

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jesse Gordon W13280

fn76Ga

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Illinois, Jackson County

On this second of September A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners Court of Jackson County Now Sitting Jesse Gordon a Resident of Ridge settlement in the said County of Jackson – and State of Illinois aged 77 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the spring early of the year 1776 he was a resident of the County of Surry North Carolina and he turned out as a Volunteer under a Captain by the name of William Shepherd and went down upon Cape Fear River against a Party of Scotch Tories and met, fought and Defeated them at a place called Moore's Bridge [sic, Moore's Creek Bridge] the Colonel of the Regiment was by the name of Joseph Williams and Major Joseph Winston and went to reinforce Col. Richard Caswell and under him fought at Moore's bridge. Said last mentioned Colonel was afterwards Governor of North Carolina. Was in the service at that time at least three months.

In the fall of the same year we went on an expedition against the Overhill Cherokee Indians a three months tour under the same Colonel and Major and a Captain by the name of ___ [blank in original] Moseby. Went over the mountains and joined Col. Christie [sic, Colonel William Christian] at the Long Island of the River Holston and from thence marched to the Cherokee Nation with whom Colonel Christian made peace and Returned. In both the aforesaid he served as orderly Sergeant.

On the 10th of August 1777 he enlisted in the State troops under a Captain by the name of James Hawkins and Joined the third Battalion commanded by Colonel John Stewart and spent the fall and winter following on the frontiers of Georgia between the Creek Indians and the White Settlements in the State of Georgia and in the spring received orders to march to St. Augustine and marched with some delays as far as St. Mary's River, then the officers and soldiers were mostly taken sick and the further march to St. Augustine was given up and the troops marched to a place called Midway Meeting house and there were discharged. This was done about the last of July or the first of August 1778 which makes this tour one year lacking 10 days. During this last tour he served as first Lieutenant under a commission from the State of Georgia.

In a short time after his said last mentioned discharge not later than the first of September 1778 he enrolled himself in a Company of Militia in the County of Wilkes State of Georgia under the Command of Captain John Gunnels and joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Dooley and Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] and by this instrument subjected himself to be called into active service at any moment. Previous to this time this Deponent had become a Citizen of Wilkes County Georgia. This County soon after became the seat of an almost constant war (with either the British, Indians or Tories) and this deponent was for the most part of the time in actual service until peace was made with England and for some time after. This County was on the frontier. The Indians on two sides and the British and Tories on the other two so that the noted [?] Militia were almost constantly engaged in short expeditions and although occasionally at home a few days at a time it being subject to sudden calls had no time to attend to any business. After the British had taken Savannah and Augusta a party of them were sent to Wilkes County commanded by Colonel Hamilton. The Militia to which this Deponent was attached turned out under Colonel Clarke, drove Hamilton into Carr's Fort and there fought him some time until an express arrived that 700 Tories were at the Cherokee Ford of Savannah River intending to cross over into said County of Wilkes. The militia took all the horses belonging to Hamilton's party that were alive with their equipment, raised a few more so as to make rank and file, 297, and marched to meet the Tories. They had however crossed over before we arrived and we pursued and overtook them at Kettle Creek, fought and Defeated them there. The Tories were

