

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Gage S32262

Transcribed by Will Graves

f13NC

7/25/2008 rev'd 7/24/15

[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 Arkansas, Madison County: SS

On this 22nd day of September in the year 1837 personally appeared before me John Austin a Justice of the Peace, and of the County-Court (a Court of Record) in and for the County of Madison and State of Arkansas James Gage aged eighty-three years, a resident of the County and State aforesaid. The said Gage, by reason of bodily infirmity, being unable to appear in court, the place of holding court in said County being 17 miles from his residence, and the said Gage blind and very infirm, so much so, that he cannot be conveyed to the Court-house of said County, even in a carriage, without manifest hazard of his life, at his instance, the undersigned a Justice as aforesaid attended at the dwelling house of said Gage in the County and State aforesaid and on the day aforesaid. And the said James Gage being then and there, 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 7th 1832.

This Declarant, on his said oath states, that he entered into the service of the United States a volunteer private of militia, at the plantation of John Withers in the County of Rutherford, State of North Carolina where he then lived under Captain Robert Porter and as is his best recollection on or about the 1st day of June 1776. Declarant states, that at that time, the Indians, had recently committed depredations on an adjacent settlement; that the inhabitants of Withers's neighborhood became alarmed for their safety. That a Fort was built at Withers called McGaha's Fort [McGaughey's Fort] for the security of the inhabitation of the surrounding Country: than a volunteer militia company was raised to guard said Fort and the inhabitants of the Country from Indian incursions; that on Captain Robert Porter, was conferred, the command of the company was raised, and in which, declarant volunteered and served. This declarant and the others of said company made frequent excursions from the Fort into the Country, to watch the movements of the Indians, keep them in check, and prevent their depredations. That he performed service as a private, in said company, until on or about the 1st of November 1776 as is his best recollection and was discharged, verbally by Captain Porter at that time and at said Fort.

This declarant, on his said Oath, further states, that he again entered into the service of the United States, on or about the 1st day of November 1778, as is his best recollection, at William Ross's, where he then lived, in the State of South Carolina, on the waters of Fair Forest Creek [sic, Fairforest Creek]; the name of the County not recollected. He states that a party of Tories, a short time before, had made an attack on the house of Colonel Thomas near said Ross's, and had killed a Negro-man belonging to Colonel Thomas; whereupon, Captain John Thomas his son, and Captains Blassengame [perhaps Thomas Blassingame?] and Swearingen [perhaps either John or Van Swearingen?] raised volunteer companies of mounted gun-men to pursue the Tories who fled in the direction to cross the Savannah River above Augusta. Colonel Thomas and his company declarant being one rendezvoused at Col. Thomas's, from whence they departed in pursuit of the Tories and were joined on their way by Captains Blassengame and Swearingen, that he continued to pursue the Tories, crossing the Rivers

Tyger, Enoree and Saluda, until they arrived near the Savannah River opposite to Augusta, when receiving intelligence that the party of Tories pursued by them, had been attacked, and with loss, were defeated by the Whigs at Kettle Creek [February 14, 1779] on the Georgia side of the River; Captain Thomas conducted his company back to Colonel Thomas's and (verbally) discharged them, declarant being one of them, on or about the 15th day of November 1778 as is his best recollection.

