

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gunter S38779

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/2/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

November term 1823

South Carolina Spartanburg District

On this 13th day of November 1823 Personally appeared in open Court, to wit, the Court of Common Pleas, being a Court of Record for the District aforesaid, John Gunter, a revolutionary Soldier aged eighty-two years resident in the district aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: I enlisted in the Navy of the United States under the command of Captain Johannes Watson and continued in the Naval Service for the term of three years, for which I was enlisted. I then enlisted in the land service, in the 9th or 10th Virginia Regiment and was attached to the Company commanded by Captain Coverby [?]¹ under the command of General Mulenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] in which I continued to the end of the war when I was discharged by General Muhlenberg at Baltimore – And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have no manner of income or means of subsistence other than which I derive from my feeble exertions at manual labor in the field. I have no family with me but one Daughter who is unable to contribute anything to my support. I am extremely old and feeble as well as poor, and in a very short time I must starve without the aid of private Charity or the assistance of my Country. I know of no person now alive who can Identify my person and services in the Revolution and my recollection is so imperfect that I cannot give as full a statement as I could wish of the services which I performed.

Sworn to in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Gunter

[Certified as a true copy of the court proceedings held in Spartanburg District South Carolina; certified by the clerk of court February 4th, 1824]

In addition to the foregoing Declaration, the Declarant states that he cannot possibly Recollect

Capt. Coverby

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the time he was enlisted in the land service, but recollects that he had served one year before the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], at which time he hired a substitute and received his discharge from General Muhlenberg at Baltimore – from his extreme age, his recollection is so much impaired that he cannot recollect any dates.

S/ John Gunter, X his mark

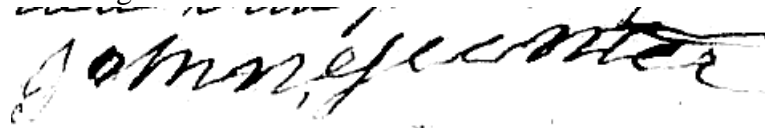
John Gunter who makes the forgoing Declaration came personally before me, and being sworn on his oath saith, that since the 18th March 1818, he has disposed of no kind of property, by gift, sale or otherwise – that he was at that time as poor as he is now, and would at that time, and any time since, have applied for a pension, but his own ignorance, and the want of some person to instruct him, has delayed him until the present application.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 7th February 1825

S/ Wm Trimmier, J. Q. Ex. Off.

S/ John Gunter, X his mark

[p 8: On June 23, 1827 in Spartanburg District South Carolina, the veteran applied for a new pension certificate saying that he had lost his original certificate. In this document, the officer under whom he served appears to be Captain Coverly.² This document appears to have the actual signature of the veteran as follows

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Gunter". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

[Facts in file: The veteran died April 13, 1828; other than the reference to a daughter (unnamed) there is no family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing February 7th, 1825, for service as a private in the Virginia service for a term of three years from October 1780 to the end of the War.]

² I could identify no likely candidate for this officer. The closest I came to identifying an officer by this or any similar name was [Thomas Coverly S24960](#) but his description of his services does not appear to match the veteran's description of his services. Also, Thomas Coverly does not claim to have risen above the rate of lieutenant.