

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Thomas Gibson S8560

NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 June 2015.

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
County of Randolph } November Term 1832

On this 5th day of November AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting, Thomas Gibson a resident of Randolph County, State of North Carolina, aged sixty nine (69) 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, 1832. That he entered the service of the United State under the following named officers & served as herein stated – viz. –

He states that he was born in Randolph N.C. Nov. 15 1763 & had a record of his age: that at eighteen years of age he volunteered under Capt John Knight for the remainder of the war, holding himself ready to service when called on: he volunteered in the month of the battle of Guilford he thinks March [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] in the County of Randolph (then part of Guilford Cty) & that throughout the whole of his service he was employed against the tories who were very numerous & dangerous, & in guarding the country against their depredations, burnings & murders; After joining Capt'n. Knights company, they went in pursuit of Colonel Fannan [sic: David Fanning], who headed the tory party in North Carolina, & who had become notorious for his many outrages, cruelties & murders, & in Randolph County fell in with a party of his followers and had a skirmish with them at a place called Larrimores. they also fell in with another tory party on Little river in the same County where the whigs prevailed. They were thus employed in watching & chasing the Tories for about two months, when Knights company joined a company from the upper part of Guilford under the command of Col. Gillespie, at a place now called Randolph old Court House, or the X roads. thence they marched down deep river into the neighbourhood of the Buffaloe ford, where they learned that Col. Fannon with his tory crew had retreated into South Carolina, about the Waggamaw [sic: Waccamaw] Settlement – thence they returned to the X roads – thence to [Col. John] Colliers on Caraway Creek in Randolph Cty, where Knights company remained sometime in guarding Col. Collier's house, who had become obnoxious to the tories. there hearing of some outrage committed by the tories about ten miles from Colliers, he, with about twenty men under Capt. Knight, went in pursuit of them; but managed so incautiously as to be surprised & fired upon in the night by them [15 Apr 1781], in which skirmish (which was a short one, the tories soon flying) a ball grazed his head & Capt Knight was also wounded in the head by a ball. he (Gibson) conveyed Knight to his (Gibson's) fathers where he guarded him until his wound got well. He then, which his company, rejoined Col. Gillespie's company & also a company under Col. John Lapp or Lopp [probably John Lopp] at the cross roads afors'd & the three companies marched into Moore County, where they were piloted by a boy to the rendezvous of the tories & where they killed some, took some prisoners & dispersed the rest. thence they returned into Randolph, where the other two companies left Knights. He states further that he was in a skirmish between part of Knights Company & some tories on Jackson's creek in Randolph, he thinks in the fall of 1781 in which one tory was killed – that he was also under Col. [Andrew] Balfour in a battle with the tories, in which three tories were killed. He also recollected that, he served with a Col. [Samuel] Isaacs who commanded a company from the mountains in the Western part of N. C. & who came in pursuit of Col. Fannan; the time he can't recollect. He states also that he served in a Capt'n Hodge's company from the Haw-fields, on Haw river, & acted as a pilot for him. The only Genl. Officer he knew was Genl. [John] Butler whom he saw & knew. He states that he had two discharges or certificates of service from Capt'n. Knight, which are destroyed & lost. his recollection of the order of time in which the events of his service took place is very confused, & that he cannot recollect the dates of particular events, & being an unlettered man he kept no

record of them. He is very certain that he served at one term nine months, & that for the space of two years until the conclusion of peace, he was employed except at short intervals in a discursive warfare with the Tories, & considered himself at all times as a soldier, & was ready at any moment to act as such. He thinks that he can establish a part if not the whole of his service by Manring Brookshire [Manning (Mannering) Brookshire S6707] under whom as lieutenant he served a part of his time also by Peter Vunkannon [Peter Vurkannon]

He states that his services were performed in what are now Counties of Guilford, Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham, & Orange & that he has resided since the revolution War in Randolph County N. C.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

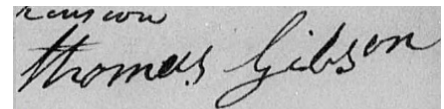
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Gibson".

Amendment

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Randolph & State of North Carolina, Thomas Gibson who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that the Companies in which he served, were regularly organized Companies of Cavalry, subject to law martial some of the penalties whereof he saw frequently inflicted, & that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below, & in the following grade: For two years I served as a private of cavalry, & for such service is claim a pension

Sworn to & subscribed before me

March 26, 1833

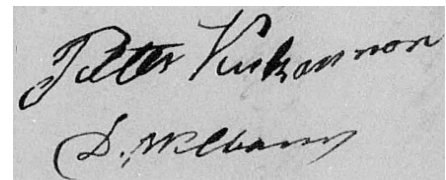
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Gibson". Above the signature, the word "sworn" is written in a smaller, less legible cursive hand.

