

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Gammon W1
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah Gammon

f69NC¹
7/12/07 rev'd 3/20/14

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

State of Tennessee County of Jefferson

On this 22nd day of November personally appeared before Robert McFarland Junior, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Jefferson, Jesse Gammon, a resident in the County of Jefferson and State of Tennessee aged Sixty nine years and Seven months, 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 7th 1832.

That the Declarant Jesse Gammon was born in Virginia, Norfolk County, twelve miles from Norfolk, on 27th of April Seventeen hundred and Sixty four. His father and mother died when he was a small boy. At the age of eleven years, he moved with his uncle, Joshua Gammon to Halifax County, North Carolina where he lived on little fishing Creek, one of the branches of Roanoke River, fourteen miles from Halifax Court House. At the age of Seventeen in the month of April 1781—day not recollected, the Declarant was drafted in Halifax County, at this company muster ground three or four miles from his uncle's residence. His muster ground was near the road leading from Halifax Court House to Warrenton. He was drafted by a Captain of one of the County companies, whose name he does not recollect. He was drafted for three months. The place of Rendezvous was Innfield [sic, Enfield] Court House, where three or four of the Halifax companies met. Enfield was the Old Court House of Halifax County and was twelve miles from Halifax Court House. Captain Depray [Jesse Dupree] commanded our company. How Captain Depray's name was spelled he does not know, but it was pronounced Depray. The names of the Lieutenants and Ensign are not recollected. Daniel Crawley was our orderly Sergeant at Enfield Court House. Colonel Linton [Lt. Col. William Thomas Linton] took the command of all the companies. Major Hogg, he thinks, but is not certain was the Major. He does not recollect the names of the Captains of the other companies. From Enfield Court House, he was marched to Halifax Court House where they remained a part of a day -- There were from one hundred and fifty to two hundred men under Colonel Linton. Lord Cornwallis was marching to Halifax Court House, and at one o'clock or thereabouts, when the British appeared, we crossed the Roanoke River opposite the town -- While we were crossing the river the British entered the town. Fro Haw one of our men was killed between the two Court Houses, and another Spy, Potts was wounded in the head. We marched up the River about ten miles towards Black's ferry where we remained until morning when we marched to Black's Ferry. The Second or third morning we marched from Black's Ferry on to Caswell Courthouse where we remained a week or two. Then we marched to Tarborough, a considerable distance. We passed through Tarborough and marched down the river, (having crossed it just before we reached the town.) and we camped on Town Creek, some distance below Tarborough: At this place we remained for some time, until Colonel Linton began to enlist men for 18 months, when this Declarant agreed to enlist and was furloughed by Colonel Linton for the purpose of preparing

¹ As of 3/20/14, Fold3.com had this file erroneously indexed under the New Hampshire files.

himself for the Service. This Declarant returned home on the furlough and when his furlough expired he repaired[sic] agreeably to his orders, specified in his furlough to Billy Henry's New Houses in Halifax County, eight or nine miles above the town, three quarter's of a mile from the River Roanoke. We remained here for two or three days when some officer or officers, names not recollected, came from the camp on Town Creek and gave us all written discharges, and we were all discharged from our enlistment. By whom his discharge was signed the Declarant does not recollect. He served two months in this town from the date of his being drafted until his discharge date in the month of time, day not recollected. The Declarant did not receive anything for this service. About a mile from the town of Halifax, opposite the town, on the South side of the river, Public Shops were carried on, under the superintendance[sic] of Colonel Long [probably Nicholas Long], for the purpose of making horsemen's caps, Shoe boots, canteens, Saddles, clothes, Cartridge Boxes, and Iron utensils. Colonel Long [appointed?] a young man to cook for and wait on the shops, and this Declarant went down in the month of July and volunteered to serve three months, which he did and was discharged at the public shops in October, day not recollected, by Col. Long[?] for a tour of three months -- and Col. Long informed him that this Service would be the same to him as a term in the army of three months.

