

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Gresham W2933      Elizabeth Gresham      f153GA  
Transcribed by Will Graves      9/11/06 rev'd 11/1/15

[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.]

[p 5]

State of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia

On this twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord 1832, before the Court of Common Pleas of the City and County of Philadelphia, now sitting, George Gresham, a resident as aforesaid, aged 72 years, personally appeared in open court, 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 the seventh of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He was born in Goochland County, State of Virginia, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1760. His father was James Gresham who followed the occupation of a planter. A few years after the birth of this applicant, his mother, then a widow, removed to Burke County in Georgia, where the applicant resided until May or June 1777. He then enlisted in Captain Harrison's company of Colonel Elbert's [Samuel Elbert's] Regiment of Georgia is State Troops and served with that corps. In December 1778, those of the Regiment who had escaped death or capture at the taking of Savannah [Savannah was taken on December 29, 1778 by British forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell], crossed the Savannah River into South Carolina and formed an encampment near Sisters ferry; thence in February or March 1779, we proceeded to the neighborhood of Augusta in Georgia and there encamped. In 1779, the applicant was promoted by Colonel Elbert to be a cornet in Captain Reatherford's [sic, Rutherford's?]<sup>1</sup> troop of Light Horse. While the British were in possession of Augusta, and our troops near the town, General Ashe [John Ashe of North Carolina] came and assumed the command. The enemy evacuated the place and retreated on the Briar Creek Road: our General crossed at Augusta and took the River road for the purpose of cutting off their retreat. He formed his camp in the fork of the River and Briar Creek, but unfortunately suffered himself to be surprised and defeated [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]. Our Colonel [Samuel Elbert] was made prisoner, and the Regiment suffered very severely. Those who escaped crossed the River into South Carolina and encamped near the Sisters. This was in March 1779; the command of the Regiment had devolved upon Colonel Habersham [Joseph Habersham]. Too many of our men had returned home on account of the expiration of their term of enlistment. The applicant was ordered on the recruiting service. He was about upon this duty when the British entered South Carolina and

---

<sup>1</sup> This officer's name is spelled "Reatherford" throughout the veteran's applications, but I have used Rutherford in lieu thereof. The officer in question MAY have been Joseph Rutherford.

Captain Rutherford was killed and Lieutenant [word partially cut off, it starts "Hol..."] was mortally wounded in a skirmish. In September, the applicant was commissioned as a Captain of Light Horse by Governor Davis [Myrick Davies] of Georgia to be attached to Col. Twiggs' [John Twiggs] Regiment. Many skirmishes took place with the British and Tories; in a conflict at Stono ferry [Battle of Stono ferry, June 20, 1779],<sup>2</sup> a ball passed through the applicant's leg and killed his horse. In the summer of 1780, in consequence of the capture of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], we were driven from the lower part of South Carolina and Georgia. We retreated before the enemy – some crossed the mountains, others betook themselves to the swamps. The applicant remained in the swamps with about 25 men until Ferguson's [Patrick Ferguson's] defeat at Kings Mountain in the month of September [sic, October 7, 1780]<sup>3</sup> which began to restore confidence: some reinforcement was then collected with which, in January 1781, a party of Tories was surprised in the fork of Saluda and Broad Rivers. Information came to us that General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] was within a few miles, pursued by the enemy. We started immediately to join him and on our way, having fallen in with a part of the British advance, we had a skirmish and made two prisoners. We reached the general the evening preceding the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]<sup>4</sup> and were placed under the command of Colonel Washington [William Washington]. Early the next morning the enemy attacked our lines, but they were soon broken and retreated in every direction, leaving their dead, wounded, artillery, baggage and many prisoners. We continued with the Army two days, and were then ordered away to disperse some Tories who were assembling near Enoree River. They dispersed before we could reach them. Nothing important occurred until sometime in March when we heard of an Army coming from the North, all the forces were collected and crossing the Yadkin [River], we passed through Charlotte and Salisbury. We then learned that Cornwallis was on the same route, which induced us to take another route. Falling in with one of General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] out parties, they guided us to headquarters at Guilford Court house. The applicant then first saw Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], and on the 14 March 1781 was ordered under his command. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Lee moved out on the Salisbury Road and we had not proceeded many miles when the British advance appeared: our party attacked and lost two men; at New Garden meeting house [March 15, 1781],<sup>5</sup> the enemy were reinforced and we left the ground. Several other skirmishes took place before the enemy reached the Court House, where the action became general. After the engagement, Colonel Lee heard of Tarleton and Simcoe, who were in the neighborhood of the Alamance for the purpose of joining the Tories under Colonel Piles [sic, Doctor John Pyle]. We missed Tarleton, but fell in with Pyle and a strong party who were routed with the loss of many killed, wounded and prisoners [Pyle's Defeat or Battle of Haw River, February 25, 1781].<sup>6</sup> Nothing occurred deserving of mention until sometime in April 1781. After General Greene's battle of or near Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill Hill, April 25, 1781],<sup>7</sup> the Tory spirit seemed broken and they were obliged to take to the swamp or the British camp. We were employed from that time until September in skirmishing with the British and Tories in Georgia and South Carolina; the General then moved down the state of South Carolina, ordering out all the militia and volunteers to join

