

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Joseph Gaston W23089

Jane

fn81SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of South Carolina, Chester District

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before me Peter Wylie Judge of the Court of Ordinary in said District, Joseph Gaston Esq. of the district and State aforesaid aged 70 years last February who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he first entered the Service of his Country in the Revolutionary War at about the age of 16 years, and as a volunteer joined Captain John McClure sometime shortly after Buford's defeat, (he thinks five or six days) above Camden in the Waxhaw Settlement, which appears by records to have been on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1780 – and was shortly afterwards detached, with his aged Father to North Carolina to secure him a place of safety – as he was become an object of much unbounded resentment, having a family of nine sons all of whom having taken up arms in defense of Liberty and seven of them in the engagement on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, when Admiral Parker attacked the fort Moultrie to come up to Charleston he then Returned and continued under Captain J. McClure who was the first that made any resistance to the Enemy in this part of the Country with a few Volunteers, which routed the Tories at Beckhamville – then at Mobley's Meeting house these members marched daily, and soon joined General Sumter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and was the Nucleus of his Army when he came to take the command – he was at the fight at Rocky Mount, where they attacked the Enemy in their strong house on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1780 he was next at the Battle of Hanging Rock, that day Week the 7<sup>th</sup> August, where his Captain John McClure, myself, and two brothers fell in the front of the action, the one killed dead on the ground, the other mortally wounded and died of his wounds in Charlotte as did his Captain, that he himself received a ball on the bridge of his nose, and went under the left eye and out by the ear which fractured the cheek bone and much injured the sight of the eye and the muscles of the under Jaw which confined him a considerable length of time in the Hospital in Charlotte – where his brother died.

That as soon as he was thought fit for duty, he joined General Sumter again and was at the battle of Blackstock's on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, where the General was wounded, and saw his wound dressed the next day at a Mr. Goudelock, when he the General had to retire from the Army for some time, How long he was out on this expedition he cannot well recollect, but remembers that he came home with his next Captain John Steel and that the Army he thinks then dispersed for sometime as they were volunteers – until the General got able to take the field again and in the meantime he was engaged in said Steel's Company in scouting against and suppressing of the Tories where he caught the Small Pox which he had most violently had and which confined him a considerable length of time. In the Spring when he was again able to turn out, he joined Colonel Henry Hampton under Captain, or perhaps only Lieutenant, William Gaston to collect and carry provisions to General Greene's Army, he went with a number of Wagons and was in the camp about three or four days before the Battle at Camden<sup>1</sup> on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1781 and was sent from there on a Guard under said Gaston with Major Hern [sic, Edmund Hyrne] one of General Greene's Aids, to the Siege of Fort Motte commonly called Thompson's which Siege is said to have commenced the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1781 he remembers the trenches was in considerable forwardness as he was in them Staid there some days and was dismissed with his officer and the rest of his men, and scouted among the Tories and returned home the latter part of May, which brings it to at least a year from the time he first turned out. Previous to this tour it had been general as all volunteer work as none were turned out but the Whigs, but when the Enemy was driven and retreated down the Country, and the people in some measure got settled at home, then came drafting, but that he does not remember that he ever was drafted or called on afterwards,

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, Battle of Hobkirk or Hobkirk's Hill (also called the Second Battle of Camden)

the invalid pension granted by the last Congress and second to Invalids by said Congress in the act No. 7 February 19<sup>th</sup> 1833 – and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State or of the United States except as above excepted.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court date as above written.

S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

S/ Joseph Gaston

To the first Interrogatory he answers

I was born on the plantation where I now live in said Chester District on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 1763 as recorded.

Ans 2 I find my age recorded by my Father in his family Bible which as my mother informed me she carried off in her lap when she fled from the Enemy as was the only article almost that was preserved from destruction and plunder

Ans 3 – I have resided all my lifetime at the same place where I now live except, when I was driven from home by the Enemy and in the Service of my Country

Ans 4<sup>th</sup> I always volunteered as before stated

Ans 5<sup>th</sup> – I had not the opportunity of being much acquainted with the regular officers, not being much with the Regular Army – but I well remember seeing General Smallwood at Charlotte after Gates defeat, & perhaps others, I knew General Sumter very well, Colonels Hill and Winn who was both wounded with me at the Hanging Rock, Colonel Williams who fell at King's Mountain, Col. Lacey, Hawthorn, Bratton and Major John Adair, late Governor of Kentucky, and for the circumstances of my services I refer to my previous declarations.

