

being first duly sworn, according to law, depose & saith, That some time last Spring he made out his declaration for a Pension in which he set forth his Services, as near as he could remember. His declaration was written by Mr Dicks Alexander, who took down his statement, as he made it, but as Mr Alexander did not ask me if I served in any other capacity than a private, I forgot to name to him that I had served as a Drummer, which I now do – under the drum Major, Harris, for Twelve Months or more in the 5th Virginia Regiment. Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year aforesaid.

John Ball JP for Hawkins County

Abner hisXmark Gordon

[Certified by Dicks Alexander.]

State of Tennessee }

Hawkins County } Personally appeared before me the under signed an acting Justice of the peace for said county John Rains [possibly pension application W5659] aged a bout eighty five years of age a citizen of said county, and the said John Rains being duly sworn according to Law depose and saith that he is a pensioner of the united States at the agency at Jonesboro, the same one who testified in the application of Abner Gordon for a Pension, that the said Gordon and this affiant served together in the Revolutionary War in the Virginia line and were discharged together affiant further states that he was not asked at the time he was examined, if said Gordon served as a Drummer affiant now states that said Gordon did serve some length of time as a Drummer in the Virginia line, and beleaves as said Gordon States, that he served Twelve months or more said Gordon is an old man and his memory very defective from age as he formerly stated, this affiant verrelly beleaves said Gordon served as he states, and is well entitled to a pension, this Affiant beleaved that a Drummer was in fact nothing but a private, and that his stating that he was a Drummer would not increase his pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me This 30th May 1842

John hisXmark Rains

NOTE:

On 2 April 1853 Elizabeth Gordon, 73, of Hancock County TN, applied for a pension stating that she married Abner Gordon on 4 Feb 1806, and he died on 5 June 1842. A William Gordon (as he signed) stated that the marriage occurred in Lunenburg County VA. On 29 Sep 1854 she applied again adding that her marriage was officiated by Rev John Niblet after publication of banns. On 6 Dec 1854 at age 75 she applied again, adding that she married Abner Gordon, who had been “a private (or drum Major),” about 1 June 1798.

The file contains the following letter to the Commissioner of Pensions from Thomas Martin of Sneedsville TN:

“May 3^d 55 Sir

Upon examination I find that Abner Gordon Left his Lawful wife and 2 Children in the State of North Carolina and that Elizabeth Gordon who is now placed on the pension Roll is not his Lawful wife and as I was not in possession of that fact at the time I made application for her a pension I deem it my duty to inform you of that fact Sir I remain yours/ Respectfully/ Thomas Martin”

On 25 Aug 1856 Elizabeth Gordon stated that her pension had been suspended without explanation, but that she had subsequently been informed that it was because of the above allegation, which arose from a disagreement about the fee Martin was to collect for preparing her application. She stated that in 1809 she and her husband moved from Lunenburg County to Granville County NC where they lived until June 1839, when they moved to the part of Hawkins County that became Hancock County. She stated that there was no proof of the marriage except for the statements of others that she and Abner Gordon lived as man and wife. Her statement was accompanied by supporting documents from witnesses in which the children of Abner and Elizabeth Gordon were listed as William, Alice, David, Elizabeth, James Henry, Martha, and Mary Ann. The eldest was said to be about 50, and the youngest about 28. Martin repeated the allegation on 2 Oct 1856, but the only evidence he cited was a statement he claimed to have heard from a man who had since died.

On 3 Jan 1857 Elizabeth Gordon successfully reapplied for a pension stating that she was about

77, that her maiden name was Elizabeth Maiden, that she married Abner Gordon in 1809, that they had seven children, the oldest being about 46 and the youngest about 29, and that her husband died in Hancock County on or about 5 June 1843.

On 21 Aug 1866 at age 85 and on 4 May 1868 at age 88 Elizabeth Gordon applied for restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which time she was “supported by her friends.”

On 16 May 1868 and on 4 Nov 1871 Elizabeth Gordon applied for an increase in pension. Her age at the latter application was given as 93.