Declarant states that he again entered into service of the United States in the State of South Carolina at the residence of his father-in-law William Ross with whom he then lived, on the waters of Fair Forest Creek, the County not recollected, on or about the 25th day of November 1778 as is his best recollection. That he was then and there drafted and served as a private in the militia company commanded by Captain John Thomas, and in the Regiment under command of Colonel Thomas and Major Branham [probably Thomas Brandon?]. Deponent does not recollect the names of the Captains of the other companies composing the Regiment, but supposes that captains Blassingame and Swearingen and their companies were with them, but of this he is not positive. The Regiment rendezvoused at Col. Thomas's and from thence proceeded to join and cooperate with General or Colonel Williams [either James Williams] or Williamson [or Andrew Williamson], he is not certain of the grade or name, and joined the troops under the command of that Officer, on an eminence, a short distance from the Savannah River opposite Augusta. That from thence Declarant and Lewis Taylor and a party of about 40 men were detached to conduct military stores and provisions, in wagons to General Ashe's [John Ashe's] encampment at or near the mouth of Briar Creek; in pursuance of which declarant and the party crossed over to Augusta and proceeded down on the Georgia side of the River to within 10 or 15 miles of the encampment when receiving intelligence of the defeat of General Ashe had surrendered [March 3, 1779] of his encampment to the British, declarant and Taylor and their party re-conducted their charge to Augusta where they arrived in the evening and remained that night, Taylor and declarant crossed the River next morning and joined the troops not far from Augusta where they were encamped. From thence Col Thomas's Regiment was detached and proceeded to guard the Ford of the Savannah River at Beach Island, where declarant remained and served for some time and was then regularly discharged from service on or about the 25th of February 1779, as is his best recollection. His discharge was written by Captain Thomas & signed by him by Major Branham and Colonel Thomas. Leaving Beach Island encampment, declarant repaired to the encampment of General Williams or Williamson, he is not certain which is the name of the General, and presented to him, for his approval and signature, his said discharge, and the General approved and signed the same. Declarant then drew and obtained provision to subsist him on his return to Mr. Ross's the place of his residence.

Declarant having removed with his family to Rutherford County, North Carolina, he was there, and at the muster ground of Captain Jacob Vinzants [Jacob Vanzant] therein, on 1st Broad River drafted out of the militia Company commanded by said Vinzants. The object of the draft declarant states was to obtain men to guard and protect Col. Earle's [John Earle's] Blockhouse or Fort on Pacolet River from expected attacks of British and Tories. After said draft, which was made on or about the 1st day of September 1780, as is his best recollection, declarant proceeded, with others, to said Blockhouse, crossing Second Broad River and Main Broad River on their way. Declarant states, that he remained and performed duty as a private at said Block-house under command of Colonel Earle two months, he does not remember any other Officer in command at the Block-house except Colonel Earle. By permission of Colonel Earle declarant engaged as a volunteer private in a company of mounted gunmen on an expedition against the Cherokee towns on some of the head branches of the Tennessee River, to equip himself for which, with permission of Colonel Earle he departed from the Block-house, returned home, and having prepared himself for the expedition joined a party destined for that service at the place of rendezvous, an old field in Rutherford County North Carolina, on or about the 20th day of November 1780, as is his best recollection. He states, that there were two Regiments or parties engaged in this expedition, one commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell of Burke County, the other

by Major Singleton of Rutherford County and both of them of North Carolina. That they proceeded under command of their respective officers, declarant being attached to Major Singleton's [probably Richard Singleton] command and serving as a private in the Company commanded by Captain Robertson [Thomas Robertson] to the head waters of the Catawba River and through Swaneno [sic, Swannanoa] Gap of the Blue Ridge to the Cherokee Towns. As the troops approached the Towns, they were fired on [by] parties of Indians from the hills, but with little or no effect, the troops rapidly crossed the River, entered the Towns killed and took prisoners about 27 Indians young and old and burned their Corn and Huts. After remaining there several days their officers marched the troops back to the head of the Catawba River and there dismissed and (verbally) discharged them on or about the 1st day of January 1781, as is his best recollection. Declarant states that he has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know nor can he procure the testimony of any witness to prove the same except Alexander Ross whose deposition he expects will be annexed hereto.

Declarant 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 any Agency of any State or Territory.

Under the solemnity and responsibility of his said Oath, he respectfully represents to the Commissioner of Pensions, That for the last six years he has resided in the late Territory, now State of Arkansas, in an obscure part of the Country removed from the seat of Justice or place of holding Court, during all which time, he has been almost helpless, from old age and bodily infirmity, and totally blind. That he has not been able before this time to procure any person to draft and have presented for him his application for a pension under the act of Congress of 7th June 1832. That from his great age, the length of time since the services set forth were performed, the variety of incidents, scenes and changes which have occurred to him, but above all, from the frailty of memory the attendant on old age, he has made the above declaration with much difficulty and after considerable thought and reflection. He is not certain that errors, may not have been committed therein, particularly as to the periods at which his services are stated to have been performed; but if errors do exist therein, he declares that they are justly attributable to the imperfection of memory under the circumstances indicated and to no other cause. On his said Oath he states, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the grade of private Soldier.