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stono\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_new\\_garden\\_meetinghouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_new_garden_meetinghouse.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_haw\\_river.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_haw_river.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hobkirks\\_hill.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hobkirks_hill.html)

the Army. Our party took the road to Broad River, joined some of the South Carolina volunteers and militia who knew the country and joined General Greene some few days before he reached the Eutaw Springs [Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781].<sup>8</sup> Early in the morning, Colonel Lee ordered my troop to fall in with his cavalry; we moved along the Road leading to the Spring – surprised some of the enemy getting potatoes – and some of them were killed, wounded and made prisoners. We then passed on to the rear, and the applicant received orders to join Colonel Washington. He was with the Colonel when his horse fell and he was taken; we then cut our way through the old Briff [?] Regiment<sup>9</sup> in the best way we could. This battle gave relief to the country and a few days after, he set out in quest of Tories collected near Orangeburg. Some skirmishing ensued with Colonel Rump [Lt. Col. Jacob Rump] near Edisto Swamp. We then returned to our own state, where Colonel Brown [Thomas "Burnt Foot" Brown] still kept possession of Augusta. His scouting parties made excursions into the country until the place was taken [Siege of Augusta, May 22-June 6, 1781]; they were then confined in or near Savannah.

In the spring of 1782, General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] arrived in Georgia and formed his camp near Savannah. We had several skirmishes with British light parties at Mr. Gibbons and one with the Creek Indians in our camp. They were on their way to join the enemy and fell upon us when neither party was aware of the neighborhood of the other. They were soon dispersed with considerable loss. We had also an engagement with a plundering party; reinforcements were thrown in from each side until half of both armies were in motion. We remained in camp up to the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1782; Savannah was then evacuated by the British and taken possession of by our troops. In a few days afterwards, General Wayne discharged all the volunteers and militia, which of course included this applicant.

This applicant has no record of his age; while he was serving in the army, the British and Tories pillaged the family house and destroyed everything within their reach including the papers and documents. In 1783, finding himself a ruined man by reason of these disasters, he went to join the relatives that remained in Virginia. He resided in Powhatan [County] following the business of a collector of debts about two years; he removed thence to Granville County, North Carolina, where he spent upwards of two years, in the same occupation and also a part of the time as a planter; his next removal was to Richmond County, Virginia, where he married, and was a planter on the Rappahannock near Bowler's ferry which was about opposite; upwards of two years afterwards, he went to Scott County Kentucky and was a planter of corn and tobacco for four years; he thence returned to Granville County, and resided on Island Creek as a planter, about 10 years; his next removal was to Sussex County in Delaware, at the head of Nanticoke, where he was a storekeeper upwards of two years; afterwards he went to Milford in King County Delaware and thence to Lewistown; at Milford and Lewistown he kept a boarding house until the bombardment of the latter place by the British; he was then commissioned by the governor Haslet [ Joseph Haslet] as a Captain of Volunteers; shortly afterwards he was commissioned as a first Lieutenant in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the United States. A part of this Regiment was barracked in Philadelphia: this applicant resigned from the service because no employment was offered to him except in the recruiting service and the young men then took the command. At the peace, this applicant came to Philadelphia, where he has ever since resided. His discharge and commissions were stolen from him with a quantity of valuable papers and property by a body of outlying Tories in the end of 1783 who bore him a particular hostility. In consequence

