

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jesse Gammon W1

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee County of Jefferson

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November personally appeared before Robert McFarland Junior, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Jefferson, Jesse Gammon, a resident in the County of Jefferson and State of Tennessee aged Sixty nine years and Seven months, 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That the Declarant Jesse Gammon was born in Virginia, Norfolk County, twelve miles from Norfolk, on 27<sup>th</sup> of April Seventeen hundred and Sixty four. His father and mother died when he was a small boy. At the age of eleven years, he moved with his uncle, Joshua Gammon to Halifax County, North Carolina where he lived on little fishing Creek, one of the branches of Roanoke River, fourteen miles from Halifax Court House. At the age of Seventeen in the month of April 1781—day not recollected, the Declarant was drafted in Halifax County, at this company muster ground three or four miles from his uncle's residence. His muster ground was near the road leading from Halifax Court House to Warrenton. He was drafted by a Captain of one of the County companies, whose name he does not recollect. He was drafted for three months. The place of Rendezvous was Innfield [sic, Enfield] Court House, where three or four of the Halifax companies met. Enfield was the Old Court House of Halifax County and was twelve miles from Halifax Court House. Captain Depray commanded our company. How Captain Depray's name was spelled he does not know, but it was pronounced Depray. The names of the Lieutenants and Ensign are not recollected. Daniel Crawley was our orderly Sergeant at Enfield Court House. Colonel Linton took the command of all the companies. Major Hogg, he thinks, but is not certain was the Major. He does not recollect the names of the Captains of the other companies. From Enfield Court House, he was marched to Halifax Court House where they remained a part of a day -- There were from one hundred and fifty to two hundred men under Colonel Linton. Lord Cornwallis was marching to Halifax Court House, and at one o'clock or thereabouts, when the British appeared, we crossed the Roanoke River opposite the town -- While we were crossing the river the British entered the town. Fro Haw one of our men was killed between the two Court Houses, and another Spy, Potts was wounded in the head. We marched up the River about ten miles towards Black's ferry where we remained until morning when we marched to Black's Ferry. The Second or third morning we marched from Black's Ferry on to Caswell Courthouse where we remained a week or two. Then we marched to Tarborough, a considerable distance. We passed through Tarborough and marched down the river, (having crossed it just before we reached the town.) and we camped on Town Creek, some distance below Tarborough: At this place we remained for some time, until Colonel Linton began to enlist men for 18 months, when this Declarant agreed to enlist and was furloughed by Colonel Linton for the purpose of preparing himself for the Service. This Declarant returned home on the furlough and when his furlough expired he repaired[sic] agreeably to his orders, specified in his furlough to Billy Henry's New Houses in Halifax County, eight or nine miles above the town, three quarter's of a mile from the River Roanoke. We remained here for two or three days when some officer or officers, names not recollected, came from the camp on Town Creek and gave us all written discharges, and we were all discharged from our enlistment. By whom his discharge was signed the Declarant does not recollect. He served two months in this town from the date of his being drafted until his discharge date in the month of time, day not recollected. The Declarant did not receive anything for this service. About a mile from the town of Halifax, opposite the town, on the South side of the river, Public Shops were carried on, under the superintendance[sic] of Colonel Long, for the purpose of making horsemen's caps, Shoe boots, canteens, Saddles, clothes, Cartridge Boxes, and Iron utensils. Colonel Long [appointed?] a young man to cook for and wait on the shops, and this Declarant

went down in the month of July and volunteered to serve three months, which he did and was discharged at the public shops in October, day not recollected, by Col. Long[?] for a tour of three months -- and Col. Long informed him that this Service would be the same to him as a term in the army of three months.

