

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Gattis <sup>1</sup> W688

Rosanna Gattis f50NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/4/08 rev'd 8/5/15

[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 North Carolina, Orange County

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, now sitting – the same being a Court of record, Alexander Gattis of the County & State aforesaid aged according to the record of the family Bible of his father about seventy-one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration – That he volunteered as a soldier in the service of the United States shortly before Gates defeat [August 15-16, 1780] in the year 1780, under the command of Captain Davis Grissom [sic, Davis Gresham or Greesham] at Hillsboro in the County & State aforesaid that he does not recollect the name of the Colonel of his Regiment, but distinctly recollects that he was attached to the Brigade of General Butler [John Butler] – that he marched from Hillsboro under the officers aforesaid, crossing the Yadkin River at the narrows, to Camden in South Carolina where General Gates took the command – that he was in the battle of Gates defeat – that our troops having been routed & dispersed in this engagement this declarant was ordered, that the company to which he belonged would be reorganized at Hillsboro North Carolina, some short time afterwards. And that the soldiers might repair thither as well as they could. This declarant returned home to the County & State aforesaid – and at the time appointed joined his Company at Hillsboro where Captain Greesham appeared & resumed the command and Colonel Thomas Taylor with this & several other companies moved to the South West, crossing Haw, Deep & Pedee rivers, to near the South Carolina border in quest of the Tories Thence this declarant marched under the officers aforesaid to Cross Creek now Fayetteville, thence to or near Drowning Creek in the County of Anson or Richmond in pursuit of the Tories. And was there discharged by his Captain Davis Gresham – this discharge is now in his possession and is here produced in court. There was no engagement during this last tour but our troops were constantly on the alert, pursuing the Tories who infested that section of the State. This declarant next volunteered at Hillsboro aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain Abram Allen [Abraham Allen] for a term of three months, he thinks, in the month of August 1781. This company was raised for the purpose of suppressing the Tories who were troublesome in this first marched down to Eno River, where this company scoured the country. Thence across the country to Haw River, & in company with Colonels O'Neal & Tinnin [sic, Hugh Tinnen] pursued a Tory band under one Deerfield as far as Deep River. Thence this declarant returned to Haw River & after separating from Colonels O'Neal & Tinnen – the company of Captain Allen in which this declarant was, having understood that the Tories were assembled on Cain [sic, Cane] Creek in Orange County under one Richard Edwards, marched & attacked them at Lewis Kirk's plantation [September 12, 1781], but finding them superior in number to what they expected, the Whigs were repulsed and this declarant received a wound in the shoulder which disqualified him for further service – And

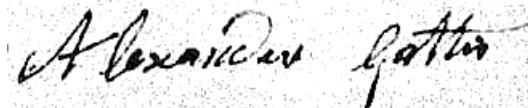
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<sup>1</sup> BLWt13200-160-55

returned home – his wound did not heal for two or three months and he did not regain the use of his arm for near 12 months. Afterwards in June 1782, this declarant was exempted from all military duty by General Court martial of the officers of Orange County, and produces hereto the court the certificate of William McCauley Major to that effect. That William Strayhorn<sup>2</sup> was with this declarant in Captain Allen's company and he begs leave to refer to his declaration made here service. That he was born in the State of Pennsylvania but came to this County & State when he was about three years old, and has resided here ever since. That in his first Term of service he knew Reuben Smith<sup>3</sup> who was orderly Sergeant, until after Gates defeat, and acted as cornet after the company was reorganized at Hillsboro. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

