

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Gaskins S39560

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

Virginia

Be it remembered that at a court held for the County of Monongalia at the courthouse of the said County by the Worshipful the Justices thereof on Tuesday the 26th day of May in the year of our Lord 1818 and in the 42nd year of our Independence Jesse Gaskins personally appeared before the said worshipful court, and after being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God doth depose and say "That he is now about seventy-nine years of age, that about the year 1776, as well as he now recollects, he enlisted in the 15th Regiment of Virginia troops, for the term of three years, under a Lieutenant Crane [probably James Crane, also spelled James Crain], that previous to the expiration of the said three years, there was a recruiting party to enlist men for during the war, with a permission to such men as would enlist for during the war a three months furlough -- that he took the bounty and enlisted for during the war, under the command of Captain Buker¹ of the first Regiment of Light Infantry, that a furlough was accordingly granted him, and he returned to his former residence in Northumberland County Virginia, that when his furlough expired, he returned to the company of the said Captain Buker, and was engaged in the said service, when they were marched to Charleston South Carolina where after a siege of twenty-eight days, the American troops were forced to capitulate [May 12, 1780] with the enemy, which was about twelve months previous to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia [October 19, 1781], that agreeable to the terms of capitulation, the American troops were not confined to a prison, but such a number at a time, should be at liberty to walk through the town, that about one month after he was taken prisoner as aforesaid, he with twelve of his companions, made their escape from the Fort, and he returned to his home in Northumberland County aforesaid, that he never received any discharge after he escaped, that he now resides in this County of Monongalia, that he is too infirm to labor for his support, and that without some assistance from his government he will be under the necessity of going to the poor-house of the County, that he has no real estate, and is reduced to the most indigent circumstances --"

All which is ordered to be certified the proper officer, agreeable to the act of Congress providing for certain persons engaged in the Land & naval service of the days -- during the Revolutionary War --

And also, Be it remembered, that at the next court held by the Worshipful the Justices of the said County, at the courthouse of the said County, on Monday the 22nd of June A.D. 1818. It

¹ The war department read this name as "Booker." Perhaps this is Samuel Booker who was known to have been taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston South Carolina.

was ordered that the clerk of this court further certify to the Secretary of the department of war, that the said Jesse Gaskins is unable to support himself, and is in absolute need of the assistance of his country for support –

[Attested by Nimrod Evans, clerk of court]

Virginia

Be it remembered, that at a County Court held in and for the County of Monongalia, on Monday the 24th of July in the year 1820, personally appeared in open court (being a court of record which proceed according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount and keeping a record of its proceedings) Jesse Gaskins aged 78 years, last March, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows to wit:

During the Revolutionary war I was enlisted in the company commanded by Captain Edward Hull, for 18 months, we were called the ___ men. I was never marched to the lines, but discharged at the end of the time, about one year after -- I enlisted again for three years in a company commanded by the said Captain Hull [perhaps Edwin Hull] in the 15th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Gaskins [probably Thomas Gaskins]. I served in that Regiment I think upwards of two years, they were then beating up for volunteers to serve during the war. I then took the bounty & enlisted for during the war Captain Lawrence Butler in a company of Light Infantry, commanded by Colonel Ball [perhaps Lieutenant Colonel Burgess Ball], during my Services I was in the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777], where I was taken prisoner by the enemy, put in jail at Philadelphia, and carried to New York in a prison ship kept there about one month; we were then exchanged and I got back to my own Army again, I was at the taking of Stony Point [July 16, 1779], when we took it at the point of the bayonet with wooden flints in our guns we were marched to Charleston South Carolina was in what is called the Siege of Charleston, after a close fire of about twenty-eight days, when our officers capitulated we were marched out, and stacked our arms we were then marched by the enemy back into the barracks as prisoners. I was kept by them about thirty days, I then made my escape from them and returned home in Northumberland County Virginia. I never knew how to apply for a regular discharge nor never did I get any. I did get from General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in South Carolina an instrument in writing to have a free pass home and to draw provisions on my way, after I got home I was taken up as a deserter and taken before a Captain Jones where I showed my writing, he made them discharge me and said my pass was as good as a discharge, this pass or writing I took no care of after that time, and it has got lost, that he has no other evidence of said services in his power that he knows of, that he made his declaration, in order to obtain the provisions of an act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, before the said court on the 26th of May in the year 1818 and there on obtained a pension certificate from the Secretary of War --

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 not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit, one horse, one cow, one yearling, one

old rough table, a few old dishes & plates, five cups and saucers, a few broken knives & forks, knives made by the blacksmith, 2 weeding hoes, 2 dutch ovens, one kettle, tea kettle, one skillet, one old washing tub, 3 old barrels with heads out, 2 buckets, one plow, 2 pairs of gears, one old coffee mill, one old wheel & reel, 4 old chairs, 5 iron spoons necessary bedding & wearing apparel excepted.

S/ Jesse Gaskins, X his mark

I have no trade, and live on rented land, my wife Susanna about 75 to 78 years of age very infirm and unable to do anything. One daughter Chloe about 22 years of age, with 3 small children of her own, one son now in his 18th year, but not of sound mind is all my family that lives with me.

Sworn to and declared before the aforesaid County court of Monongalia on the day & date first herein written.

[Attested by Nimrod Evans clerk of court]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 28, 1818, for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]