commanded by Colonel Boid [sic, Boyd]. This Deponent was at and performed duty during all the memorable Siege of Savannah by the Americans & French. After the taking of Charleston in the Spring of 1780 the Tories were in every direction so as to surround the Wilkes County Militia. They were embodied and were advised by General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] commanding a party of Americans in South Carolina that it was best to remain embodied so that if no better could be done he and our Colonel Dooley would unite their parties and force their way through the enemy. The next information we received from General Williamson was that he had taken protection from the British with all his men. We were left entirely surrounded without any chance of escape except by abandoning everything to the mercy of the enemy. We sent to Colonel Brown Commandant at Augusta inquiring upon what terms he would receive our surrender. He answered on the same terms as had been given the Citizens of Charleston to wit to take parole as prisoners of war until called on. We accepted the terms all except Col. Clarke and about 30 men who went off. This was in the winter of 1780 and '81. In the following fall I think in September Colonel Clarke returned with his party and advised us to take up arms and make an attack upon Augusta on a certain day, told us that on that day every Garrison on the continent would be attacked and the war would be at an end. We broke out all paroles, joined Colonel Clark and attacked Augusta, drove Colonel Brown out of the town and he took refuge in a Store house about 3 miles from town where we besieged him three days and nights until a reinforcement arrived from Ninety Six under the command of Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger] who drove us off and followed us to Wilkes County and took 21 as Hostages of which number this Deponent was one and took us to Augusta where we remained about five months which brought the time to the last of February 1782 when Eighteen of us (this Deponent one) made our Escape and returned to the County of Wilkes five of whom (this Deponent one) were immediately taken by the Tories and in irons returned to Augusta where we remained until Brown's Fort in the town of Augusta was taken by Colonel Henry Lee of Virginia in the month of June. The Siege commenced probably in the month of May but it did not surrender until June 5th when we were released and went home. After this time we had a number of Battles and skirmishes with the Tories and Indians and were for the greatest share of the time under arms until peace was made with the British and for a year and a half afterwards on account of the Indians and Tories which last had a particular animosity against the Wilkes County Militia. During all the time this deponent Served in the Wilkes County Militia he acted in the capacity of Sergeant or in some higher grade such as quarter Master Sergeant, Sergeant Major &c, but he claims only as Sergeant as he cannot state with any certainty how long he served in such higher capacities.

As to the length and grade of this deponent's services he says that in the three first tours he served in all one year and six months lacking 10 days six months of the time as orderly Sergeant, eleven months and 20 days as First Lieutenant. After his first enlistment in the Wilkes County Militia to the time they were finally discharged was not less than five years and six months for which he claims on account of being the most of the time in actual service and the residue in short periods was subject to calls at a moment's warning so that he could not attend to any business of his own and doing the same service as if constantly in the field. This last mentioned time exceeds one year and six months after Peace with England which was as troublesome a time with the Tories and Indians as any during the war but if it is not considered such service as can be compensated under the act then he claims while [indecipherable word] among the Wilkes County Militia for years. If it is thought that the services above mentioned in the Wilkes County Militia is not such as to justify paying the whole time then and in that case this deponent says that according to the best of this deponent's recollection and as he verily believes he was in actual service as such Militia man in all the expeditions not less than three years and six months before the Peace and no less a proportion of the time for the 18 months after the Peace. This time of three years and six months includes the time of his being a prisoner as a hostage and of war as hostage eight months and of war on Roll eight months longer.

This Deponent says he has no Documentary evidence in his power by which to prove his said

Services – Neither does he know of any person now within his reach by whom he could prove the same. And 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.

Questions put by the Court

Ques. 1st: When and in what year were you born?

Ans: In King & Queen County in the State of Virginia in the year 1755 on the third of October.

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

Ans: I have none but one in a Bible belonging to my father in the State of Virginia.

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

Ans: In the County of Surry North Carolina when first called and whilst another all serving in the Militia as above stated in the County of Wilkes State of Georgia. Since the war lived in the said last mentioned County 19 years thence moved to Granville County South Carolina thence to Kentucky first to Garrard County thence to Adair thence to Madison thence to Adair again then to Edmiston [sic, Edmonson] thence to Illinois Jackson County where I now reside.

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?

Ans: For answer to this question, I refer to my previous statement.

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.

Ans: Gen. Linkhorn [Sic, Benjamin Lincoln] & General McIntosh were regular officers at Siege of Savannah and Colonel Henderson and Major Moore at the same place as to the remainder of this question I refer to my statements in the former part of my declaration.

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 always served out my tour of Duty, was Regularly Discharged but never applied for any written discharge not supposing they would ever be of any use to me.