Peter Vunkannon & Daniel Williams residing in Randolph County, North Carolina, being duly sworn, do certify as follows to wit:

Peter Vunkannon certifies that in September 1781 he joined Capt. Knights Company of Cavalry, & served six months, & that Thomas Gibson who has made the above Declaration was there in the service in Knights Company – that Gibson & himself were under the command of the same Captain, but occasionally separated by detached portions of the company being sent out on particular employments: he further states that he saw said Gibson in the service frequently before September 1781, & served according to the best of his knowledge & belief twelve months He also certifies that said Gibson has the reputation in his neighbourhood of having served in the Revolutionary War, & that his statement is entitled to belief:

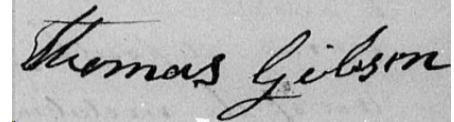
Daniel Williams states that somewhere about the years 1781-2 he saw said Gibson, serving under one Captain Knight in the light horse service – but cannot state the length of time he served, but saw him frequently in said service; that said Gibson has the reputation in the neighbourhood where he resides of being a man of truth, & of having served in the revolutionary war.

Sworn to & Subscribed before me March 26, 1833

Two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The top signature reads "Peter Vunkannon" and the bottom signature reads "D. Williams".

Thomas Gibson's Declaration amended.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Randolph & State of North Carolina, Thomas Gibson, who being duly sworn, deposes & saith: That his service in the War of the revolution consisted of two tours: that on the 25th of March 1781 he volunteered under Captain John Knight for nine months, that he served the full period of nine months & was discharged at the expiration of that time, say December 25 1781 received a discharge which is lost: that in this tour he served as a private of Cavalry: he does not know to what regiment Knight's company was attached: That he went home & remained about ten days, when say January the fifth 1782 he volunteered again under Capt'n. John Knight in the Cavalry service during the continuance of the war: that he was discharged by Knight when the news of Peace reached them, say the latter part of March 1783, the day not recollected – that in this second tour he served not less than fourteen months. The particulars of his service & the places where they were performed are set forth as accurately as he can recollect them in his Declaration, & the proof of his service also accompany it, to which he refers. About the time of his last discharge, Capt. Knight left his company, and it being still necessary to keep up defensive operations, he still continued as a volunteer in the company, the command of which devolved on the first Lieutenant Manring Brookshire: that he served under Leut. Brookshire three months & was discharged July 1 1783. He states that for two years he served as a private of Cavalry, & for such service he claims a pension. Sworn to & subscribed before me April 5, 1834

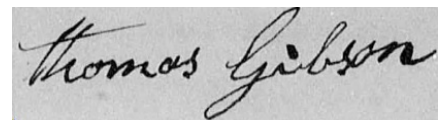


Amended declaration of Thomas Gibson.

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace in & for the County of Randolph in the State of North Carolina, Thomas Gibson who being duly sworn, deposes & saith, that by reason of old age, & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, as a private in the Cavalry: That he volunteered under Capt. John Knight on the 25th day of March 1781 for nine months, at the end of which time he was discharged. That on the 4th day of January 1782 he again volunteered (he thinks, for during the war) that he continued in the service without leaving it, until the 1st of July 1783. that he served during this second tour as stated in the declaration as amended the 5th April 1834, under Capt. Knight & Lieutenant Brookshire.

He further states that it is possible that he volunteered on the 4th of January 1782 for nine months only, at the end of which time, he volunteered for a third nine months tour again: But if that was the fact, he does not recollect it. But he states the fact expressly, that there were tours of nine months in this state; and that he volunteered the first time for nine months, and served out his time.

He Therefore states that he served the first tour nine months, & the second (or 2nd & third in continuation) one year five months & twenty seven days; in all, two years, two months & twenty seven days, as a private in the Cavalry; for which service he claims a pension. Sworn to & subscribed before me, June the 7, 1834



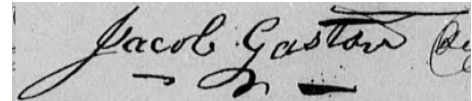
State of North Carolina } S.S.

Moore County } On this 13 day of March 1846 Personally appeared, before me Daniel M. Donald one of the acting Magistrates in and for the County aforesaid Jacob Gaster [pension application S6871] a resident citizen of the State & County aforesaid a United States Pensioner and after being first sworn in due form of law, doth on his Oath make the following statement: That he is fully 81 years old, and that in the days of the Revolutionary War, he Volunteer'd as a Private Soldier, in the North Carolina

line of Militia; and as such served in the following manner.

First he and Thomas Gibson (who is now applying for a pension) Volunteerd for a Three (3) months tour and that they served together Under Capt Daniel Buie, and after joining the Army, they the aforesaid Jacob Gaster & Thomas Gibson with many others were taken Prisoners, by the British troops Commanded by [Lt. Col. Banastre] Tarleton and was taken to Wilmington N.C. where they were kept prisoners at least four (4) months (it being in the year 1781) and they were there exchanged & discharged, [see endnote]

Deponent further states that he and Thomas Gibson again volunteer'd on a three (3) months tour under Capt Henry Gaster in the Militia of the N.C. line, and that Deponent and Thomas Gibson served the United States, together on this tour at least three (3) months and was honorably discharged from this tour of service at Fayetteville N.C. sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year first above written.