Ans 6<sup>th</sup> It was not the practice to discharge the militia and volunteers in writing only to dismiss them

Ans 7<sup>t</sup> I am so well known in my neighborhood that I get any number of men that might be necessary, to testify to my Veracity, But I will mention a few of the old revolutionist – the Reverend Samuel McCreary, who stood by me when I fell in Battle, John Bishop,<sup>2</sup> James Harbinson [sic, James Harbinson]<sup>3</sup>, Esq., Colonel George Gill<sup>4</sup> & the Honorable John McCreary to has been a member of Congress.

Sworn to & signed in open court date above

S/ Joseph Gaston

S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

South Carolina, Chester District: Colonel George Gill came into open court who upon being first sworn saith upon oath that he is well acquainted with Joseph Gaston above named and has been well acquainted with him from his youth & knew him said Gaston to be a Whig in the revolutionary war with his family four of his Brothers lost their lives in the revolution defending their liberties this deponent further saith that he was with Gaston at the Battle of Rock-Mount [sic, Rocky Mount], & knows he was wounded at Hanging Rock and believes firmly all said Gaston's Statements above stated are just & true.

They did you Sworn to & signed this first day of July 1833 in open Court

S/ Geo. Gill

S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

South Carolina, Chester District

Personally appeared in open Court before me Peter Wylie Judge of the Court of Ordinary of said District Joseph Morrow<sup>5</sup> a Soldier of the revolution who being duly Sworn saith upon oath that he was well acquainted with Joseph Gaston within named during the revolutionary war and saw said Gaston at Battle of the Hanging Rock where this deponent & said Gaston was both wounded & further saith that

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2 [John Bishop S9279](#)

3 FPA W17039

4 FPA S21229

5 [Joseph Morrow S21892](#)

the statements set forth in the within declaration by said Joseph Gaston he believes to be just & true.  
Sworn to & signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1833 in open Court. S/ Joseph Morrow, X his mark  
S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

[On November 7, 1838, Jane or Jene Gaston, 70, resident of Chester filed therein for a widow's pension stating that she married him April 26, 1790; that he died October 10, 1836.]

[facts in file: veteran married Jeney Brown April 20, 1790, attested by their son James A. Gaston, administrator of this father's estate in support of his mother's petition for a widow's pension; she was still alive on April 9, 1855 when she filed at age 87 in Chester District for bounty land]

#### Bible Record

Joseph Gaston and Janney Brown married Apl. 20<sup>th</sup> C. D. 1790

John Brown Gaston was born Jany 22<sup>nd</sup> C. D. 1791

Narrisa Gaston born Novr. 17<sup>th</sup> C D 1792

Eliza Gaston Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> CD 1794

Esther Gaston born Decr. 9<sup>th</sup> [?] C. D. 1796

Margret Gaston born Apl. 29<sup>th</sup> C. D. 1797

Jane Gaston born Augt 17<sup>th</sup> CD 1800

James Hall A. Gaston born Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> CD 1801

Robart Gaston born Jany 1<sup>st</sup> CD 1808

Joseph Gaston Died 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1836

#### South Carolina, Chester District

I John McCreary (a former Member of Congress) do hereby Certify, that I have been acquainted with Joseph Gaston, (the present Petitioner to Congress) from his Infancy, but more particularly from some time before the close of the Revolutionary War until the present day. And can attest that I believe all the facts stated in his Petition to be correctly true. Although I did not see him until after his wounds were healed, yet the marks is largely visible in his face. His nose appears to have been nearly half cut in to [sic, two]. The hole in his cheek & under his Ear where the ball came out, all plain to be seen. And I have often heard him relate the circumstances of himself & Brothers, being all shot down nearly at the same time in the front of the action. And have likewise often heard him complain of the injury done to his eye & Jaw. And have often seen him wearing double specs to try to enlarge the sight.

That he is a man of unblemished good moral character; & deserves well of his Country. Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833.

