

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gass ¹ W7492
Transcribed by Will Graves

Betsey Gass f50NC
8/2/08 rev'd 8/3/15

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

State of Tennessee, Greene County: September Term 1832

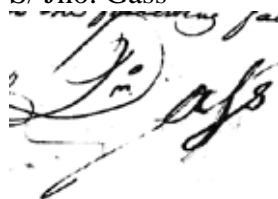
On this 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powel Judge of the first Judicial Circuit of the said State John Gass a resident of said County & State aged seventy-three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit that in and previous to the year 1777 he resided in Orange County State of North Carolina and volunteered under Colonel Moore [William Moore] to go on a tour of three months against the Cherokee Indians then in league with the British – and rendezvoused at Hillsboro North Carolina and marched up the Yadkin River to the Quaker Meadows, with a view of re-enforcing General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] who had previously gone on an expedition against said Indians and information had reached the Country that said Rutherford needed reinforcement but before the reinforcement have reached said Rutherford the Indians had retreated & the men under the command of Colonel Moore returned after the expiration of his term of time but did not receive a written discharge. That after his return home he again volunteered under the provisions of the act of North Carolina for the raising of new levies, in the Town of Hillsboro aforesaid under Captain Griffy [John Griffin], the provisions of said act being that all those who volunteered & served for nine months, should be exempt for three years, thereafter, this declarant thereunder volunteered as aforesaid, and it being understood that General Washington stood in need of assistance in the North the volunteers under said act marched on to join the Main Army, as far as Moore's Creek & information was communicated that their services would not be then required they encamped for part of the winter and remained there until December when a proposition was made to the men that they should be furloughed upon condition that if the exigencies of the service thereafter require it they would recommence their time – believing that a future called would not probably be made they were furloughed to return home, in the month of December, having engaged some time about June or July preceding. But some time after the return of declarant under the before mentioned circumstances, the British landed at Charleston and the aforesaid furloughed levies were called upon to march to the South to repulse the British, and was put under Captain Little [probably William Lytle] & marched through Salisbury, Charlotte & to the South Carolina line where some of the militia mutinied on account of objecting to cross the state line, and were forced into measures & the Army marched under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] & Mootry [sic, William Moultrie] on the Savannah River near the Smokey Camps, from thence up the River to the two sisters [ferry] near the place where had been the battle of Briar Creek [March 3, 1779], & removed up & down the River during the winter – Moultrie with part of the Army having gone to Charleston, information reached us that the British had fallen in his rear, declarant with 300 men under

¹ BLWt12575-160-55

Colonel Harrison & Major Harris by forced marches were ordered to the assistance of Moultrie by General Lincoln & with all possible dispatch did proceed to Charleston & there joined General Moultrie, having passed the British camp in the night, on the next night the British followed on & an engagement took place in Charleston in which the British was compelled to retreat into the Country, & the American troops left Charleston, and again came in contact with the British & had an engagement at Stono [June 20, 1779] the Army again returned to Charleston & there remained until the expiration of the term of time of the new levies had expired & declarant was discharged by Colonel Archibald Lytle at Hillsborough on their return home, he said declarant having during much the greater portion of his time been Sergeant Major and was as such discharged by Colonel Lytle, which discharge he parted from to Joel Lewis and the same has been never returned to him, that he has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any 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 & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State, that his last trip was not performed under a year from the time of his starting until his return having served altogether about two years. That there is no resident minister by whom he can establish the following facts.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 5th September 1832.

S/ V. Sevier, Clk

S/ Jno. Gass


[Leonard Stones & John Harden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

I drew the foregoing declaration, & know that declarant intended to present his claim as a private for the 2 first & Sergeant Major for the last tour, this being the recommended service under the New Levies only, for which he intended to be understood as serving as Sergeant and that I also agree for him to receive a pension certificate for 18 months as above without prejudice hereafter.

S/ Jno. Blair, M. C. [John Blair, member of Congress]²

[p 42]

Raleigh 18th September 1833

Dear Sir

I received a few days passed a letter from your friend John Blair Esquire inquiring for evidence to support your claim for a pension from the United States. I have made a general examination of the Books &c in my office, and do not find your name on any, but find the name of John Glass which I have no doubt is an error, and should have been written Gass. I have made a certificate to correspond with what I Said, and hope it will aid you in obtaining what I believe to be your right. I do not find your name on any other documents affording evidence of revolutionary services. It does not appear that you were allowed any land, I suppose therefore your discharge was filed with the Board of Commissioners who made the allowance mentioned in my certificate. The sum of 25 or 30 cents will pay my fees for this service; I don't wish it sent by mail as it would cost double the amount so to send it. Mr. Blair can pay it in the Register of the Navy at Washington. L. D. Hardin (my nephew).

Your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Hill

² <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000528>

[p 44]

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that in a book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war I find that John Glass [sic], Sergeant Major was allowed the sum of forty pounds eight shillings and two pence (£40.8.2) for his services in the said line, which some appears to have been drawn by the Wm T. Lewis.

Given under my hand this 18th day of September 1833.

S/ Wm Hill

[p 41]

State of Tennessee Greene County

This is to certify John Gass Senior came personally before me K. West one of the acting Justices of the peace for Greene County and made oath as well as he recollects Joel Lewis of North Carolina got the said Gass' Discharge as Sergeant Major of the fourth Regiment of the North Carolina troops for him the said Joel – or his Brother William J Lewis to collect his pay from the pay office in North Carolina. Sworn to and subscribed before me this first day of February 1834.

S/ Jno. Gass

[p 9: On Feb. 25, 1853, Betsey Gass, 74, filed in Greene County, Tenn., applied for widow's benefits stating that she is the widow of John Gass, a pensioner at the rate of \$75/annum for his services in the revolutionary war; that she married him in Greene County on August 26, 1830; that they were married by one F. A. McCorkle, a minister [later affidavit said to be a Presbyterian minister]; that her name prior to her marriage was Betsey Rankin; and that her husband died June 14, 1840. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 14: On March 1, 1855 in Greene County Tennessee, the widow, 75, made application for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner she signed this application with her mark]

[p 18: Copy of a marriage license dated August 24, 1830 issued in Greenville, Greene County Tennessee for the marriage of John Gass, Senior and Betsey Rankin; endorsed on the back "married by F. A. McCorkle, August 26, 1830."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$75 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Sergeant Major in the North Carolina militia for 6 months and in the North Carolina Continental line for 12 months. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]