And I Dan'l M Donald do hereby certify that I am acquainted with Jacob Gaster, who hath sworn to and subscribed the foregoing certificate before me, that he is a Citizen of Moore County N.C. And that he has for many years been Elected a Member in the Legislature of North Carolina; that he is a respectable and intelligent man, whose oath stands fair & has never been contradicted by any person who knew him; Given under my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid Daniel M. Donald J.P.

[Capitalization and punctuation partly corrected.]

State of North Carolina } Sct
Randolph County }

On this 2nd day of May 1846 personally appeared before Us A. S. Gray & John Robbins two of the acting Justices of the peace in & for said County Thomas Gibson A Resident Citizen of the State & County aforesaid Aged (84) years; 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 past June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the sevice of the United States, Under the following named officers & as such served the United States in the following manner – He first Volunteer'd to serve a (3) three months tour in the State of North Carolina Guilford County, & that he served under Captain Daniel Buie & that he the said Thomas Gibson served the United States in the North Carolina Militia & that he serv'd through the Eastern part of North Carolina and that he with others was taken a prisoner (by Tarleton & his British forse, near to Wilmington N. Ca; New Hanover County & that he the aforesaid Thomas Gibson was kept a prisoner as aforesaid commencing on the 1st March (1781) untill July (1781) and after having served the United States; in a state of servitude & confinement at least five month & fifteen days was discharged from this tour of service.

The next tour of sevice he the aforesaid Thomas Gibson, again volunteer'd to serve one other (3) three months tour in the North Carolina Militia & as such he joined the army in the year (1781) near Fayettevill North Carolina Cumberland County, & that he served under Capt Henry Gaster & after having served at least (3) three months part of his time in North Carolina & apart or the ballance of it in South Carolina, he was discharged from this tour of service – which discharge has been lost or distroyed since that time.

The aforesaid Thomas Gibson hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity except the present and declares, that his name, is not in the pension rolls of the agency of any state; or, if any, only that of the agency of North Carolina Sworn to & subscribed the day & year a bove written before us Thomas hisXmark Gibson

State of North Carolina }
Randolph County }

On this 23^d day of March 1847 Personally appeared before me Mich'l Williams, one of the acting Magistrates in & for the County aforesaid, Alexn'd S. Gray aged () years, A Resident Citizen of the County & State aforesaid, & after being first sworn in due form of law, doth on his oath make the following statement; That this deponent has been intimately acquainted with Thomas Gibson of the County & State aforesaid for at least (50) years last pas't, And that this deponent distinctly recollects, that he was personally present & in Company with the aforesaid Thomas Gibson, Joseph Nothern [pension application S7274] & Jacob Gaster (it being at the store of this deponent) in Randolph County No Carolina; & in the year (1842) & that deponent well recollects at that interview, a conversation was going on among the above named parties, (Viz) Gibson, Gaster & Nothern as aforesaid, conserning events that had occur'd at the time they were in the Revolutionary war, & that deponent at that same perriod, asked the aforesaid Thomas Gibson why; & the reason that he did not draw his pension as did those other soldiers who he had served with, & that Gibson stated to this deponent, as long as he was able to work for his living he would do so &, if he was to make the attempt to have his pension obtained, he was doubtful he would be treated as his Unkle Manring Berkshire & others had been, That his Unkle Brookshair had a claim allowed to him, & after the money collected he was cheated out of it, & that his cosin Thomas D. Gibson, had applyed for his pension [no application found] & if it was collected, he was fool'd out of his also, & that he the aforesaid Thomas Gibson for his part, was better satisfied for his pension to lay in the hands of the Publick, than for Rascals to git it, & liv on it after he had venturd his life for it.

[Andrew Hoover, 72, made a similar statement, mentioning that he had heard Thomas Hoover converse with Joseph Nothern, Daniel Merrell (S7222), and William Wadsworth (S7807) about their services.]

NOTES:

Jacob Gaster described being taken prisoner in his pension application (S6871), transcribed by Will Graves as follows: "That the section of Country from where they retreated in the County of Chatham and the upper part of the County of Cumberland contained a great number of Tories who were annoying the peaceful citizens of the Country and doing much mischief by plundering &c and that on their said retreat, or return to Cumberland, they thought proper to divide into different parties and were to meet again at Henry Gaster's in the aforesaid County of Cumberland on the 28th day of March. That on the said 28th of March their little forces did meet at Henry Gaster's and that they were discovered by General Cornwallis's Army or part of them, that they were attacked, one man killed, several wounded, six or seven made prisoners and the rest Escaped. That this applicant was one of the number who were made prisoners of. That he was carried by the British Army to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) and the aforesaid County of Cumberland, North Carolina & from thence to the town of Wilmington N. C. where he with the other prisoners was kept in the Guard house for about three weeks that they were then placed on board of a British ship for safekeeping where they remained for more than two months, when he was exchanged for British Prisoners and set at liberty and returned to his Residence in Cumberland where he arrived about the last of July or first of August."

A document in the file states that Thomas Gibson died 15 Oct 1850, leaving no widow but the following children: David Gibson, Joseph Gibson, Hannah the wife of Pierce M. Nixon, Mary the wife of John H. Hill, and George Gibson.