

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gwin S3393

f43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/10/08 rev'd 12/2/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Tennessee, Carrol [Carroll] County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions September Term 1832

On this fourteenth day of September 1832 appeared in open Court before the justices of the said Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions John Gwin aged sixty-nine years a resident of the County of Carrol in the State of Tennessee 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

This Declarant states that in the year 1780 he entered the service of the United States as a substitute Private Militia Soldier in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Edward Gwin of the North Carolina Militia and who was the Brother of this Declarant in the Company commanded by Benjamin Rainy [Benjamin Rainey] his Major was by the name of William McCalley [William McCauley]. This Declarant was then about the age of sixteen years and a resident in the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina and in which County he became a substitute in to the Regiment aforesaid. This tour of service only lasted about 2 months but during the tour of service he was in the unfortunate Battle of Gates defeat at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]<sup>1</sup> after this defeat having served out his time of service as such Substitute for Randal Elmore instead of returning home his Declarant joined the American Army in Guilford North Carolina which was then under the Command of Major General Nathanael Greene who after the unfortunate Battle of Camden was superseded General Gates Greene [sic, Greene superseded Gates] in the command of the Southern Army this Declarant was a volunteer and served for 2 months and became attached to the company commanded by Captain Joseph Grissom [Joseph Gresham] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor of the North Carolina Militia and which Regiment was from the County of Orange after this tour of service which only lasted for 2 months he in the same year joined the company commanded by Captain William Gwin his Brother in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Lytle the Brother of Colonel Archibald Lytle then of the Regular Army Commanding the \_\_ Regiment of North Carolina Continental line in the Brigade commanded by General William Butler<sup>2</sup> General Greene still was Commander in chief whilst attached to the Army in this tour of service this declarant was in the Battle of Guilford. The American Army was laid off into three divisions the militia in the center and on the right extending to Huskins old fields and the regulars on the left facing the immediate command of Lord Cornwallis though the American Army retreated for about four miles and encamped on Troublesome Creek yet we claimed the Hour of the day. The number of the killed

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>2</sup> I'm not aware of any such officer in the NC Continental Army. The reference is probably a mistake in reference to the militia general, John Butler.

was supposed to be about 200 the number of the wounded not now recollected. It was stated that the loss on the part of the enemy was greater than ours. From this place the American Army marched to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River and laid there about 2 days – at this place Colonel Henry Lee of Virginia who commanded a Legion of Calvary [sic, Cavalry] in the Army beat up for volunteers when This Declarant left his Company and Regiment and joined this Legion as a Volunteer – from this place (Ramsey's Mill) the Army marched onto Gum Swamp near Camden and proceeded on from thence to Ninety Six – but this Declarant was detailed off in the Company commanded by Captain Price of the North Carolina Militia in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor who was then sick and which Regiment was then under the immediate command of Major William McCauley. In this tour this Declarant marched on to Wilmington North Carolina but before he reached there he fell in with the enemy at Brown's Marsh [Brown Marsh, September, 1781]<sup>3</sup> and in which Battle this Declarant was wounded by a musket ball passing through his hips. This Tour of service lasted for about ten months – after he recovered from his wounds he again joined the American Army under the command of General Caswell [Richard Caswell] and proceeded with the same to Virginia but from the wound which he had received at Brown's Marsh he was unable to perform duty nor was he able to accompany the American Army in to little York Virginia. 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 – he has no Documentary evidence. Nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can establish his service.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Edward Gwin, Clk

S/ John Gwin, X his mark

[John McKernon, Counselor at Law, and Edward Gwin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

#### Questions by the Court

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

Ans: in the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina in the year 1764 [last digit unclear]<sup>4</sup>

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

Answer. I have none --

Question 3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. In Orange County North Carolina afterwards in South Carolina and from thence into this State in Smith County but now a resident of Carroll County

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

Answer. In the first Tour I was a substitute as I have stated in this Declaration – in the remainder of my service as I have stated I was a Volunteer