In the month of June 1782 orders were received by the Captains of Halifax County, to raise men to serve eighteen months. Early in July, day not recollected, in 1782, a place of drafting was appointed at the Old Marsh Store in Halifax County, eight or nine miles from Halifax Court House. The orders were that every twentieth man was to be drafted. The companies agreed to class themselves into divisions of twenty, each division having some men in it who was willing to become a substitute and the other nineteen agreeing to pay him for going in the place of the drafted man and when this could be done, no draft was necessary, and none was made. This Declarant offered himself as a substitute and was hired by his class, who gave him three hundred and thirty three dollars and one third of a dollar. The Declarant returned to his home to make preparations for his service, and repaired in company with Wm. and Moses Brewer on the 1st of August 1782 to Warrenton, the place of Rendezvous. We here went into the Court House where men were examined, judged and sworn. This Declarant was received and placed under the command of Captain McCotes,² ___ Campbell was a Lieut. or Ensign—which he does not recollect, Sergeant Sturdivent was the Orderly Sergeant, and Sergeant Lee was another Sergeant. There were about three hundred men at Warrenton; Colonel Little [sic, Archibald Lytle] took the command of us. He does not recollect any other officers at Warrenton. We remained here the greater part of a month, when we marched to Hillsborough, about 80 miles from Warrenton, crossing on our way Eno River a small river, here we remained a week. Then we marched to Salisbury crossing the Yadkin River -- here we remained a few days, when we marched to Charlotte remaining here a few days, we then marched to Campden [sic, Camden], where we remained only a few hours, when we marched down and crossed Ashley River at Bacon's Bridge, on to Head Quarters on Ashley Hill where the main army was encamped under General Greene. Captain Coleman commanded the company adjoining ours -- The Declarant recollects Generals Greene and Gist - He does not recollect any other officers. We remained here about three months, when we marched about six miles to James Island, one mile from Charleston, crossing the Wapou Gutt [sic, Wappoo Cut] which reaches from Stono River to Ashley River. We encamped on James Island and built huts. We remained here until the 4th of July 1783. On this day, the Artillery fired one round with the cannon, and the Infantry fired two rounds, one running fire and one fire by platoons. While we were in the Island, 50 men, of whom the declarant was one, were detached under an officer; whose name is forgotten, and sent on board of the *Rogala* a vessel which we had, in search of a refugee vessel; We were out three or four days without success. The day after the 4th of July, six men were sent of whom this Declarant was one in a small boat to Charleston, to load a vessel there with rum and wine, to be sent around to Wilmington. We loaded the vessel and after we had done so, the day after we went to Charleston, we received orders by one of our non-

² Based on other documents in this file, I'm guessing this is a mistaken attempt to identify Capt. Peter Bacot.

commissioned officers, that the North Carolina men were marching to Wilmington and for us to join them. We left Charleston immediately and joined our companies at the fork of the road twelve miles from Charleston -- The road forked there the left hand leading to Georgetown, the right hand to Wilmington. At this place we were discharged. Declarant's discharge was handed to him by his Orderly Sergeant Sturdevant; By whom it was signed, does not know, being illiterate. Declarant was discharged after a service of eleven months and seven days and from that point returned home in company with Ellis Tyse and Jett Harper, who were the messmates of the Declarant during the whole tour. Declarant was discharged in the month of July, on the Seventh day, as he thinks it was three days after 4th July. Declarant is very infirm from an injury he received many years ago on his back and from an affliction of his Groin, which entirely incapacitate him from going about on horseback and with difficulty does he go about on foot -- and cannot walk any distance to attend to business. He applied through his Son-in-Law twelve months ago to a Lawyer to come to his house and draw up his papers -- But he failed to do so. He applied again to another Lawyer, who promised to come, but failed to do so -- and these have been the causes, together with the infirmities of the Declarant, that have prevented him from making application to the War Department long since for a pension, under the Act of June 7th 1832. The Declarant lost his three discharges in Halifax County - where or when he does not recollect, never expecting to derive any benefit from them, he did not take particular care of them. The Declarant does not know that any of his fellow soldiers are now alive -- He served as a drafted militia man in the year 1781 two months -- and as a volunteer to attend and wait on the Public Shops in 1781 three months -- and as a substitute for a Drafted Militia man in the year 1782 and 1783 for eleven months and seven days. He has no documentary evidence as to his service, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. 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. The Declarant lived in Virginia eleven years—thence moved to Halifax County, North Carolina in which County and in Orange County, N.C. and in Surry County N.C.--he lived forty one years -- then moved to East Tennessee where he lived in Greene County Sixteen years and in Jefferson, one year, where he now lives.

