

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Starling (Sterling) Gunn S6941

f58VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/25/12 & 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 '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.]

State of North Carolina, County of Caswell: Superior Court of Law November Term 1832

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally [appeared] in open Court before the Superior Court of Law now sitting, Stirling Gunn aged Sixty Eight years on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May last who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; -- Sometime in the fall of the year 1780, perhaps in the month of September, but at this distant day this Declarant cannot now State, he (this Declarant) Substituted himself in the place of his Father, Thomas Gunn, who was drafted under the following named officers, to wit: Captain Edward Mumford in the Company commanded by Colonel Elliott. That at this time the Declarant resided in the County of Amelia and the State of Virginia and he was marched under the said officers to Petersburg and from thence to a place called Cabin Point where they were stationed and remained Guarding the landing and the Coast around until they were discharged after serving a tour of three months, as well as this Declarant now recollects. He was discharged together with all the Amelia troops about Christmas, but whether a little before or afterwards, this Declarant cannot now particularly state -- and this tour this Declarant received no discharge nor did any of the troops who were discharged at the same time. They being marched back as far as Petersburg under their said Captain -- & from thence they severally took their course to their several homes. Sometime in the month of February 1781 or thereabouts, the Enemy under a General Philips [William Phillips], came to Petersburg [April 25, 1781], and took and burnt parts of the town; and this Declarant together with all the force which could be collected in the Surrounding Country Volunteered to go down and drive them away. This Declarant at this time Volunteered under Captain John Knight and was marched to Petersburg, but when they arrived there the enemy had fled and the Volunteers of whom the Declarant was one was discharged or disbanded and returned home after serving or being absent from home, 15 days. Sometime in the month of March 1781 following, the Declarant was drafted in the Amelia militia under Captain John Knight in the company or Regiment commanded by Colonel Meriwether [probably Thomas Meriwether] and was marched first to Petersburg and from there by forced marches a circuitous route to Richmond and was in sight of the fires when Manchester was burned by the enemy, got into Richmond and endeavored to prevent the enemy crossing James River into Richmond, but was compelled to retire, and was driven from place to place before the enemy until we got up into the mountains in Culpeper County being at this time under the General command of General Lafayette. In Culpeper County this Declarant, together with five other Captains' companies, were discharged after serving a tour of three months, after they were disbanded and were on their march home, they were pursued by the enemy's horse and were overtaken (this Declarant thinks) in Goochland County, and the Captain together with a good many of the soldiers were taken prisoners. This Declarant made his escape and got home in Amelia County in the month of June 1781. Sometime in the month of the same June as well as this Declarant now recollects, though at

this distant day it is impossible for him now to recollect, he was again drafted under a Captain Anderson [probably Paulin Anderson] in the Company or Regiment commanded by Colonel Richardson [perhaps Colonel Holt Richeson or Richardson]; but Captain Anderson becoming indisposed retired from the Army until after the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] and we were put under an officer by the name of Cobb [perhaps John Cobbs] took the command of the Company as Captain. This Declarant was marched to old Jamestown under the aforesaid named officers; from thence we marched to Williamsburg and there remained sometime. And from thence he followed in pursuit of the enemy to Yorktown where we besieged the enemy. At this place this Declarant was (by an arrangement of the officers) taken out of the Infantry (into which he had Volunteered at Williamsburg) and was put in the Artillery, and assisted in digging the trenches and building the forts at Yorktown. This Declarant was in the fort and assisted in firing the first Guns that he recollects to have been fired upon the Enemy. Captain Price & Colonel Lamb were his immediate officers in the Artillery who acted under the orders of the brave General Knox. This Declarant also was present at the hoisting [of] the American flag in the fort. This Declarant continued in the Artillery and fought during the Siege until the capture of Cornwallis and afterwards until his term of service expired or until he was discharged. He thinks he got his discharge about the time of the expiration of his Service, but at what particular day he cannot recollect, he first applied to his Captain and asked to be discharged being at that time sick, but did not get it, and, shortly afterward Colonel Richardson wrote and gave him his discharge and he returned home. He thinks he got home [to] Amelia County Virginia about the first of November 1781. Thus, in the whole Time this Declarant served his Country during the War of the Revolution was something about nine months and 15 days. The Country through which this Declarant marched was in and through the State of Virginia. This Declarant was well acquainted with a great many regular officers who were with the troops where he served; he knows Colonel Lamb, Captain Price, General Muhlenberg, General Wayne, General Lafayette and General Washington. This Declarant would state that he has long since lost his discharges and has no Documentary evidence to prove his Services and knows of but one man in the County (where he now lives, Caswell County and State of North Carolina) by whom he can prove his services, Joseph Dameron<sup>1</sup>

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Following interrogatories propounded by the Court to the applicant and answers

Question 1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Brunswick County and State of Virginia as I have been told on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1764.