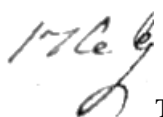
The 5<sup>th</sup> Question is included in my Declaration

[p 37: pages scabbled –page ## in red bracketts]

State of Tennessee, Carroll County: SS

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_brown\\_marsh.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brown_marsh.html)

<sup>4</sup>  The war department interpreted this date is 1764 in its abstract of the contents of this file

Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting John Gwin, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged about seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following (amended) declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

This declarant states that he was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1764 in Orange County in the State of North Carolina. He has no record of his birth – Declarant continued to reside in that County in which he was born until 5 or 6 years after the Close of the Revolutionary War, when he removed to Pendleton, & afterwards Granville [sic, Greenville], South Carolina, & remained in that State about 5 years: he then removed to Sumner County in this State, & resided there about three years he then removed to Smith County in this State, where he also resided about three years. He next removed to Robinson County in this State where he resided until he removed to this County, which was about 13 years ago, and he has continued to reside in this County ever since.

This declarant entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and [p 38] served as herein stated.

This declarant, in the month of July 1780, as well as he recollects, Joined, as a substitute for one Randal Elmore, a company of drafted militia, raised in Orange County North Carolina, commanded by Captain Benjamin Rainey in the Regiment commanded by a Colonel whose name declarant cannot recollect (and declarant's original declaration it is stated that this Regiment was commanded by Edward Gwin, this declarant's brother; but upon reflection declarant knows this is an erroneous statement – this mistake was made by a misconception of the gentleman who drew that declaration, and did not attract declarant's attention, when it was read to him. He now remembers that his said brother was a wagon master in that tour: but having been himself only between 15 & 16 years old the name of his Colonel has entirely escaped his recollection.) This Regiment was raised in said County of Orange and rendezvoused at Hillsboro, consisting, as well as declarant remembers of five companies commanded by Captains Trice, Graves, Gresham, Rainey & another whose name is not recollected – Major William McCauley commanded the Battalion to which my company belonged and the others was commanded by Major Anthony Sharpe – We marched from Hillsboro to the Alamance River where we remained 3 or 4 days, thence to Lynches Creek where we remained 2 or 3 days and there we found the Continental Army under General Gates – our Militia Brigade was commanded by General William Butler [sic, John Butler]. We marched from Lynches Creek to Rugeley's Mills where we were joined by the Virginia troops the evening before the battle of Camden. These last troops were commanded by Generals Lawson [Robert Lawson] & Stephens [sic, BG Edward Stevens] and declarant remembers to have seen the latter with a wound in the arm which he received [p 41] before daylight on the night preceding Gates Defeat. We set out from Rugeley's Mills about sunset the evening before that battle, and met with the van of the enemy, as well as I can remember, about half way to Camden, after midnight. After some fighting that night both sides retired. We met the enemy again next day at 10 or 11 o'clock near the same ground, & there at the battle was fought on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1780 [sic, August 16, 1780], called “Gates Defeat.” Here my company was entirely dispersed and was never reorganized. We were called into service for a tour of two months, which I consider myself as having served out, remaining till the end of that time subject to orders of my officers. At the end of this tour I received no discharge either written or oral. As soon as my first tour was out I volunteered, and served a tour of two months in a company commanded by Captain Joseph Gresham in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor which was from the County of Orange. The same William McCauley was again my major & the same Anthony Sharpe was the other Major in this Regiment. I joined my company in Guilford County & we joined our Regiment on Haw River in that County, and became attached in a few days to General Greene's

