

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Jernigan S8756

Transcribed by Will Graves

f19NC

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[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 North Carolina County of Wayne: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

On this first day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before J. J. Daniel Judge of the Superior Court of Law now sitting George Jernigan a resident of the County of Wayne and State of North Carolina aged 71 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 7, 1832.

That he was drafted in the Service of the United States (he believes) in the winter of 1778 and served as private soldier for a term of three months under Captain Fellows [William Fellows]. His higher officers were General Caswell [Richard Caswell] – Colonel Caswell [William Caswell] -- & Col. Sheppard [Abraham Sheppard]. He was ordered to Wilmington N. C. at the time the *Scorpion*¹ lay off the coast. He was engaged in no battle – was employed in building a Fort near Wilmington. He remained his full time of three months & together with his company was marched home by Captain Fellows & disbanded with no written discharge.

The declarant afterwards, he believes in 1780, volunteered as Sergeant in a Troop of light horse commanded by Captain Joseph Boon [sic, Boone?]² for a Service of three months. The acting Colonel was Benjamin Exum. He was engaged in no battles – but was principally employed in suppressing disturbances in Wayne County North Carolina and furnishing the Troops with provisions taken from the disaffected in Wayne & adjoining Counties. Declarant affirms that he served out his full term & was honorably discharged – but whether in writing or not, he does not remember. This term of service was not long before Cornwallis passed through the State of North Carolina.

He repeatedly afterwards volunteered in small & short services, but the infirmities of age and a decayed memory prevent him from stating accurately much about them. A general recollection however remains on his mind which will never decay, that he was a true and not an inactive friend of his Country; and often obeyed the call for his service.

He will prove both his first & his second Terms of Service, amounting in all to six months, by his companion in arms John Wiggs³ – Declarant was living in Wayne County then called Dobbs County when called into Service where he has always since resided. He has no documentary evidence of his aforesaid Services. He has no record of his age; but from the best information he can gain, it is about 71 years. Declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the

1 **“January 27-28, 1776 at Fort Johnson, North Carolina** - On January 26, the sloop *HMS Scorpion* was ordered to attack the Patriots in Fort Johnson. The *Scorpion* managed to fire 26 rounds before retiring. The sloop *HMS Cruizer* tried to get close to the fort but was unsuccessful. On January 27, the *Cruizer* was ordered to sail up the Cape Fear River, but turned back when they saw the impressive defensive breastworks of the city. The *Cruizer* tried to land a raiding party but was forced to abandon it after receiving rifle fire from both sides of the river. The ship was continually fired upon until it left the river area. **Conclusion: American Victory.”** Quoted from <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/1775-1783n.htm>.

2 WG could not identify a likely candidate for this officer

3 [John Wiggs W4398](#)

present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ George Jernigan, X his mark

Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department to Applicant for the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832

To George Jernigan

Interrogatory 1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer to Interrogatory 1st : I was born in Nansemond County Virginia I believe in the year 1753

[2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?]

Answer to Interrogatory 2nd : I have no record of my age

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

Answer to Interrogatory 3rd – I was living when called into service in Wayne County then called Dobbs N.C. where I have lived always since.

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

Answer to Interrogatory 4: I was drafted on my first term of service volunteered in my second as Sergeant

[5th 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 to Interrogatory 5: I state the names of General Caswell – Colonel Caswell. Colonel Sheppard – Captain Fellows as regular officers where I served at Wilmington – I was connected with no Continental or Militia Regiments but remembers the Regiment to which I belonged – the general circumstances of my service are detailed in my Declaration as fully as I can remember

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

Answer to Interrogatory 6: I do not remember that I ever received a written discharge – I received a commission as Sergeant, signed by Colonel Caswell, which I believe to be lost not having seen it in many years.

[7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.]

Answer to Interrogatory 7: I state the names of Reverend John Howell, John Wiggs, Nicholson Washington & Philip Hooks as persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood and who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the first day of October 1832.

S/ George Jernigan, X his mark

[John Howell, a clergyman, and John Wiggs gave the standard supporting affidavit. In addition Whigs gave the following certificate:

“I, John Wiggs, do hereby certify that I was with George Jernigan in the terms of service specified in the above Declaration and that I believe the facts there averred to be the truth. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ John Wiggs, X his mark”]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for 3 months as a private in the Infantry and for 3 months as a Sergeant in the Cavalry, all in the North Carolina militia.]