Sworn and subscribed before me the 22nd of November 1833.

S/ Jesse Gammons, X his mark

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Virginia, Norfolk County, twelve miles from Norfolk, on the 27th of April 1764.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have a record of my age on a leaf of a bible, set down by my Father or Some person for him. I got it from my uncle Joshua and have carefully preserved it.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. When called in Service, I was living in Halifax County, North Carolina; Since the Revolutionary war, I have lived in North Carolina thirty three years and in Tennessee, Seventeen years.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer. In my first tour I was drafted for three months; In my Second tour, I volunteered for three months; In my third tour I was a Substitute—agreeing to Stand as a drafted man, being paid therefor by my class; this was for a tour of eighteen months.

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 service.

Answer. In my first tour, there were no regulars with us. In my Second tour, there were none—unless Colonel Long was a Regular officer, who Superintended the public workshops, upon which this Declarant attended. In my third and last tour I Served under General Greene in South Carolina; I Stood as a drafted Militia man of Halifax County for 18 months, and was marched under Colonel Lytle,

McCotes—Captain--from Warrenton N. C. the place of Rendezvous, through various towns of North and South Carolina; which are specified in my declaration, to Ashley Hill on Ashley River, South Carolina, the Head Quarters of General Greene, which place we reached in the year, day and month not recollected – where we remained three months, until after the evacuation of Charleston by the British, when we were marched to James Island and encamped there remained until the fifth of July 1783, when I was Sent to Charleston on a fatigue party and in a few days thereafter discharged at the Forks of the Road 12 miles from Charleston – leading from Charleston to Georgetown by the left hand, and to Wilmington by the right hand. In this tour – I was received at Warrington on the first of August 1782 and was discharged on the seventh day of July 1783 after a Service of the 11 months and seven days. I Served with Continental troops under General Greene and our company wore the same uniform as the Continentals, and our officers were regular Officers – But we were not called Continentals – we were called drafted Militia – men – while on Ashley Hill – we were occasionally engaged in intercepting the British foraging parties from Charleston – while on James Island we were not engaged in any active Service – I well recollect Generals Greene and General Gist (pronouncing his name Guess) and Captain Coleman, who commanded the company adjoining ours on Ashley Hill. The circumstances of the other tours and the particulars of all my tours are set forth in my declaration. In my first Tour I Served two months. In my Second, I served three months and in my third I served __ months and __ days.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer. I received a discharge at the expiration of each of the periods specified for which I Served; By whom my first discharge was given, I do not recollect, nor by whom it was signed do I recollect. My Second discharge was given and Signed by Colonel Long [could be Hall, since the name is overwritten] – my third discharge was handed to me by my Orderly Sergeant Sturtevant and by whom Signed I do not know. I lost them all in Halifax County North Carolina, when I do not know.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I would refer to the Reverend Solomon Wyatt, Mr. Allen Baker, Mr. Joshua Harrison who can be examined touching my character for veracity, and their belief of my Services as a Soldier of the Revolution. I have only lived where I now do one year have never been absent but twice from my home on account of my crippled State and am not therefore well acquainted in this neighborhood. But the neighborhood who know me and Gentlemen of the higher respectability in the County are satisfied of my Services. In my former neighborhood in Greene County, my Services are well known and credited.

S/ Jesse Gammon, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 22nd of November 1833.

S/ Robert McFarland

[Solomon Wyatt, a clergyman, Josiah Harrison and Allen Baker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 61]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Jesse Gammond [sic] a private in Captain Bacote's [Peter Bacot's] Company of the 10th Regiment enlisted in the year 1782 for the term of 18 months, and that nothing more is said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 20th day of January 1834

S/ Wm Hill [NC Secretary of State]

[p 24: On May 2nd, 1851 in Greene County Tennessee Sarah Gammon, 88, filed for a pension as the widow of Jesse Gammon, a revolutionary pensioner; that her husband was a resident of Greene County

Tennessee for the space of 7 years before he died; previous to that her husband resided in Jefferson County Tennessee and previous to that he was a resident of Greene County Tennessee; that she married him in January 1787 in Halifax County North Carolina; that they were married by Willis Alston Esquire; that her husband died May 6, 1849.]