Army & during this my second tour of two months we marched about principally through Orange & Guilford Counties engaged in keeping down the Tories & watching the movements of the enemy under Cornwallis. During this tour I was in a skirmish against the Tories and a party of British at Clapp's Mill [March 4, 1781]<sup>5</sup> in Orange County, and in another against the same & a party of the British at Whatesel's Mill [sic, Wetzels or Whitesell's Mill, March 6, 1781]<sup>6</sup> in Guilford. During this tour I frequently saw General Greene & Colonels Archibald Lytle & Farmer of the North Carolina Continentals, and Colonel Robert Mebane, who I believe had no particular command at that time. At the end of this tour I do not remember how or by whom I was discharged, or when, but if I received a written discharge it is long since lost. About the first of March 1781 (and not in the latter part of 1780 as is erroneously stated in the original declaration) Captain William Gwin, brother of this declarant, raised a company from Orange County, which were partly drafted and partly volunteers. In this company [p 42] I volunteered and was placed under the command of my said brother William as Captain. I joined the company on Haw River in Guilford about the first of March 1781, as well as I can recollect, and on that River we joined General Greene's Army. Our Regiment was commanded by Colonel William Lytle, brother of Colonel A Lytle of the North Carolina Continentals whom I have already mentioned, and under him by the same Majors Sharpe & McCauley already mentioned. We belonged to the Brigade of General William Butler. In a few days after we joined the Main Army in this tour the battle of Guilford Court house [March 15, 1781]<sup>7</sup> took place in which I was engaged. I refer to my former declaration for [indecipherable word or words]<sup>8</sup> description of this battle as I am able to give. About this time I saw Colonels Henry Lee & William Washington of the Virginia light Horse. I also saw Colonel Green [perhaps John Green] (I think of the Virginia Continentals). I was not acquainted personally with any regular officer during either of my tours. We retreated from the battleground to the Iron Works on Troublesome Creek in Guilford County, and marched thence to Ramsey's Mills – where we remained about 2 days. Here, after having served in Captain William Gwin's company about 3 weeks I joined the legion of Cavalry commanded by Colonel Henry Lee of Virginia as a volunteer, being permitted by my officers to do so. From Ramsey's Mills the Army marched to the Gum Swamp near Camden and from thence to Ninety Six; but before the Army reached that place I was detailed (by whose orders I do not recollect) from Lee's Legion, and placed in the company commanded by Captain Price in the Regiment of North Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor; but he being sick, the Regiment was then under the immediate command of Major William McCauley. In this tour we marched towards Wilmington North Carolina, but before we reached that place [p 39] we fell in with a party of the British, consisting of about 200 at Brown's Marsh, and fought a battle with them in the night, in which battle I was wounded by a musket ball, which passed through my left hip. General William Butler, Colonels Moore, William Lytle and Robert Mebane were all in this battle, but which of them was at the head of our party I do not know, though I think it was Colonel Mebane. General Butler was there at the beginning of the action, but left us very soon. Some say the General's horse got scared and ran off with him, but others said the General got scared and ran off with his horse. How the fact was I know not. After this battle I was confined by my wound at the Cheraw Hills on Pedee River for several months, precisely how long I do not recollect. From the time I left home on this tour under my brother William until I returned again after recovering from my wound I am confident was at least several months. I

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_clapps\\_mill\\_1.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_clapps_mill_1.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_weitzells\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

know that on this tour I entered the service about the first of March 1781 and was continually in the service until sometime in October of that year. As to this tour this declarant by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service – but according to the best of his recollection he served on this tour as a private Volunteer not less than 7 months. At the end of this tour I received no particular discharge either written or oral.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. He has no documentary evidence of his Claims, & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He states that the Reverend Robert Baker, Doctor William Park, [indecipherable word, looks like 'Mey'] John McKernon and Edward Gwin Esquire Clerk of this court are persons [p 40] to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year first above written.

S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

S/ John Gwin



[Robert Baker, a clergyman, and William Park, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 24: On September 11, 1839 in Dyer County Tennessee, the veteran applied for a new pension certificate stating that he is the man who served in companies commanded by Captain's David Vestal & Edward Givin in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor; that his original certificate was lost in November 1838 near Jackson Tennessee by the veterans agent John G Chambers.



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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.88 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 17 days in the North Carolina militia.]