Question 2nd: Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer – I have a record of my age recorded in my Family Bible.

Question 3rd: Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living in the County of Amelia and State of Virginia when I was called into Service; I have lived since the Revolutionary War about four years in Lunenburg County and State of Virginia, and the remainder of my time in the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, where I now live and where I expect to live so long as I do live.

Question 4th: How were you called into Service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom?

Answer – The first tour of Duty which I Served, I Substituted myself in the place of my Father, Thomas Gunn, who was drafted. I next volunteered to drive the enemy from Petersburg. I was next drafted – and again I was drafted in the militia, from which I was permitted to volunteer in the Infantry;

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<sup>1</sup> [Joseph Dameron S8310](#)

and out of which I was selected and placed in the Artillery at Yorktown.

Question 5th: State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you Served, such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the General Circumstances of your Services?

Answer – I knew General Washington, General Lafayette, Generals Knox, Wayne and Muhlenberg, Colonel Lamb and Captain Price, Major Long & others. I was in three militia regiments which I have for mentioned; I know of several regular regiments, but it is impossible for me now to recollect their numbers and names. The General Circumstances of my Services I have before endeavored in some degree to detail.

Questioned 6th: Did you receive a Discharge from the Service & if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer – For some of the tours which I Served I did not receive written discharges it being unnecessary as we were disbanded – But for the tour which I served at Yorktown, I received a written discharge from Colonel Richardson, which I afterwards kept as a curiosity and gave it to my Mother; I expect it has long since been destroyed.

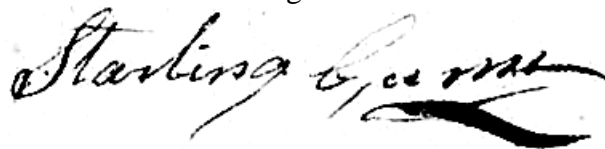
Questions 7th: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your Character for Veracity and good behavior – Your Services as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Answer – I have lived in this (Caswell) County for 40 years and am known to most all of the Citizens, any or all of whom will prove my character for truth and good behavior, I am not certain that I can prove my services or any part of my services by any but one man, Joseph Dameron, who was in the Army with me at Cabin Point.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Jeremiah Graves, C.S. C. C.

S/ Starling Gunn

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Starling Gunn". The signature is written in dark ink and has a decorative flourish at the end.

[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and James Rainey gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

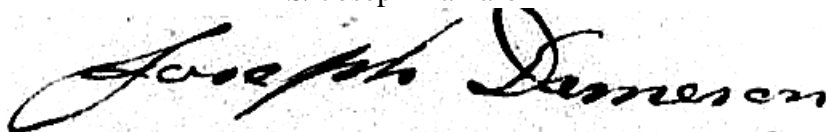
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State of North Carolina Caswell County: Superior Court of Law November Term 1832

Be it remembered that on this 6th day of November 1832, personally appeared in open Court the Court aforesaid now in Session – Joseph Dameron and being duly sworn according to law, declares and saith as follows That sometime in the fall of the year 1780 he was in the Army of the revolution and a Company commanded by Captain Edward Mumford of the Militia of the County of Amelia and State of Virginia, and that in said Company Stairling Gunn was one of the Company; that they were marched to Petersburg in said State; and from thence to Cabin Point and were there stationed Guarding the Coast and watching the movements of the enemy until they were discharged; That the Tour or Campaign was for three months and during all which time the said Stairling Gunn was a soldier in said Company and served his Country; they being together and here both discharged, at the same place (Cabin Point): – This affiant has also heard and does believe that the said Stairling Gunn was in the Army and served two other Tours, having heard them from such a source as to have no doubt on his mind of the fact – That the said Stirling was at the Capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown and fought during the action and Siege, – That he and the said Stairling Gunn both at that period of our history lived in the said County of Amelia and State of Virginia and were acquainted with each other; And this affiant would also further state that so far as the conduct of the said Stairling Gunn came to his knowledge he the said Starling Gunn was a brave, active and faithful Soldier ever present and willing when and where his duty called him.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
S/ Jeremiah Graves, C. S. C.

S/ Joseph Dameron

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Dameron". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]