

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Gist S1762
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn29NC
rev'd 2/11/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

State of Tennessee, White County

On this 21st day of August in the year 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Judge of the Circuit Court of White County, now sitting, Thomas Gist a resident of White County, and State of Tennessee, aged about Sixty eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein stated.

The first tour he served was as a volunteer commanded by Colonel John Sevier, Major Jesse Walton and Major Jonathan Tipton, and Captain James Stinson, he entered the service some time in the latter part of the summer or first of the fall of the year 1779, but cannot tell the day of the month or the month; he was discharged by being mustered out of the service, not having been discharged in writing; by the commanding officers, a short time after Christmas in the same year, he thinks he served three months this tour. During this Campaign, and as is believed in the month of September, he was in the battle of Boyd's Creek, in what is now East Tennessee, and in Sevier County he thinks.

The Indians consisting of Cherokees were defeated & about Eighteen of them killed and many wounded. The field officers who commanded were Colonel Sevier, Majors Walton & Tipton – he then lived in Greene County in what is now the State of Tennessee, and marched from that place through the wilderness country, or nearly so to the place of the engagement. He was not in any other engagement during this tour; but was actively engaged in the enemy's country, and burned the town of Telico, Chota and Chilhowa. He can prove this tour of service by Abel Pearson who served with him; and he knows of no other person by whom he can prove it except Samuel Weaver & Joseph Gist.

In the spring of the year 1778, as he believes, and before he served the tour above named he entered the service of his country as an Indian spy, under Captain John Newman, he then lived in Greene County – Newman commanded a company on the frontiers. He was sent out on the borders to spy in that part of what is now Tennessee then nearest the Indian nation, in company with John How, who took sick and returned home and died. Then Absalom Wood & John Wood came to this applicant, who after staying a few months returned home, and this applicant remained in that service one year lacking nine days. He thinks he was then discharged by Captain Newman in writing, but from the length of time he is unable to say what has become of his discharge. He has not now got it nor has he seen it for many years. He entered as a spy voluntarily as he believes. He was not in any engagement during this time, but there were some incursions by the Indians and some lives of the citizens lost and some property destroyed. He does not know of any person by whom he can prove this service. Captain Newman was under Col. Sevier.

In the month of September in the year 1781 as he thinks he again entered the service of his Country as a volunteer under Captain Samuel Williams; the field officers under whom he was placed were Colonel John Sevier, Colonel Charles Robertson, Major Walton, McNoble, and Jonathan Tipton. He entered the service in what is now Greene County Tennessee. He was marched through the Turkey Cove, passed through Burke County in North Carolina, thence to Ramsour's Mill, thence to

Tuckaseegee Ford on Catawba River; thence to Camden, from thence to the high hills of Santee where he was attached to the Brigade commanded by General Marion [Francis Marion]. He assisted in taking a British Hospital and Eighty four prisoners. This was near Moncks Corner. He there became acquainted with Colonel Maham who commanded dragoons. He continued with General Marion until he served out a Tour of three months and was mustered out of the Service by his officers at Nelson's ferry on the other or Charleston side of Santee, and returned home at his own expense. Applicant can prove this tour of duty by Abel Pearson.¹

Applicant furnished his own horse in the tour he went under Captain Stinson, and in the tour he served under Captain Williams with General Marion. His understanding is that in each of the above tours of duty he went as a volunteer, to avoid the necessity of a draft for when orders came for men to be called out he went voluntarily. This applicant not recollecting dates, has referred to a history of some of these transactions for the purpose of seeing when the Battle of Boyd's Creek &c was fought.

This applicant performed other services in the revolutionary war in tours against the Indians which are not here to set forth.

He the said Thomas Gist 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.

The Court propounded the following interrogatories to the applicant:

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in Virginia; but cannot say in what County. From the best information I have I was born on the 10th day of October 1764.
2. Have you any record of your age: and if so, where is it? Answer: I have not any record of my age.
3. Where were you living when called into Service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war; and where do you now live? Answer: I was living in Greene County when called into Service. I left Greene County four or five years after the war and settled in Knox County now in Tennessee and lived there about nine years. I then removed to Barron County in Kentucky where I remained till about twenty three years ago, I then removed to Jackson County in this state, and remained there about two years and from thence I removed to White County where I now live and have lived for the last twenty one years.
4. How were you called into Service: were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a Substitute, for whom? Answer: I have Stated in the foregoing declaration the manner of my entering the Service as well as I can.
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. Answer: The only regular officers I became acquainted with was General Marion and Colonel Maham. I have already stated the most material circumstances attending my service as well as I can recollect, my memory is frail.
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and, if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer: The only discharge I ever received in writing was from Captain Newman, and that I have lost or mislaid so that I cannot procure it. I have no knowledge where it is or what became of it.
7. 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 of your services as a soldier in the revolution. Answer: John Jett Esq., Joshua Pennington, Colonel Joseph Herd, Archibald Cannon, James Williams, Thomas Bounds, Colonel Joseph Neville, & John Scoggin.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Gist, X his mark

S/ A. Debrell, Clk

¹ [Abel Pearson S3661](#)

Able Pearson makes oath in open court that he knows that Thomas Gift the foregoing applicant Did Serve in the War of the revolution under Captain Stinson, and under Captain Williams as he has set forth in the foregoing declaration, he the said Pearson having been in the same service at the same times.

S/ Abel Pearson

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Anthony Debrell, Clerk

[John Scoggin, a clergyman, and Joseph Neville gave the standard supporting affidavit.]