

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Gafford W7505

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit:

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 1841, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Mary Gafford a resident of said County and State, aged 83 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled an Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows"

That she is the widow of Joseph Gafford, late of the said County and State, who was a private in the Continental and Militia service of Virginia in the War of the Revolution. She declares that she has no personal knowledge of the services of her late husband in the Revolutionary Army, not having married him until after the close of the War. She has often and repeatedly heard him say in his life time and also others who served with him that he was engaged in actual service in the Army, for a considerable length of time; that he was engaged in several battles and suffered many hardships and privations during the time; all of which she honestly believes to be true and correct. That from bodily infirmity old age and the consequent loss of memory she cannot call to recollection the particulars of her husbands service as related by him: she therefore prefers to rely on the statement of others who served with him whose certificates accompany this Declaration to any statement that she individually can make on the subject. That for the same reason within stated she cannot say with any degree of certainty how long he was in actual service altogether but would suppose he served at the least two years, for which length she claims a pension. In support of her claim, she refers to the Army Records of the period and the accompanying testimony of competent and credible persons who served with him in the Army of the Revolution.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Gafford on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 1786 that her husband the aforesaid Joseph Gafford died on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 1806; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninty four; to wit at the time above stated

Mary herXmark Gafford

State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit: [8 June 1840]

I John Crafton do hereby certify, that I was intimately acquainted with Joseph Gafford formerly of Chesterfield, and late of Lunenburg County in the War of the Revolution: According to my best recollection, at this time, he served a considerable length of time in the Revolutionary War, but how long altogether, I cannot state with exactness – said Joseph Gafford, I recollect distinctly, enlisted for 3 years in 1777, under Capt Holmes, in Chesterfield and served that term faithfully. I was with him in the Militia from Lunenburg at Yorktown, and know he served nearly 3 months on that occasion. I am in the 80<sup>th</sup> year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution.

[On 31 Oct 1844 at age 87 Mary Gafford reapplied.]

State of Virginia Lunenburg County to wit [8 July 1844]

The deposition of David Street now in his seventy fifth year. This Deponant sayeth that he was or became acquainted with Joseph Gafford who moved from the County of Amelia & State Va. about ["in the year 1798 or" interlined; last numeral unclear] that time [illegible word] on Nottoway River adjoining to Lunenburg County and that this deponant has heard said Gafford often mention his being in the army of the revolutionary war, and that he enlisted under Cap Isaac Holmes of Amelia County, and that he had

his discharge to that effect, that he afterwards moved into the County of Lunenburg and as This Deponant thinks died about the year 1800 or 1801 or thereabouts that his widow Mary Gafford has lived near or in the neighbourhood eversense – and this Deponant recollects of Mrs. Mary Gafford having in her possession the discharge of Joseph Gafford and that I saw Holmes’s name was mentioned in it and that some fifteen or twenty years ago of her saying that William Tunstall her son in law had Burnt some of her papers and among them the discharges of her Husband Saying they were of no account, that she was from Home when he did it Mary Gafford was the wife of Joseph Gafford in the year 1794 and has been his widow eversence his death She is now between 80 & 90 years old and a very poor woman indeed. [signed] D Street

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Jo’s. Gafford/ age 18/ Planter/ born and residing in Lunenburg County VA/ brown hair/ gray eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 8 Mar 1779 for 18 months.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed 23 Dec 1786 in Amelia County VA by Joseph Gafford and Abraham Powell for the marriage of Gafford to Mary Powell. There is also a copy of a consent signed by John Powell on 22 Dec 1786 for his daughter to marry Joseph Gafford, witnessed by Abraham Powell and Robert Powell.