

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Harris Gammon S3389

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee }
Knox County } Circuit Court at August Session 1832.

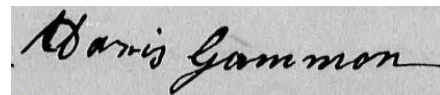
On this 24th day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Samuel Powell one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of law and equity in and for the State of Tennessee, being courts of record, and having the power of fine and imprisonment, Harris Gammon a citizen of said County aged seventy four years, who being duly sworn in open Court, according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Pittsylvania County Virginia on the 27th day of September 1757, from where he was taken when quite and infant to be preserved from the outrages of the Indians to Goochland, where he was kept for sometime – from Goochland he was taken according to the information of his Parents to some other counties, but while yet a boy he was taken by his parents back to Pittsylvania County, where he continued to reside until sometime in 1775 or 1776 as well as he now recollects, he thinks however it was before he was placed on the muster roll, he enlisted or perhaps was enrolled in a company of minute men as a volunteer private, which company was under the command of Captain Peter Perkins, who lived in the said County of Pittsylvania on Dan river, and who was afterwards called Col. Perkins, said company was also commanded by Lieutenant Jesse Herd [Jesse Heard]. Applicant does not now recollect whether his said company was of the continental establishment or not – he knows they were called minute men, and were obliged by the terms of their enlistment or enrollment, to be in constant readiness to take the field at a minutes warning. Applicant states that about the period above mentioned his company was ordered to rendezvous at a place in said County of Pittsylvania, known by the name of Bachelors hall, and were enrolled for a three months tour. After the said Company had met they were marched under the above mentioned officers to Petersburg, where they remained but a short time when they marched on to Cabin point [in Surry County] where they crossed James river and proceeded on to Williamsburg, where they remained but a day or night and proceeded on to little York where they crossed the river over to Gloucester [sic: York River to Gloucester], where they remained a few days and then marched to the mouth of Rappahanoc [sic: Rappahannock River], here applicants company met with some other companies of Melitia which had been collected there, for the purpose as he now believes of expelling the British shipping from the shore – he states that while there he heard much firing of cannon, which he understood was between the continental army which was encamped on the other side of the Piancotanc river [sic: Piankatank River], and the British vessels in the Bay. Applicant states that he beleives the main object for which his company was called out, was to go to Gwinns Island where Governor Dunmore had fled to [sic: Gwynn Island, 9 Dec 1775], but upon goeing to the mouth of the Rappahanoc something or other prevented them from crossing to the Island. Applicant states that while lying at the mouth of Rappahanoc he recollects of seeing many vessels of the British laying in the Bay, among which he recollects two very large ones called the Foy and Roebuck – applicant states that after remaining at the mouth of the Rappahanoc for four five or six weeks his company was ordered to march back to the western frontier [see endnote]. Applicant states that a week or two before leaving the mouth of the Rappahanoc, he was taken sick and was confined with several others in an old warehouse as an hospital, and when the company left their encampment for the western frontier, applicant was put into a waggon and hauled home, its being directly in the rout to which his company had been ordered – he states that he arrived at home about two weeks before the three months for which he had been enrolled had expired, and his company left him at home and proceeded on to their destination to the west – he states that he did not get well for three or four weeks after he arrived at home. Applicant states that about three weeks after he got home his said Captain Perkins having returned from his expedition to the west, and the time of enrollment of his company being expired, he gave to applicant a written discharge. Applicant states that