[p 28: On July 5, 1852 in Greene County Tennessee, Allen Baker made oath that he is the administrator of the estate of Sarah Gammon deceased, widow of Jesse Gammon; that he, affiant, is the son-in-law of Jesse Gammon; that Sarah Gammon died in Greene County Tennessee June 11, 1852; she died before she could perfect her claim for a pension; she died leaving the following children her surviving: John K Gammon of Missouri, Henry Gammon, Rebecca and Polly Gammon and Sarah formerly Sarah Gammon, now Sarah Baker, the wife of the affiant; that his wife Sarah Baker is near 47 years of age; that the above named children are the only surviving heirs of Sarah and Jesse Gammon.]

[p 65: On June 18, 1852 in Green County Tennessee, Henry Gammon, 60, gave testimony that he is the 3rd child of his parents Jesse and Sarah Gammon, both deceased; that he was born in Halifax County North Carolina March 16, 1792 according to the family record³ which was cut from the original family register of his parents in the year 1839 by one of his sisters at affiant's request; that the said record has been in his possession ever since; that the record was made by Joel Sykes, affiant's uncle and brother of the affiant's mother; Joel Sykes was a schoolmaster; that the record was made prior to his father's removal from Halifax County North Carolina to Tennessee which took place about the year 1805; that he arrives at that date based on the fact that his youngest sister, Sarah, now Sarah Baker, was about 2 years old at the time of his family's removal to Tennessee; that the family register contained the names and ages of his brothers and sisters beginning with the eldest to wit Ivy Gammon, deceased, John K Gammon now of Illinois; Henry Gammon, this affiant and 3rd child: Richard Gammon, who died in infancy; Rebecca and Polly Gammon and Sarah now Sarah Baker who intermarried with Allen Baker, all of Greene County Tennessee; that his parents removed their family from Halifax County North Carolina to Orange County North Carolina then back to Halifax, thence to Greene County Tennessee, thence to the adjoining County of Jefferson, thence back to Green where his said father died on May 6, 1849; that his mother also died in Green County Tennessee on June 11, 1852 leaving John K Gammon, Henry Gammon, Rebecca and Polly Gammon and Sarah Baker her only surviving children.

Henry Gammon]

[p 68: On June 18, 1852, Emily Reece, formerly Emily Gammon daughter of Ivy Gammon gave testimony in Greene County Tennessee that she intermarried with Peter Reese, aged near 36 a resident of Greene, that she attaches a paper containing the age of her father the said Ivey Gammon and his ten children beginning with Green Henry Gammon and ending with Charles B Gammon, the original family register of her said father written by himself and kept in her possession since the death of her father

Emily Reece]

[pp 16-19: family record of Ivy Gammon, eldest child of the veteran and his wife (transcribed as

³ Affiant stated that the family record was included with his affidavit, but I found no such record in this file. It is possible I missed it, but I looked through the file twice trying to find it. The only family record I found was the one for Ivy Gammon, the veteran's eldest child.

literally as possible:

Ivy Gammans was Barnd [born] awgwhite [August] the 26 day in the year of awr [our] lard [Lord] 1787

Grwn Henry Gammans was Barnd Friday february the 1 day in the year of awr lard 1812

Jewley Gammans was Bornd Sunday SeptemBer the 26 in the year of awr lord 1813

Emmely Gammans was Bornd twsday Jwni [June?] the 25 day in the year of awr lard 1816

Adison Gammans was Bornd Swnday OCtoBer the 11 day in the year of our lord 1818

Biehary Gammans was Bornd twsday OctoBer the 17 day in the year of owr lard 182[last digit missing]

Patrick Gammans was Bornd Jwly the 19 day 1822

Allen B. Gammans was Barnd Monday Aprile the 5 day in the year of our lard 1824

[illegible] Genwary 1826

Swsan [illegible] Gammans was Barnd feBwary satwday [illegible] day in the year of owr lord 1826

Cathran Jain Gammans was Barnd feBwary satwday the fou[illegible] day in the year of our lard 1826

Charls B. Gammans was Barnd may [illegible] dnesday the 14 day [in the] year of owr lord 1828

Henry Gammon Born March the 16th 1792]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$44.10 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 13 months and 7 days in the North Carolina service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]