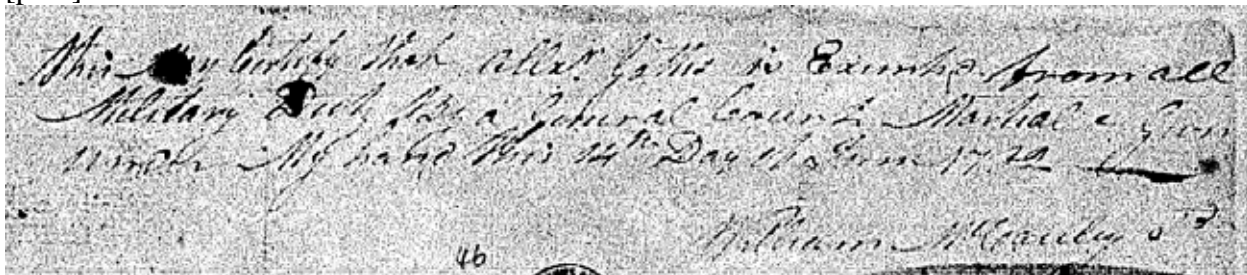
S/ Alexander Gattis



S/ J. Taylor, Clk

[James Hart & John Strayhorn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

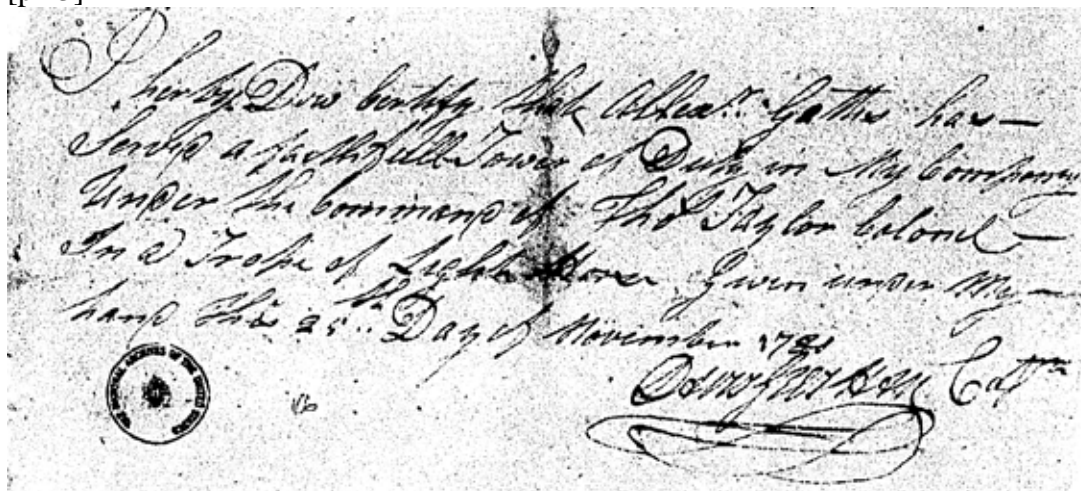
[p 21]



“This May Certify that Alexr.Gattis is Exempted from all Military Duty By a General Court Martial. Given under My hand this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of June 1782.

S/ William McCauley”

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“I herby Dow Certify that Alexr Gattis has Served a faithfull Tower of Duty in My Company Under

<sup>2</sup> [William Strayhorn S7650](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Reuben Smith S7547](#)

the Command of Thos Taylor Colonel—In a Trope of Light Horse. Given under My hand this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of November 1781.

S/ Davis Gresham, Capt.”

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Declaration by way of amendment and explanation of the Declaration made by Alexander Gattis before the Justices of the County Court of Orange County, N. C. at August Term 1832 thereof – in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of aforesaid now sitting, Alexander Gattis, of the County & State aforesaid aged 72 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, supplementary, amendatory & explanatory of a declaration, heretofore viz., at August Term 1832 of the said Court, made by him, for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States & performed the services, as stated and described in his said former declaration, & as is herein set forth. --

He volunteered as a private in the militia of North Carolina, and Company commanded by Captain Gresham, in the Brigade of General Butler, & performed the services set forth in his said declaration until the defeat of General Gates, in that capacity – and that he served one month in that capacity: that afterwards in the Troop of Light Horse under the command of Colonel Thomas Taylor into which Captain Gresham's Company was changed, & in which this declarant served, as set forth in his said former declaration, the declarant was in service two months, the one month which he served as a private foot soldier under Captain Gresham, and the two months which he served in the Troop of light Horse under Col. Taylor, completing the tour of three months for which he had volunteered. The declarant obtained the written discharge set forth in his former declaration & accompanying the same. He served as a common soldier or trooper in each instance aforesaid. --