two or three years after the campaign above mentioned he was drafted for a tour of three months, and ordered to rendezvous at Pittsylvania courthouse – he recollects of the militia of said County meeting there and of his marching into Halifax County and passing through Halifax town Virginia, where the army was met by an express who informed them that the object of their campaign had been accomplished or superceded, and the whole army was then and there discharged. Applicant cannot at this time recollect but very little of this campaign there being no important incidents to fix it upon his memory – he cannot recollect the name of a single officer in command – he thinks he was out about five or six week – and he knows it was after his marriage which took place two or three years after his first campaign. Applicant states that sometime in the last of July or first of August 1781 he was drafted for three months and ordered to rendezvous at Bachelors hall in said Pittsylvania County, Virginia, where he met his company and was enrolled in a company commanded by Captain Charles Williams, which company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. William Dix. Applicant states that his said Regiment marched on to old Jamestown where they remained a day or two and then marched through old Williamsburg, to some place between there and little York, where we met with a considerable force under the command of General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] who there took the command in Chief. Applicant states that Major Merriwether [probably Thomas Meriwether] was in command in this campaign – he states that at the time he entered the service Sylvester Adams being a man of much wealth, furnished to the American army, a waggon and horses, and applicant was ordered by his said Captain Williams to drive the said waggon, and he continued to drive the said waggon until his Regiment met with Genl. Stephens as before mentioned, and he continued in the same service till the army reached little York, where it remained until the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. During the siege of Yorktown applicant was employed in driving the said waggon in hauling bombs balls ammunition &c from James river about 12 miles distant. Applicant states that he continued in the said service at Yorktown until the surrender of Cornwallis after which time applicant continued in the same service until the army had reached Fredericksburg at which place applicant had hauled a load of baggage, and was accompanied by a great portion of the army with many prisoners. At Fredericksburg applicant's time of service having expired he was discharged and returned home.

Applicant states that he has served in the Revolutionary army as well as he now believes between seven and eight months viz. one campaign of three months as a volunteer, to within two weeks of the expiration of the time – between one and two months of another three months campaign, and another campaign as a drafted private, for three months. Applicant states he lived in Pittsylvania County during the whole war of the Revolution, and until 1796 when he moved to Knox County Tennessee, then a Territory, where he has continued to live ever since. he states that he has a record of his age in a bible – he states [that] he believes he got a written discharge at the expiration of each of his campaigns, but he has lost them – he says he has no documentary evidence whatever of his service and he knows of no person, other than the one whose certificate is hereunto annexed, whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. 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 24th day of August 1832



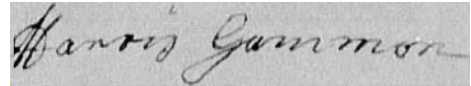
State of Tennessee }
Knox County } I Alexander Norton [pension application R7725] of Blount County, Tennessee, aged seventy three years, do hereby certify that I lived in Pittsylvania County Virginia, during the Revolutionary war – that I knew Harris Gammon who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration – that I was drafted at the same time with the said Harris Gammon in the summer of 1781 and served the whole campaign with him – that during that campaign I was his messmate and know that he did serve in the said campaign as is stated in the above declaration. And I do further certify that in the neighbourhood where the said Harris Gammon lived in Pittsylvania County Va. it was reputed and

believed that he served in the Revolutionary war, that he was a credible man and his statement entitled to full credit, and I do further certify that I never heard the fact doubted or contradicted that he was a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 24th day of August 1832 Alexander hisXmark Norton

State of Tennessee }

Knox County } On this 1st day of April 1833 Personally appeared before me William Sawyers an acting Justice of the Peace for said County Harris Gammon aged 74 years a citizen of said County who having been sworn, doth on his oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions of an act of Congress passed on the 7th June 1832. That owing to the long time which has elapsed since he performed services in the Revolutionary war and a consequent loss of memory, he cannot state with positive particularity the time exactly and the precise incidents of those services, but he confidently believes that he was in the service in the Revolutionary war as a private, at least seven months for which he claims a pension – he states that the reason why he did not procure the certificate of a clergyman to testify to his veracity and reputation for military services, was, that there then was and still is no resident clergyman in his neighbourhood who has resided there for a time sufficient to have known of his said reputation, he states as stated in his former declaration that he has a record of his age in the bible which he now has and which was taken from his fathers bible he states that those persons in his neighbourhood who can testify to his veracity, and his reputation in the neighbourhood, are Edward Smith, William Hall, Thomas Hall, John Wear and others

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

NOTE: Immediately after driving Lord Dunmore from Gwynn Island on 11 July 1776, Gen. Andrew Lewis was ordered to take the army to Long Island of Holston River, now Knoxville TN, against the Cherokee Indians.