---

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

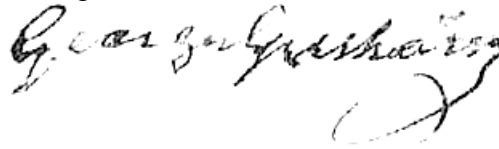
<sup>9</sup> *Buff regiment*

of his many removals and changeable life, he has long lost sight of all those who could testify to his service and his age and infirmities prevent the possibility of a journey to the scene of his services for the purpose of seeking the possible survivors of so many years. The applicant's commission as a Captain was signed by Governor Davis of Georgia. He applicant is well known to many citizens of Philadelphia; he will specify the Reverend James Wiltbank and Colonel Samuel B. Davis, knew him in the state of Delaware, and the Honorable Henry Horn.

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 agency of any State. He has always hitherto maintained himself to the best of his endeavors without seeking any public provision.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ George Grisham

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Grisham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ George Grisham".

S/ Edward King

[James Wiltbank, a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, gave the standard supporting affidavit. Likewise, Henry Horn gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9]

George Gresham, the applicant above named, further on his oath declares and says:

That the first Regiment in which he served – namely that of Colonel Elbert – was of Georgia State Troops. This Regiment was reduced to one company and a half by the various casualties stated in the deposition, when the applicant was ordered on the recruiting service. He never rejoined that Regiment. He sent his resignation on receiving Governor Davis' appointment to be a Captain in Colonel Twiggs' Regiment of Volunteers. The engagement of this Regiment was of two kinds: some were engaged as Minutemen, others were engaged as volunteers during the war, to be called upon at any time by the commanding Officer. The engagement of the applicant was of the latter kind. A number of other offices of various grades were appointed at the same time with the applicant; of these were Captains Truman and McCoy, and Captain or Lieutenant Carr. These officers came from my neighborhood, and were commissioned in the same command. The Regiment was sometimes concentrated, but most generally they were scattered abroad. We were not strong enough to gather [paper damaged and one or more words are rendered illegible] in a body. Some were upon the mountains – others in the swamps. Colonel Twiggs went across the mountains twice, leaving the applicant behind in the swamps. The first time, the applicant was six months without receiving any orders from him; the other time I was three months. The course of warfare pursued by the applicant and considerable numbers of other Americans was to wander about in small parties collecting together whenever an opportunity presented itself to capture or destroy British property, or attack posts or squads of Tories. We engaged in this kind of warfare from fifteen to eighteen months, with some occasional interruptions, when troops were collected together and large enterprises undertaken. These are detailed in the applicant's first deposition. The custom of service was, that if we came within the District of any commanding officer he could command us under his orders for any [paper damaged and one or more words rendered illegible, perhaps "enterprise"] he had in view. There was no regular system, but every man did the best he could to defend himself and his country. In this way the party to which the applicant belonged was called upon by Sumpter

[Thomas Sumter] to attack Tories near Orangeburg. General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] called upon them to attack a body of Tories near the Saluda and Enoree rivers. Colonel Thompson, an officer of South Carolina militia, and Colonel Singleton of the same service called on us to attack some baggage going to Camden, but the project was abandoned the enemy being too strong for our forces. After this we returned to Georgia and our old mode of warfare. We were next ordered by Colonel Twiggs to embody for the purpose of attacking three troops of Cavalry – one called the Royal Americans, the other two raised by Governor Wright. We were dispersed with very great loss in consequence of the unexpected arrival of Colonel Campbell [Archibald Campbell] with two troops during the engagement. A week elapsed before our parties got together again.