7th Did you ever Receive a Commission, if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans: I did receive pay Commission as first Lieutenant when I went on my third tour. It was signed by some person acting under the authority of the State of Georgia but by whom I do not Recollect and it has been lost by accident.

8th 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.

Ans: I give the names of William G. Lindsey, a clergyman and Benjamin F. Conner both of this County and refer to them to state as above required.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the Day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. Manning, Clk

S/ Jesse Gordon

[William G. Lindsey, a clergyman, and Benjamin F. Conner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois, Jackson County

On this first day of September A.D. 1834 Personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners Court of Jackson County now sitting Jesse Gordon a Resident of Ridge Settlement in the said County of Jackson and State of Illinois, and who has heretofore been and now is an applicant for a Pension from the United States and being duly sworn deposes and says that the statements set forth in his former declaration for a Pension (which said Declaration is hereunto annexed and this made a part thereof) are true. That the said Declaration was Returned from the War department with this objection only contained in a Note at the foot of an accompanying Document to this effect, to wit "The Claimant must produce or at least make an effort to produce some evidence of his Services as a Non

Com Officer and as to his Services as a Lieutenant the regulation of the department is imperative must produce his commission or satisfactory evidence he was duly commissioned and served in that capacity for the time alleged.”

That this deponent has made all the effort in his power to obtain further evidence of his said Service. That he has been able to obtain the affidavit of Joshua Tyner accompanying this and that is all he has been able to do and in fact it is all that he expects to be able to do in the time his necessitous situation will admit of delay. Although this deponent verily believes that the evidence contained in his original Declaration and this instrument and the affidavit of Joshua Tyner is amply sufficient to Substantiate his Claim for a Pension as a Non Commissioned officer, still others who have a Legal Right to determine the question (may think differently). In consequence of the absence of further evidence of my Services as Lieutenant and as it is impossible for me to know what will be the opinion of the Department as to my Claim as a non-commissioned officer in the event it should so be determined that I could not be allowed a Pension as an officer my Circumstances are such that I would be willing to Receive a Pension as a Private. Therefore in case it the decided that I cannot be allowed a pension for services as an officer I am willing to Relinquish and therefore do Relinquish my claim to such Pension as an officer as such and agree to Receive the same as a private.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the Day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joel Manning, Clerk

S/ Jesse Gordon

State of Illinois, Jackson County

Joshua Tyner¹ being duly sworn deposes and says that during the revolutionary war he was a Citizen of Wilkes County State of Georgia. He knows that during that time the said County was the seat of almost constant warfare surrounded by the Indians, British and Tories. The troubles lasted some time after the Peace with England. The Dangers were so great that all or nearly all fit for Duty and who were true to their County [sic, Country?] had to take part in the war and had a variety of skirmishes with the Enemy. One of the principal contest was with the Tories at Kettle Creek under the command of Col. Boyd. The said Citizens of Wilkes County were mostly or many of them mustered in the Militia subject to calls at a moment's warning. In this Militia, this Deponent recollects well the following officers to wit Captain John Gunnels, Colonel Dewley [sic, Dooly] , Colonel Clark &c.

This Deponent further says that in said County of Wilkes he was acquainted with Jesse Gordon then a Citizen of said County now a citizen of Jackson County State of Illinois. This Deponent never saw the said Jesse Gordon in the service of his Country but once but the common report in that Country was that the said Jesse Gordon was a true and active Whig, a friend to the American cause that he was one of the said Enrolled Militia of Wilkes County and did duty as such during the said Revolutionary War in the manner the said Militia dead as above stated. From such information, Report and common fame and from his this deponent's personal knowledge of the character of said Jesse Gordon he has no doubt of his having performed such service. This deponent Saw the said Gordon once in the service at the time John Gunnels was a Captain in the same detachment in which Gordon was out, whether said Gunnels was Gordon's Captain, he could not say.

