

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Gresham (Grisham) ¹ W4969

Transcribed by Will Graves

Jane Gresham

9/1/08 rev'd 11/1/15

f73NC

[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.]

[p 5]

State of North Carolina, Granville County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term A.D. 1832

On this 9th day of August A.D. 1832 appeared personally in open court before William M. Sneed, Joseph H. Bryar, and William Webb the members of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid now sitting, James Grisham Senior a resident of the said County and State aged seventy-three years on the 11th day of August 1832 (Born in Louisa County and State of Virginia near Trinity Church, who removed to North Carolina at about seven years of age and settled in Granville County where he now lives and has continued to live ever since) who being duly sworn according to law makes this Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June A.D. 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer in a Tour of three months service under Bartlett Searcey as Captain and I think Howell Rose was Lieutenant the other officers I cannot recollect – There were two Companies raised in Granville at this time the one of which I was a member, as stated, the other, was commanded by Stephen Merritt. These two companies marched through Hillsboro left Salisbury to our right, crossing the Yadkin at Moore's Ferry thence across Rocky River then Down that River on the other side towards Camden – we were marching with all speed to join the American Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates]. After marching two or three days, and coming in the hearing of Cannon, we followed up our march till about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when we began to meet the soldiers of the American Army who informed us that General Gates had been defeated [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]² and that they were seeking safety by flight. Our Captains of our two companies, for we had no field officers in command over us, being satisfied that any exertion they or their men were capable of making would be unavailing, turned about and marched their men but not in a little confusion seven or 8 miles across the River, where we were formed in rank & file, in which order we marched about 3 miles until we fell in with the Guards that was put over the Wagons belonging to the American Army. Here being informed by our officers that they were unwilling to keep us longer on duty and finding or believing that the only means of safety, was for each man to look to himself, they told us that each one must take care of himself and gave us a Discharge – And I with all care, circumspection, and speed made the best of my way home, where I arrived in about six or seven days – When I arrived at home I learned that my Captain had reached home before me. In a short time, less than three weeks, the men belonging to our company were called together at Oxford and reorganized and forthwith marched westward to aid the American forces – We went first towards Hillsboro, but before we had reached that place, at Johnson's Store I was taken sick with a fever and was left there – In a few days my father having learned my situation came with a Horse and brought me home I received no written discharge until after my Captain had returned from his Tour of Duty, when

¹ BLWt26832-160-55

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

still continuing sick he gave me a discharge – which being, as I always thought, of no account, has been long since lost or destroyed – I had served between two & three months from the time I volunteered until I was taken sick and was confined by that sickness more than two months longer --

The next tour of duty in which I engaged was in the latter part of December of the same year – it was just before the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]³ – I entered the Service as a volunteer and was commanded by Jones Fuller Captain and afterwards by Shadrach Parrish [Shadrach Parish], Thomas Bradford Lieutenant, and Blake Maulden as Ensign. This company was formed in Granville County. Our place of rendezvous was at Hillsboro where we were joined by the Balance of our Detachment. At Hillsboro we were put under the command of Colonel Farmer [Thomas Farmer] & Lieutenant Colonel Harrison and Major Sharpe. We were marched off through Salisbury to the Catawba [River], and joined the American forces under the command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] at Beatties Ford; the Main body of the American Army being lower down the River under the command of General Greene [Nathanael Greene] – I was stationed with a detachment of 30 men on the Island at Beatties Ford where the British attempted to cross the River – but they were driven back. It was on this same day that General Davidson was killed at Cowan's [Callan's Ford, February 1, 1781]⁴ or the Cow ford, 3 miles below Beatties Ford – The Enemy succeeded after killing General Davidson and crossing the River at the Ford where he fell, and the Americans were driven back until they prepared for Battle at the Lane of Mrs. Torrance [Tarrant's Tavern, February 1, 1781].⁵ Being there again over powered by the British we were driven Back & dispersed and never got together again until we reached the Yadkin River. Here we were collected and organized under our Former Company & field officers and the whole under the Command of General Greene the American Army at Cheraw having Joined us at this place. We continued to retreat before the British Army until we arrived at South Boston on Dan River. Here General Greene made a stand on the North side of the River, and sent Major Sharpe with Captain Shadrach Parrish who then commanded our company in charge of the Baggage Wagons to Halifax C. House Virginia thence to Charlotte County C. House in Virginia where we were directed to wait for further orders – we soon received orders to meet the Main body of our Army at Harrisburg in Granville County – and in pursuance of these instructions our Company which then consisted of only 14 men marched down the River Roanoke on the North side. We crossed that River at Taylor's Ferry, passed through Williamsborough and joined General Butler [John Butler] with a detachment of about 200 men at Granville old Court House. We forthwith marched to Hillsborough which had just been evacuated by the British, and followed after them to the High rock on Haw River – which we reached before the fires of the British had been extinguished. A great number of recruits now thronging in to the aid of our Army and very many of them being without arms, and our terms of Service having almost expired, we were regularly discharged & I came home on the 12th of March 1781 and the arms of our Company were taken to furnish those that were without. This Tour commenced on the 26th day of December 1780 and Terminated as I have stated – but we should have been retained in service until the full completion of our term of service, but that was remitted to us on account of our long and laborious service, and to enable them to furnish the new recruits with our arms.