The other tour of three months, for which the declarant volunteered, as set forth in his said former declaration, the declarant volunteered as a private in the militia of North Carolina, and was engaged in active service as set forth in his said declaration, for at least two months he thinks, when he received the wound in the skirmish with the Tories at L. Kirk's, as set forth in his said declaration: that he does not recollect the precise time – but he distinctly recollects that the tour of three months, for which he & his fellow soldiers had volunteered, expired & his fellow soldiers were discharged from that tour – before he was so restored from the wound he received in battle, which is described in his former declaration, as to be able to go about & do business. By that wound when fresh, he was disqualified from doing military duty; -- and when several months old viz.: in June following, it was believed by the General Court Marshall [sic martial], to require, at their hands, an exemption of the declarant from further military duty, as appears by the written certificate of Major William McCauley which accompanies declarant's former declaration.

The declarant cannot furnish any other proof of his said service, than that of his on oath, evidence of his good character & the reputation of his neighborhood, of his having been a soldier of the revolution – except the accompanying affidavits of two of his fellow soldiers viz.: Reuben Smith and William Strayhorn, of the County & State aforesaid. The declarant states that he hath endeavored to procure the attendance of a clergyman to certify to his character, but has failed so to do -- & that his endeavors in that regard have been ominously made.

S/ Alexander Gattis

Subscribed & sworn to

S/ J. Taylor, Clk

[George M. Johnston and John Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1833, personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the peace in & for the County aforesaid, Reuben Smith and William Strayhorn, residents of the County aforesaid who, after having first been duly sworn, state, on their oath, as follows – viz.: Reuben Smith says that he served with Alexander Gattis whose declaration of companies this Affidavit, in the War of the revolution; that the said Gattis was a private in the Militia of N. C. in a tour of three months in 1780 & was in the Battle of Gates defeat, in a Company commanded by Captain Gresham, & this Affiant thinks that said Gattis served out the said Tour: and that the said Gattis was in another tour as a private in the militia of N. C. & was attached to the Light Horse, commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor, of Orange aforesaid – this Affiant thinks, that said Gattis served a tour of two or three months. --

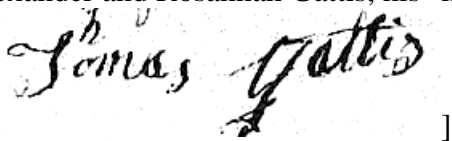
The said William Strayhorn, says, that being in the Army at the same time, he knew the aforesaid A. Gattis was a private in the Militia of N. C. in a tour of three months, under the Command of Captain Allen, in the War of the Revolution -- & he thinks he served out that tour.

S/ Reuben Smith, X his mark

S/ William Strayhorn, X his mark

[p 10: On May 26, 1853 in Orange County North Carolina, Rosannah Gattis aged about 78 and a resident "near Chapel Hill" in Orange County, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Alexander Gattis, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband died December 2, 1842 in Orange County North Carolina; that she forgets the names and places and dates of his service but recollects that he was in service when Governor Burke [Thomas Burke] was kidnapped by David Fanning in Hillsboro in September 1781; that her husband was among the Whigs who pursued Fanning; that she married Alexander Gattis on or about September 1, 1806; and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: On May 26, 1853 in Orange County North Carolina Thomas Gaddis a resident of said County aged about 70 years gave testimony in support of the widow's application saying that he was present at the wedding of Alexander and Rosannah Gattis; that they were married by John Taylor, a magistrate, nearly 50 years ago; that he, the affiant, has lived his whole life since their marriage within 1 mile of Alexander and Rosannah Gattis, his "kinfolk"

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[p 14: On April 25, 1855 in Orange County North Carolina, the widow, about 82, 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 \$22.50 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & cavalry, North Carolina militia, for 6 months. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]