In the month of June 1782 orders were received by the Captains of Halifax County, to raise men to serve eighteen months. Early in July, day not recollected, in 1782, a place of drafting was appointed at the Old Marsh Store in Halifax County, eight or nine miles from Halifax Court House. The orders were that every twentieth man was to be drafted. The companies agreed to class themselves into divisions of twenty, each division having some men in it who was willing to become a substitute and the other nineteen agreeing to pay him for going in the place of the drafted man and when this could be done, no draft was necessary, and none was made. This Declarant offered himself as a substitute and was hired by his class, who gave him three hundred and thirty three dollars and one third of a dollar. The Declarant returned to his home to make preparations for his service, and repaired in company with Wm. and Moses Bruington[?] for the 1st of August 1782 to Warrenton, the place of Rendezvous. We here went into the Court House where men were examined, judged and sworn. This Declarant was received and placed under the command of Captain McCotes, \_\_\_[blank in original] Campbell was a Lieut. or Ensign—which he does not recollect, Sergeant Sturdivent was the Orderly Sergeant, and Sergeant Lee was another Sergeant. There were about three hundred men at Warrenton; Colonel Little [sic, Archibald Lytle] took the command of us. He does not recollect any other officers at Warrenton. We remained here the greater part of a month, when we marched to Hillsborough, about 80 miles from Warrenton, crossing on our way Eno River a small river, here we remained a week. Then we marched to Salisbury crossing the Yadkin River -- here we remained a few days, when we marched to Charlotte remaining here a few days, we then marched to Campden [sic, Camden], where we remained only a few hours, when we marched down and crossed Ashley River at Bacon's Bridge, on to Head Quarters on Ashley Hill where the main army was encamped under General Greene. Captain Coleman commanded the company adjoining ours -- The Declarant recollects Generals Greene and Gist - He does not recollect any other officers. We remained here about three months, when we marched about six miles to James Island, one mile from Charleston, crossing the Wapou [sic, Wappoo] Cut which reaches from Stono River to Ashley River. We encamped on James Island and built huts. We remained here until the 4th of July 1783. On this day, the Artillery fired one round with the cannon, and the Infantry fired two rounds, one running fire and one fire by platoons. While we were in the Island, 50 men, of whom the declarant was one, were detached under an officer; whose name is forgotten, and sent on board of the Rogala a vessel which we had, in search of a refugee vessel; We were out three or four days without success. The day after the 4th of July, six men were sent of whom this Declarant was one in a small boat to Charleston, to load a vessel there with rum and wine, to be sent around to Wilmington. We loaded the vessel and after we had done so, the day after we went to Charleston, we received orders by one of our non-commissioned officers, that the North Carolina men were marching to Wilmington and for us to join them. We left Charleston immediately and joined our companies at the fork of the road twelve miles from Charleston -- The road forked there the left hand leading to Georgetown, the right hand to Wilmington. At this place we were discharged. Declarant's discharge was handed to him by his Orderly Sergeant Sturdevant; By whom it was signed, does not know, being illiterate. Declarant was discharged after a service of eleven months and seven days and from that point returned home in company with Ellis Tyse and Jett Harper, who were the messmates of the Declarant during the whole tour. Declarant was discharged in the month of July, on the Seventh day, as he thinks it was three days after 4th July. Declarant is very infirm from an injury he received many years ago on his back and from an affliction of his Groin, which entirely incapacitate him from going about on horseback and with difficulty does he go about on foot -- and can not walk any distance to attend to business. He applied through his Son-in-Law twelve months ago to a Lawyer to come to his house and draw up his papers -- But he failed to do so. He applied again to another Lawyer, who promised to

come, but failed to do so -- and these have been the causes, together with the infirmities of the Declarant, that have prevented him from making application to the War Department long since for a pension, under the Act of June 7th 1832. The Declarant lost his three discharges in Halifax County - where or when he does not recollect, never expecting to derive any benefit from them, he did not take particular care of them. The Declarant does not know that any of his fellow soldiers are now alive -- He served as a drafted militia man in the year 1781 two months -- and as a volunteer to attend and wait on the Public Shops in 1781 three months -- and as a substitute for a Drafted Militia man in the year 1782 and 1783 for eleven months and seven days. He has no documentary evidence as to his service, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. 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. The Declarant lived in Virginia eleven years—thence moved to Halifax County, North Carolina in which County and in Orange County, N.C. and in Surry County N.C.--he lived forty one years -- then moved to East Tennessee where he lived in Greene County Sixteen years and in Jefferson, one year, where he now lives.

