8/18/14

[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 Indiana, County of Daviess

On this 11th day of May 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the Probate Court of said County, now sitting, James Cannon, aged seventy 8 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated, viz:

That he was born in Ninety Six District in South Carolina where he resided (except when in the service) till after the revolutionary war. In the year 1775 in December, he volunteered in the service of the United States, in said district under Captain Jared Smith, Lieut. Ball & Ensign James Lindsey, for the term of nine months. The company directly marched past Allison's fort to Nabors creek, to Smiths station (S.C.) where they remained during the nine months aforesaid. Smith's station was on the frontiers of South Carolina, about forty miles from Declarant's place of residence, and the design of the company's being stationed there was to guard the frontiers from the incursions of the Cherokee Indians, who were supposed to be urged to hostilities by the Tories. A treaty with said Indians was held at said station about the time this declarant's services there expired and soon after he was discharged, and returned to the district aforesaid. He received no written discharge, but served in said company full nine months.

In May 1777, he again volunteered in the service of the United States, in said district, for three months, under Capt. James Grear [sic, Greer or Grier], Lieut. Joseph Ramage; the ensign's name not recollected. He marched in this company, together with Capt. Dugan's Company about a hundred miles to Augusta, (Ga.) near which place he joined Col. McCrary's regiment. Thence he marched in said regiment, and under said Col. for E. Florida, and crossed rivers Ogeechee, Altamaha, and St. Mary's, thro a principally wilderness country. At St. Mary's river, the regiment joined an army of regular soldiers, the number he reckons was about 1500, and commanded by a Maj. Genl. Robert Howe. The regulars had come by water up the St. Mary's. The object of this expedition was to attack a Col. Brown [Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown], a Tory, who had fortified himself at about twenty miles distance from where we joined the regulars. It was said that Brown had under his command about five hundred Tories. Declarant remained encamped at St. Mary's where he had joined said regulars eight or ten days. During the stay a small party of the army was dispatched to Brown's fortification, had a skirmish with the Tories, and returned. Afterwards a strong party were sent against Brown, but, on coming to his fortification, found it evacuated. A Deserter afterwards informed our army that Brown's party had

retreated to a great swamp in the neighborhood. Many of the regulars and volunteers became sick, it being a very sickly country, and the army returned, the regulars by water, and the volunteers by land. The regiment to which this declarant belonged were discharged and went immediately home; the company to which he belonged returned under Col. McCrary till they reached the Georgia Settlements, where they separated from him, and declarant went to his residence in the district aforesaid. Directly after crossing St. Mary's River, declarant was taken sick, and it was with greatly difficulty he returned. He received no written discharge, but served his three months for which he had volunteered.

In December 1778 he again volunteered, in said district, in the service of the United States, under Capt. Sexton, Lieut. Young, Ensign Samuel Sexton (he thinks) for a term of three months. He was directly marked towards Augusta (Ga.) and joined Col. James Williams' regiment about ten miles from home at a place called Mudlick. Col. Williams and Maj. Gillam were the officers of the regiment. After joining this regiment, he proceeded, therein, by a forced march to Savannah river opposite Augusta, where the regiment took up quarters, and remained there nearly three months, during which time Genl Ash [sic, John Ashe] was defeated on Brier Creek [March 3, 1779], by Provost, about 50 miles from where declarant was stationed. The said regiment was placed and remained opposite Augusta as aforesaid, for the purpose of guarding about 200 prisoners, Tories who had been taken, at diverse times, by scouts and placed under the care of said regiment. Declarant recollects that during this stay at this place several companies of volunteers passed their encampment, and went on to join Genl Ash. Shortly after the defeat of this General, the regiment to which this declarant was attached marched back under Col. Williams to ninety six, with the prisoners aforesaid. At the time he returned, the general court was sitting in Ninety Six, and the prisoners, being Tories, were tried there before said court, for their lives. They were all acquitted except noted Tories who were condemned to be hanged and were executed accordingly at Ninety six. Declarant recollects, that among those who were hanged were Aquilla Hall, James Lindley, John Clay, and John Anderson. During the sitting of the Court at Ninety six, the time of service of the declarant expired, and shortly thereafter he was discharged and went to his place of residence in the same district of Ninety six. This declarant served in this last tour full three months, but got no written discharge. He never was in any battle except trifling skirmishes unworthy mentioning. He was in the services during several scouts beside those aforesaid, one against the noted Carson, but these excursions were short, and declarant does not therefore prefer claims for them. Besides the officers aforesaid, he was not acquainted with any officers of the revolution except Genl Pickens [Andrew Pickens], Maj. Taylor, Genl. Greene [Nathanael Greene], & Col. Morgan [Daniel Morgan].

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whom testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. But Samuel Comer and Squire Bruce & W. Fuller can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution, they being well acquainted with him, and residents in his present neighborhood.

He was born as aforesaid in the District of Ninety Six (S. C.) June 5, 1755. He has no record of his age but has the account from his parents. Shortly after the close of the war, he went to North Carolina to see relatives and there married in Montgomery County where he resided till about 1790, when he removed to Lee County, Virginia. After living in Lee County (Va.) for about 20 years, he removed to Indiana territory, into the district which now forms the said County of Daviess, where he has ever since resided. At this distance of time he does pretend to state the month and year with certainty in which he commenced the

several tours of duty aforesaid, but he is clear that he served the length of time he stated, and that in the whole, it must have been fifteen months at least. 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.

S/ James Cannon, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ James McDonald, Probate Judge

[Squire Bruce and William Fuller gave the standard supporting affidavit.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year and 3 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]