I next performed a Tour of Service in the Public Factory at Harrisburg under the command of Bat Birdsong [Batt Birdsong] who had charge of it. I commenced about the first of June 1781 and worked out a full Tour of three months. This service was as a volunteer – Harris Hicks also worked in the same factory for the same period of time.

I next performed a three months tour in Williamsborough has a substitute for Dennis Driskoll [sic, Driscoll?] under the Control and Direction of Colonel Robert Burton and Major Anderson Smith. My Employment in this Tour was in feeding & taking care a Parcel of Public Horses that were Stationed there -- and cleaning, pickling & hanging up and drying fish that were brought from the

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

Roanoke from the Public Fisheries -- in making halters for the use of the Army -- and attending in a small degree to the public Tan Yard [?] that had been established there -- in conveying expresses from one part of the Country to another and in this character I carried an express to Tarborough and thence to Smithfield in Johnston County with a life guard to be sent for the Protection of Governor Abner Nash then stationed in the vicinity of Williamsborough at the residence of Judge Williams.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any State -- subscribed & sworn to the year and date first above stated.

S/ James Gresham, Senior



[p 9]

Thomas Jordan⁶ a resident Citizen and born and raised in the County of Granville declares and certifies that he is & has been long acquainted with James Grisham Senior who has made the foregoing declaration and subscribed and sworn to it; that I believe him to be about the age of 73 years -- I further declare that I was a fellow soldier with him in the same Tour which he has stated when he marched from Oxford to Beatties Ford thence to the Yadkin and to South Boston on the Dan River, thence to Granville old Court House and thence by Hillsborough to the High rock on Haw River-- I was in the same company commanded first by Captain Jones Fuller & afterwards by Captain Shadrach Parrish, Thomas Bradford as Lieutenant and Blake Maulden Ensign -- I was with him in all the tour he has described & partook of all the toil & trouble he has spoken of -- I was one of the fourteen men who alone composed our Company at the High Rock and was there discharged & set out & came most of the way home with him-- our homes were not many miles apart -- And I do further fully corroborate & substantiate the statement he has made as to that Tour. I am not acquainted with the other Services he has mentioned in his declaration.

Subscribed and sworn to this day of August 1832.

S/ Thomas Jordan, I his mark

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John Suit and Henry Wilson Senior both residents of Granville County came into Court this 11th day of August 1832 and made oath viz John Suit made oath he has long been acquainted with James Grisham the applicant in the foregoing declaration -- That I know he performed the three months tour of service as therein set forth at Williamsborough for I was myself on duty at the same time, place and under the control & direction of Colonel Robert Burton and Anderson Smith as therein set forth.

And the said Henry Wilson Senior Certifies that he is well acquainted with the said James Gresham the Applicant as aforesaid and that I well know that he performed the Tour of Service in the Public Factory at Harrisburg as stated in his declaration aforesaid for I was well acquainted with him, lived in the same neighborhood, and at the same time was on duty at Williamsborough and subsequently saw & conversed with him upon the matters of our Employment.

Subscribed & sworn to 11th of August 1832.