1. (To wit) I served as a volunteer, private under Captain Porter as before stated not less than 5 months
2. I served as a volunteer private under Captain Thomas after the Tories as stated before not less than 15 days
3. I served as a private of drafted militia in Col. Thomas's Regiment as before stated not less than 3 months
4. I served as a private of drafted militia at Earle's Block house on Pacolet as stated before not less than 2 months
5. I served as a volunteer private of mounted gun-men on the expedition against the Cherokees not less than 1 month 10 days
and for such service I claim a pension -- Total Service 11 months 25 days

And the said justice then and there (to wit) at the time and place designated in the caption, propounded to the declarant, the questions following, to which, in their order, on his oath, he answered as follows (to wit)

1st When and in what year were you born? I was born in the York Government (now State of New York) in Woodberry Township, about 15 miles from the North River and about 60 miles from the town of New York, on the 9th day of September 1754 as informed by my father

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? I have no record of my age.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? When first called into service, I lived in Rutherford County, North

Carolina; I was also called into service while I lived in South Carolina, the name of the County I have forgotten; I was also called into service again whilst I lived in North Carolina Rutherford County, at the close of the war I was living in Rutherford County North Carolina. I lived there about 30 years, from thence I moved to the State of Tennessee, thence to Alabama, thence to Tennessee again and from Tennessee to Washington County Arkansas Territory, now State, and I now live in Madison County in the State of Arkansas.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom? I volunteered and was also drafted into Service.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. I know of no regular officer who was with the Troops where I served, unless General or Colonel Williams or Williamson was a regular Officer, of which I cannot state positively. Colonel Thomas's Regiment, Colonel McDowell's Regiment, and the Regiment or party under Colonel Singleton, or rather Major Singleton are the only regiments I can now remember as having served when I served. I was not in any battle or engagement except that of the Cherokee Towns as mentioned in the preceding declaration and to which I refer for the circumstances of my service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? I have stated that all my discharges except one were (verbal), that was written by Captain Thomas, signed by him, by Major Branham and Colonel Thomas and given me by them, it was also signed by General or Colonel Williams or Williamson. It got out of my possession many years ago, I know not how, nor where it is.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution. George Sanders, David Phillips, John Titsworth, Henry Pickens, Pleasant Johnson and I believe all to whom I am known, would unhesitatingly depose; that my character for veracity is good, and that my services as a soldier of the Revolution have been ever unquestioned, and by them confidently believed as by me stated.

S/ James Gage, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, before me. S/ John Austin, an acting Justice of the peace and of the County Court of Madison County and State of Arkansas.

State of Arkansas, County of Madison

This day Alexander Ross aged 66 years and a resident of the County and State aforesaid personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace and of the County Court of said County at the house of James Gage in said County, and being first duly sworn according to law depose and saith. That the above declarant James Gage on this day, in his presence signed and swore to the preceding declaration, the same being previously distinctly read to, and by him heard and understood.

This deponent cannot positively depose, as of his own knowledge, to the revolutionary services of said Gage, but states that he has intimately known said Gage since his earliest knowledge of almost any person. That William Ross mentioned by declarant, was this deponent's father. That he has always understood that said Gage lived with his father in South Carolina on the waters of Fair Forest, and whilst living there, served as a soldier of the Revolution against the British and Tories. That with the exception of a few years only he has lived ever since in the neighborhood of said Gage, has often conversed with him and others reputed to have been a revolutionary soldiers of and concerning the services of Gage as a soldier of the Revolution, that he always understood from them all that said Gage was a revolutionary Soldier, and that on the part of said Gage that he served as set forth in his said declaration, so far as he can recollect and as he believes.

This deponent on his said Oath further states that said Gage has been very infirm for many years

and is now by reason of bodily infirmity unable to attend Court. The said Gage has been totally blind for at least 10 years last past. The said Gage's reputation for truth, piety and morality is good, and so far as this deponent have ever known or heard, has always been considered unquestionable. That he is universally believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a revolutionary soldier of the United States and this deponent is confident of the correctness of that opinion and that said Gage served as by him stated.

S/ Alexander Ross, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed by the said Alexander Ross the 22nd day of September 1837 at the place mentioned in the caption before me.

S/ John Austin, JP

[Young Lamar, a clergyman of Washington County, Arkansas, Allen T. Gilliland, David Phillips and Henry Pickens gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 10 days in the North Carolina militia.]