

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse (Jessee) Gent W7510
Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary Ann Gent
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f29NC

[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 6]

State of Tennessee, Smith County

On this 18th day of July 1833 personally appeared Jesse Gent before me Patrick Fergusson one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of aforesaid he the said Jesse Gent being a resident of the County of Smith and State of Tennessee and from old age and bodily infirmity is now unable to attend at the Court house of his County to make the following Declaration in open Court: who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That he is 72 years of age and upwards. That he entered the Service of the United States under the authority of North Carolina under the command of Colonel Colier [sic, John Collier] and was drafted to serve a three months tour his Captain's name was Joseph Johnson the brigade was under the command of General Butler [John Butler], he at that time lived in Wake County North Carolina. Does not recollect the day nor the month he was marched into Service but knows it was at the time (here the English History was produced to refresh his memory Vol. 7th Bisset) General Gates [Horatio Gates] was defeated August 1780 [Battle of Camden, always 15-16, 1780]. He marched from Wake County to Salisbury and was stationed there to guard the Tories in Salisbury Jail. He got a discharge this time for the full period of his three months service this time but owing to having his house burnt it is destroyed.

Again he served another tour of three months as a drafted Militia man in the summer following which was according to the best of my recollection in the summer after my first trip under command of Captain Benjamin Blake that they with another captain's Company (Hilsman's) [Captain Janus Hillsman] and a company of light horse were stationed at Wake Court house now called Raleigh to guard the General Assembly from the British and Tories. After the Session of the General Assembly had adjourned and went home they were marched to Smithfield where it was considered that Hilsman's and Blake's Companies could be commanded by one of the Captains and they accordingly drew lots and it fell upon Hilsman who commanded the balance of the time. They were marched from Smith Field [Smithfield] to the River Neuse and then to a Creek called Goshen thence to Gray's ferry on the Neuse River and was there discharged. He got a written discharge this time for three months but got it burnt in his house with the former discharge. The latter part of this service was under Major Griffin [perhaps Hardy Griffin of Nash County Regiment].

He was drafted again as a militia man for three months And was marched from Wake County to Hillsborough to guard the town – recollects to see one of the Tories hung but does not recollect his name. His Captain's name was John Trent. The Colonel's name was John Taylor he got a written discharge this time for three months but had it consumed when his house got burnt together with the former discharges. He has got two witnesses Willie Brown and Drury Brown who can testify as to his having served the above named tours of Service – his last tour of Service was at the time peace was made as there were no troops were taken from his neighborhood afterwards. He hereby relinquishes

every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory within the United States of America.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Patrick Fergusson, JP

S/ Jesse Gent, X his mark

[p 7]

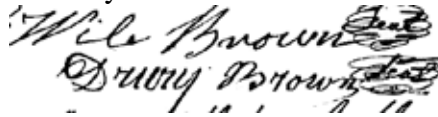
State of Tennessee Smith County

We Willie Brown and Drury Brown hereby certify on oath that we are well acquainted with Jesse Gent while he lived in North Carolina and this State and do know of his having served the above named tours of Service namely three tours of three months each in all nine months in the militia service of the State of North Carolina during the revolutionary war with Great Britain as he has stated in the above declaration and that he is a man of truth and veracity. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of July 1833.

S/ Patrick Fergusson, JP

S/ Wile Brown

S/ Drury Brown

Handwritten signatures of Wile Brown and Drury Brown. The signature of Wile Brown is written in cursive and includes the date "July 11 1833". The signature of Drury Brown is also in cursive and includes the date "July 11 1833".

[John Saunders, a clergyman, and Dempsey Driver gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina in the year 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have none my father was not a man that could write his name

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: I lived when called into service and Wake County North Carolina I moved from thence to Kentucky and then to Tennessee where I now live

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was regularly drafted by the authority of the Government of North Carolina who was called upon by the General Government to furnish her quota of militia troops as the state was invaded by Lord Cornwallis and his Army

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I can only state the names of such officers as I mentioned [in] my foregoing declaration such as General Butler, Colonel Collier Major Griffith, Col. Taylor, the captains who I served under and mentioned in the declaration. When I returned from my first tour I was married immediately on my return say a few days after Christmas

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I received a three written discharges for the three tours I served, they were given the soldiers by their Captains I cannot say whether they were signed by the field officers or Captains they were burnt as before stated.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: the foregoing certificate of William Brown and Drury Brown has fully answered as to my services and my standing as to truth and veracity.

[p 25: Veteran made a substantially identical declaration on December 5, 1832. It is not clear from the record why this 2nd application was required.]

[p 14: On October 3, 1838, in Smith County Tennessee, Mary Ann Gent , 76, made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Jesse Gent, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married Jesse Gent on January 29, 1778; that her husband died on February 17, 1838; and that she has no record of her marriage or other documentary testimony in support of her claim. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 15: On October 22nd, 1838 in Smith County Tennessee, Willie Brown, 70 years and upwards of age, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Jesse Gant and his wife before and after their marriage; that they lived close neighbors to the affiant at the time of the war of the Revolution; that they were married sometime in February 1778 in Wake County North Carolina by Joseph Lane, a justice of the peace.]

[p 16: On October 23, 1838 in Smith County Tennessee, Thomas Driver aged about 73 years or upwards gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Jesse Gent and his wife before and after their marriage; that affiant was present at the wedding because his Father's family were invited and he can well remember that both his father and mother attended the wedding. The affiant signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing February 18, 1838.]