As to the said Gordon's serving in the capacity of Sergeant and other grades he cannot at this time said anything with certainty. And further this deponent saith not.

S/ Joshua Tyner

State of Illinois, Jackson County

This the 8th day of May 1837 personally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Joshua Tyner, who is personally known to me, to be a Revolutionary Pensioner, in the United States and a resident of said County, and entitled to credit on oath, and after being duly

1 FPA S32561 (name also spelled Tiner, Tinor)

sworn according to law deposes and says that he was a soldier in the Revolution, and served as such – that he has been acquainted with Jesse Gordon, for about the space of 58 years past. That he became acquainted with said Gordon, in the State of Georgia, Wilkes County, said Gordon as this affiant was then informed had for some time previous to the time of this affiant becoming acquainted with him been in the service of the United States in the year 1780, and had been taken by the British, in Wilkes County, in said State as a hostage, and had made his escape with some others, from Augusta, and was returning to Augusta when this deponent first saw him. This deponent recollects afterwards to have seen him, in the Continental service. That from the time he became acquainted with said Gordon in the year 1780 until the year 178_ [last digit obliterated] when he last saw him about the __ [blank in original] day of August, 1781, he had seen him at different times in the service, to wit at Kettle Creek, at Clarke's Fort, making about the space of 18 months. That he was well acquainted with the character of said Gordon during said term of service, that he was very active esteemed as a true republican & friend to his country & that he served under Captain Gunnel & Colonel John Dooly when he this affiant, knew him but, whether in the capacity of an officer, or private, this deponent does not now recollect, nor can he be particular, as to the precise dates & therefore he has not attempted to set them out. This deponent has even before been sworn, in this matter of the Application of said Gordon for a pension, but it was at a time when by repeated conversations with Mr. Gordon he had not then brought to his recollection the additional facts which he now be states, but that since the time on record so sworn Mr. Gordon has frequently been in his company and he has conversed with him about the Campaigns in which they were employed, and upon the recitation of little circumstances by Mr. Gordon, this affiant recognized him as being his acquaintance in the war of the Revolution & recognized his person and as such & he is now confident of the facts above stated and that said Gordon was in the service of the United States for the space of at least 18 months. That when Mr. Gordon came to the State of Georgia in the year 1777 he came as a discharged Officer, of the Continental line, he also believes that said Gordon held the rank of a Lieutenant, but his services which entitle him to that office is not within the knowledge of this affiant it being before he became acquainted with him. And that from his personal knowledge of Mr. Gordon he believes him entitled to credit on oath.

S/ Joshua Tiner

State of Illinois, Jackson County

On this 14th day of May A.D. 1839 personally appeared in open Court before the Circuit Court of Jackson County now sitting Jesse Gordon a resident of the Ridge and the County of Jackson aforesaid, in the State aforesaid-- aged 83 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the full 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: Colonel Joseph Williams, and Major Joseph Winston, Captain William Shepherd – Lieutenant's name not recollected. The Regiment, or Battalion was raised in Surry County North Carolina – entered said service about the last of February or the beginning of March 1776 – and served a three months tour – was sent during that time on an express by Colonel Williams to Col. Richard Caswell – a Colonel in the North Carolina Militia then lying near Moore's bridge North Carolina, arrived there about two hours before sun down, while there, on the next morning, a battle took place, with a Scotch party commanded by McCloud [sic, Alexander or Donald McLeod] at Moore's bridge [sic, Moore's Creek Bridge] in which he was engaged. He resided in Surry County North Carolina when he first entered the service – entered as a volunteer – marched to Cross Creek against the Scotch Tories – was out on the tour of three months – recollects no Continental Regiment or company or the names of regular officers on that tour of service – as they were all Militia who were out against the Scotch. He returned home after the first tour and remained there a short time. The same year he volunteered under the same officers with the exception of the Captain whose name was Moseby against the Overhill Cherokees who resided on the Tennessee River – and joined Colonel Christie [sic,