S/ John Suit, X his mark

S/ Henry Wilson, X his mark

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State of North Carolina, Granville County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court this 8 February 1833 before William M. Sneed, Joseph H. Bryar & James Wyche the chairman Justices holding the same Shadrach Owen⁷ who being duly sworn

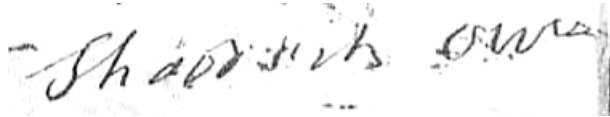
⁶ THIS MAY BE THE THOMAS JORDAN WHOSE WIFE FILED A CLAIM. See [Thomas Jordan R5767](#)

⁷ [Shadrach Owen \(Owens\) W5459](#)

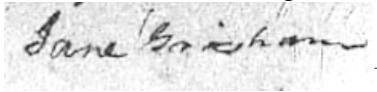
on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God according to law certifies & declares on oath that he is well acquainted with James Grisham who has signed & subscribed the Declaration for a pension under the act of Congress dated 9th August 1832 – That he has heard that part of said declaration read which relates to the Tour of said Grisham into South Carolina to aid the Americans under General Gates – That he was a Private in the same Company with said Grisham and fully certifies the services of him in said Campaign but of his sickness and discharge this affiant knows nothing. He is a citizen of Granville County and believes said Grisham to be about the age he states and this affiant is in his 73rd year since December last.

Subscribed & sworn in open Court 8th of February 1833

S/ Shadrach Owen



[p 13: On February 2, 1844, in Granville County North Carolina, Jane Grisham, 80, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of James Grisham, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$35.71 per annum; that she was married to James Grisham by Leonard Higgs in Granville County North Carolina on August 1, 1781; that her husband died April 26, 1837; and that she remains a widow.



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Family record

Howel Grisham Son of James Grisham was Born the 5 day of may 1783

Benjamin Grisham Son of James Grisham Was Born the 22 day of june 1785

Wheeler Grisham son of James Grisham Was Born the 27 day august 1787

Nany [could be Mary] Grisham Daughter [of] James Grisham was Born 1st day of january 1790

Elizabeth Grisham daughter of James Grisham was born 20th of april 1793

Thomas Grisham Son of James Grisham was born may the 21 1795

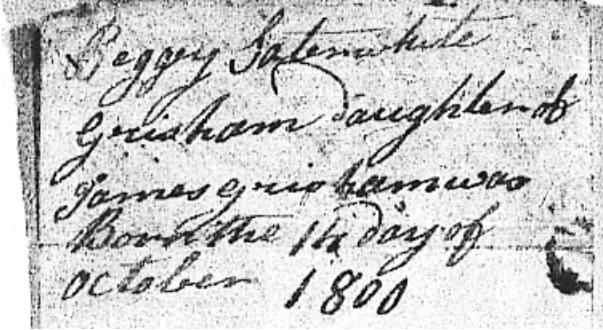
Salley Grisham daughter of James Grisham was born the 16 day of may 1798



Howel Grisham Son of James Grisham Was Born the 5 day of may 1783	Thomas Grisham Son James Grisham was born may the 21 --- 1795
Benjamin Grisham Son James Grisham Was Born the 22 day of june 1785	Salley Grisham daughter of James Grisham was born the 16 day of may 1798
Wheeler Grisham Son of James Grisham Was Born the 27 day august 1787	
Nany Grisham Daughter of James Grisham was Born the 1 day of january 1790	
Elizabeth Grisham daughter of James Grisham was born the 20 th of april 1793	

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Peggy Saterwhite Grisham daughter of James Grisham was Born the 14 day of October 1800

A snippet of a handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads: "Peggy Saterwhite Grisham daughter of James Grisham was Born the 14 day of October 1800". The handwriting is dark and somewhat faded, with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.

[p 19: On February 3, 1844 in Granville County North Carolina, the widow gave testimony that the family record recording the births of her children is in the handwriting of her husband.]

[p 27: On February 3, 1844, in Granville County, NC, Frances Henderson, 76, widow of the late Chief Justice Henderson, gave an affidavit that she was born and raised in the same neighborhood with James Grisham and his wife Jane Clarke, and knows that they were married and lived together as man and wife; that affiant went to school with Jane Grisham.]

[p 29: On February 2, 1844 in Granville County, Benjamin Norwood, 84, gave an affidavit that he is a cousin of Jane Clarke Grisham and knows that she married James Grisham in August of 1781; he also says that he knows that James Gresham served three months under Captain William Glover and marched to Wilmington because he, Benjamin Norwood, hired a substitute to go in his stead in this service.]

[p 21: On April 17, 1855 in Granville County North Carolina, the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35.21 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia for 10 months and 17 days. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]