From the time the applicant received his commission until the discharged by General Wayne he was constantly employed in carrying on war, though sometimes very feebly for want of force. He returned to his home, but once, and remained there only 15 minutes, there was at the time an immediate fear of attack. From the date of his commission as Captain he was never engaged in any other occupation than the service of the United States, up to his discharge. Sworn to and subscribed this 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1832

S/ George Gresham

[p 10]

George Gresham, the applicant within named, further on his oath declares and says:

That the period during which he was actually in service as a military officer were as follows: that he was promoted by Colonel Elbert to be a Cornet in Captain Rutherford's Troop of Light horse in the month of March or April 1779, but this deponent believes in the early part of March. He served in the post and with the command of Cornet about five or six months, then in the month of September of the same year (1779) he received a Commission from Governor Davis of Georgia to be a Captain of Volunteer Light horse attached to Colonel Twiggs' Regiment. With that commission until discharged by order of General Wayne on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1782, he was in constant service, for the particulars of such service, this deponent refers to his first deposition. He continued under his Georgia commission as a Captain two years and about ten months; under his first commission as a Cornet about five or six months. And further this deponent sayeth not. Sworn to and subscribed this 17<sup>th</sup> December 18 232.

S/ George Gresham

George Gresham, the applicant above named, again personally appeared before the undersigned, and being duly sworn, deposeth and saith; that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, much of his service cannot be sworn to positively: but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For six months, I served as a cornet in Captain Rutherford's Troop of light horse, in Colonel Elbert's Regiment: for two years and ten months, I served as a Captain in the volunteer Light horse attached to Colonel Twiggs' Regiment under the Commission received from Governor Davis of Georgia: and for such service I claim a pension.

During all the above period, the deponent was in actual service. His service consisted of being out upon scouting parties, harassing and attacking the British and Tories in detail. The forces on the American side were not strong enough to take the field, after the disasters before mentioned, until the arrival of General Greene. When we were not upon scouting parties, we lay hid in the swamps, constantly exposed to attack and danger. This was our usual course of warfare. And further deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed before Jany. 7, 1833

S/ Edward King

S/ George Gresham

[p 13: On November 27, 1838 in Gloucester County New Jersey, and the city of Camden, Elizabeth Gresham, aged 61, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of George Gresham late of the City of Camden deceased who was a Captain of Cavalry in the revolution; that she married him July 3, 1792; that her husband died October 30, 1837; and that she remains his widow.

*Elizabeth Gresham*  
]

[p 15: On November 6, 1838 in the City of Camden, Oliver Cox gave testimony that the above leaf containing the record of the marriage of George Gresham and Elizabeth Rust was taken from the family Bible of George Gresham; that the affiant is well familiar with the handwriting of Georgia Gresham and believes the record is in the handwriting of Georgia Gresham.]

[pp 23: family record:

Marriages

George Gresham and Elizabeth Rust was Married 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1792

**MARRIAGES.**  
*George Gresham  
and Elizabeth Rust  
was Married 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1792*

[p 59: Copy of a marriage bond dated June 27, 1792 issued in Richmond County Virginia to George Gresham and Thomas Williams conditioned upon the marriage of George Grisham of the County of Mecklenburg [presumably Mecklenburg County Virginia] and Elizabeth Rust of the County of Richmond.]

[p 76: A Memorial executed by Elizabeth Gresham and addressed to the Congress of the United States seeking a pension for herself as a widow of George Gresham, a revolutionary war pensioner. Another Memorial is posted at page 80.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a Captain of Cavalry for 2 years in the Georgia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]