

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Gunner ¹ W5959

Ruth Burgess²

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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 'indcipherable' 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 15]

The State of Ohio Highland County: SS

On this the 30th day of August A.D. 1852 personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Ruth Burgess a resident of Fairfield Township in said County aged eighty years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" Also for the benefit of the Acts of Congress of March 3rd 1843, of June 17th 1844 and of February 2nd 1848 and of all other Acts and Resolutions applicable to her case: That she is (or was) the widow of James Gunner who was as she believes a private in the Virginia line on Continental Establishment in the War of the Revolution and served therein three years or upwards, and was if she is not mistaken in the Battle of the Brandywine [September 11, 1777]. She further states that she cannot state the Regiment or company to which the said James Gunner belonged but that he received a Bounty Land Warrant from the State of Virginia for his revolutionary Services which was located in the State of Ohio, near Cincinnati and which land this declarant and the heirs at law of the said James Gunner after his decease sold to one William Nash; She further states that she has no record or documentary evidence of the services of her said husband, but she believes his discharge is on file in the Bounty Land Office in Richmond Virginia. She further declares that she was married to the said James Gunner in Green County Pennsylvania by the Reverend John Corbry a Baptist minister about the year 1790, that she was then living 5 or 6 miles from the said Corbry's and herself and the said James Gunner in company with Thomas Simonton and Elizabeth Ekleberry (who were their waiters and stood up with them) road from where she lived to the said Corbry's and were married, and that there were many others present whose names she has forgotten, but that she has no record, public or private of her said Marriage. That she had two children by the said James Gunner, the oldest of whom if now living would be 61 years of age, which was a daughter and her name was Jane, she is now dead, the other whose name is Savil and is now living (so far as she knows) is now 59 years of age. That her maiden name was Ruth Hardin. She further states that shortly after her said marriage, they removed to the State of Kentucky where they lived 7 or 8 years and they then removed to Fayette County in the State of Ohio where they continued to reside until about the year 1806 or 1807 when the said James Gunner died; She further declares

¹ BLWt39496-160-55

² former widow

that she was not married to the said James Gunner prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 to wit at the time above stated.

She further declares that after the decease of said James Gunner she removed to Highland County Ohio where on the 13th day of October 1816 she married one Jonathan Burgess who also died at Leesburg Highland County Ohio on the 26th day of March 1826: That she has not again married since the death of said Jonathan Burgess but still remains a widow. She further states that she never had any children by her second husband the said Jonathan Burgess. And she further states that she was ignorant of the provisions made by Acts of Congress granting Pensions to certain widows of the Soldiers of the Revolution until quite recently, and she now most respectfully asked the Honorable Commissioner of Pensions that her aforesaid claim or claims may be allowed under the aforesaid Acts, and that the Certificates evidencing the same may be enclosed to her Attorney

S/ Ruth Burgess, X her mark

[p 13: Certificate dated November 25, 1816 given by Samuel Jewell, JP, stating that he joined Jonathan Burgess and Ruth Gunner in marriage on October 13 last [1816].]

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The State of Ohio Highland County: SS

It is hereby certified that satisfactory evidence has been presented to the Probate Court in and for said County that James Gunner who was a private in the Virginia line on Continental Establishment in the war of the Revolution departed this life about the year 1806 or 1807 leaving Ruth Gunner his widow, who remained his widow until the 13th day of October 1816 when she married Jonathan Burgess who also died on the 26th day of March 1826 and left Ruth Burgess (formerly Ruth Gunter) a widow who has not again married but still remains a widow.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court, this 31st day of August A.D. 1852

S/ J. R. Emrie, Probate Judge

[p 5: On April 11, 1855 in Highland County Ohio, Ruth Burgess, 84, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of James Gunner; that her name prior to her marriage was Ruth Harden; that her husband died in Fayette County Ohio but she cannot recollect the date of his death. She signed this document with her mark.]

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General Land Office April 6, 1853

Sir,

In reply to your inquiries, I have to state that Virginia Continental Warrant No. 3708 for 100 acres issued in favor of James Gunner, a Soldier in the Virginia Continental Line, and is now on file in this Office; Said Warrant issued March 5th, 1785 & has been satisfied by location in the Virginia Military District Ohio, by survey No. 3878.

Accompanying the Warrant are two assignments, the 1st from Ruth Gunner & Jane Gunner, in favor of William Nash, bearing date July 31st, 1810; the 2nd from Savil Gunner in

favor of the same party bearing date September 25th, 1813; these parties conveyed their interest in Warrant No. 3768 to said Nash, as a heirs at law of the said James Gunner, deceased.

J. J. Combs, Esq.

Respectfully

Your media Servant

John Wilson Commissioner

[Veteran's former widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her former husband's service in the Virginia service.]