William Christian], a militia officer from Virginia, with his party at the Long Island of Holston [River]. The tour was to last three months – but lasted longer. The object of the parties being out was to intimidate the Indians into peace – which was procured – so he returned again to his home. These tours were made in the same year. The next year 1777 about the month of August he enlisted in the state troops of Georgia under one Captain James Hawkins – who came to North Carolina as a recruiting officer from Georgia. John Stewart was Colonel and Elijah Clarke Lieutenant Colonel. The troops was the third Battalion of minute men of the State of Georgia. He enlisted for two years and a half unless sooner discharged – were ordered to St. Augustine – went as far as the River St. Mary's, some of the officers and others were taken sick, remained there a short time, the Legislature was then sitting in Savannah, and there passed an act discharging us – the tour lasted a little more perhaps than three months – we then came back to Wilkes County in the State of Georgia where he had been previously married. In 1778 [sic, 1778] – enrolled himself as volunteer in the militia under Colonel John Duly [sic, John Dooly], Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke, his Captain was named Gunnells remained in that company until the end of the war – during which time he was on several expeditions against the Tories, Indians and British. At the time of the British took possession of Savannah – they sent up the light horse commanded by Colonel John Hamilton to compel us to take the oath of allegiance in Wilkes County. The militia in which he was came up with them at Carr's Fort and there engaged them and routed them, taking a number of the horses – At night an express came and informed them that there was a party of Tories at the Savannah River. The militia of which the deponent was one went to attack them – overtook them at Kettle Creek – attacked and defeated them – the fight lasted about three hours. The officers who commanded, at Kettle Creek were Colonel Dooly, Elijah Clarke, Lieutenant Colonel and Major Burwell Smith and Captain Gunnells-- A Major Pickens [Andrew Pickens] from South Carolina was also there he afterwards was promoted to be a general. The next expedition was to Savannah another three months tour under the command of the same officers. Joined General Lincoln, General McIntosh and the French under D'Estraing – Pulaski was there, saw him. This was to be a three months tour was engaged in the attack on Savannah, were defeated – with a great loss amongst the French and regulars. Pulaski had the command of the American horse on that day and was there killed -- soon after the defeat the militia returned home – this deponent to the County of Wilkes – the time served three months. When Charleston was taken by the British the Militia was embodied-- General Williamson of South Carolina militia ordered them to keep themselves embodied – but he afterwards took protection. Colonel Clarke went then over the mountain with a party of 30 men refusing to take protection – sometime in September Clarke returned with a detachment from over the mountain. This deponent with others joined him, and marched against Augusta – drove out Colonel Brown who commanded there, on the part of the British – and pursued him about 3 miles from Augusta where they besieged him three nights and three days. Brown sent for a detachment to Ninety Six – who compelled them to raise the siege and push home to Wilkes County. Brown and Colonel Crougher [sic, John Harris Cruger?] joined their forces and came to Wilkes – and took 21 hostages of which deponent was one and kept them eight months – until Colonel Henry Lee from Virginia and Major Eaton took Brown's Fort and released them. This opponent has no documentary evidence to prove his services – nor does he know any now alive who can testify to his service. He however states that the above statement is correct that he also was out on various other scouts to prevent the British from taking cattle &c. 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 any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Danl. H. Brush, Clerk

S/ Jesse Gordon, X his mark

of the Jackson Circuit Court

[On October 31, 1854, and Jackson County Illinois, Nancy Gordon filed for a widows pension stating that she was the widow of Jesse Gordon a revolutionary pensioner of the United States who died on

August 27, 1850. She states that she married Jesse Gordon in union County Illinois on April 2, 1829. They were married by John Whitaker J. P.]
[file contains evidence of the marriage of Jesse Gordon to Nancy Simpson, as certified by Winstead Davie, Clerk of Union County, Illinois, April 2, 1829. Married by John Whitaker, JP]