Sworn and subscribed before me the 22nd of November 1833.

S/ Jesse Gammons, X his mark

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Virginia, Norfolk County, twelve miles from Norfolk, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1764.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have a record of my age on a leaf of a bible, set down by my Father or Some person for him. I got it from my uncle Joshua and have carefully preserved it.

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

Answer. When called in Service, I was living in Halifax County, North Carolina; Since the Revolutionary war, I have lived in North Carolina thirty three years and in Tennessee, Seventeen years.

4<sup>th</sup> 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. In my first tour I was drafted for three months; In my Second tour, I volunteered for three months; In my third tour I was a Substitute—agreeing to Stand as a drafted man, being paid therefor by my class; this was for a tour of eighteen months.

5<sup>th</sup> 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. In my first tour, there were no regulars with us. In my Second tour, there were none—unless Colonel Long was a Regular officer, who Superintended the public workshops, upon which this Declarant attended. In my third and last tour I Served under General Greene in South Carolina; I Stood as a drafted Militia man of Halifax County for 18 months, and was marched under Colonel Lytle, McCotes—Captain--from Warrenton N. C. the place of Rendezvous, through various towns of North and South Carolina; which are specified in my declaration, to Ashley Hill on Ashley River, South Carolina, the Head Quarters of General Greene, which place we reached in the year, day and month not recollectd – where we remained three months, until after the evacuation of Charleston by the British, when we were marched to James Island and encamped there remained until the fifth of July 1783, when I was Sent to Charleston on a fatigue party and in a few days thereafter discharged at the Forks of the Road 12 miles from Charleston – leading from Charleston to Georgetown by the left hand, and to Wilmington by the right hand. In this tour – I was received at Warrington on the first of August 1782 and was discharged on the seventh day of July 1783 after a Service of the 11 months and seven days. I Served with Continental troops under General Greene and our company wore the same uniform as the Continentals, and our officers were regular Officers – But we were not called Continentals – we were called drafted Militia – men – while on Ashley Hill – we were occasionally engaged in intercepting the British foraging parties from Charleston – while on James Island we were not engaged in any active

Service – I well recollect Generals Greene and General Gist (pronouncing his name Guess) and Captain Coleman, who commanded the company adjoining ours on Ashley Hill. The circumstances of the other tours and the particulars of all my tours are set forth in my declaration. In my first Tour I Served two months. In my Second, I served three months and in my third I served \_\_ [blank in original] months and \_\_ [blank in original] days.

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

Answer. I received a discharge at the expiration of each of the periods specified for which I Served; By whom my first discharge was given, I do not recollect, nor by whom it was signed do I recollect. My Second discharge was given and Signed by Colonel Long [could be Hall, since the name is overwritten] – my third discharge was handed to me by my Orderly Sergeant Sturtevant and by whom Signed I do not know. I lost them all in Halifax County North Carolina, when I do not know.

7<sup>th</sup> 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. I would refer to the Reverend Solomon Wyatt, Mr. Allen Baker, Mr. Joshua Harrison who can be examined touching my character for veracity, and their belief of my Services as a Soldier of the Revolution. I have only lived where I now do one year have never been absent but twice from my home on account of my crippled State and am not therefore well acquainted in this neighborhood. But the neighborhood who know me and Gentlemen of the higher respectability in the County are satisfied of my Services. In my former neighborhood in Greene County, my Services are well known and credited.

S/ Jesse Gammon, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1833.

S/ [illegible signature]