S/ Jo. McCreary

#### South Carolina, Chester District in

Personally appeared before me D. G. Stinson one of the Justices of the Quorum of the District aforesaid, the Reverend Samuel McCreary and being duly Sworn on his oath saith that he was well acquainted with Joseph Gaston the present applicant to Congress for a Pension, both in the time and ever since the Revolutionary War, that he was with him at the Battle of Hanging Rock, that they two formed the Second [word obscured] file in Captain John McClure's Company when they entered the action that he stood by him when himself and two Brothers were shot down and the Captain as he describes and that he was wounded in the manner set forth in his Petition and that all the other circumstances mentioned, respecting his other services and the situation and privation of the family he believes to be strictly true as he was well Thacquainted with the whole Scenes [?] of that time respecting of them and does know that the Enemy did Carry off and destroyed almost every thing that was horrible belonging to them, that the said Joseph Gaston is a man of truth and Integrity was a good

friend of his Country in all to be believed in all his statements.  
Pension Sworn to and Subscribed the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833.

S/ Samuel McCreary

South Carolina, Chester District: I do certify that I am acquainted with the Reverend Samuel McCreary from my first Recollections that he has been a Minister of the Gospel for more than 30 years and that his [word torn off] is without Blemish and that all due credit and [word torn off] to be given to his attestations.

S/ D. G. Stinson, QU

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1833

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States  
Gentlemen

Your Petitioner Joseph Gaston of the State of South Carolina & Chester District would take the liberty in hopes of calling your friendly attention to his case to State to you a Short Sketch of his privations and painful Sufferings through the Revolutionary Struggle for Liberty and Independence in this his native State.

Being the youngest of nine Brothers who encouraged by the Council of a Patriotick Father were all at times engaged in that Bloody Conflict until five of them fell in the Good cause and your Petitioner is the only one that Survives.

After the fall of our Capital and the Capture of our Army in it the Enemy Extended their depredations to the back of the State in now Lancaster District where they Massacred Col. Buford's Regiment (on their Retreat) on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1780 in a Manner too well known to Require a description at this time this being the last Vestige of opposing force in South Carolina that Bandilla of Traitors & Robers which English Policy decorated by the names of Loyalists began their work and privations on the defenseless Whigs, When a Patriotick young man Captain John McClure of now Chester District collected 32 Volunteers (whose Motto was Liberty or Death) and not more than 20 miles from the Scene of Col. Buford's defeat attacked and Scattered the camps of the Loyalists under the Command of Colonel Houseman being more than five to one at the place now known by the name of Beckhamsville. This Spartan Band soon increased and formed the Nucleus of General Sumpter's [sic, Thomas Sumter's] Army when he came to take Command with this Patriotick Band a few days after their embodying I volunteered perhaps the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1780 being about 16 years of age, and under the Command of General Sumter was first at the attack on the British Garrison at Rocky Mount and next Fought at the Hanging Rock on that day we were the 7<sup>th</sup> of August when our noble Captain McClure and officers were killed, or received their death Wounds – in the front of the center line and where two Brothers fell with me and I, only recovered from a dangerous wound by a Ball Striking the bridge of the Nose and Passing in under the left eye, Shattering the Cheek bone and going out at the ear by which the Sight in the Eye and Muscles of the under Jaw are much destroyed and the Sight of the Eye much Impaired in now more especially in old Age after Recovering from this Wound Joined General Sumter again and was at the Battle at Blackstocks the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1780 Where the General was wounded and had to retire from the Field for some time, at this time his Volunteers Dispersed in small companies to their different Settlements to protect them from the Tories, these unhappy enemies brought the Small Pox, from the British camps and in excursions after them I was smitten with that disease and so violent Kind that my life was almost beyond hope for many weeks, after being Restored to health and fit for duty Volunteered again with Colonel Henry Hampton who was collecting Provisions for General Greene's Army and helped to guard it to the camp a few days after the Battle at Camden on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1781, then went from that place as a guard with Major Heron [sic, Edmund Hyrne] one of General Greene's aides to the Siege at Fort Motte near Colonel Thompson's and after being there some time was dismissed and returned home about the last of May 1781 in all amounting to one year, the Enemy having now been beaten retreated to the lower parts of the State, I was not called on afterwards. Our aged Father was also about this time removed from this Inhospitable

world after living to see four of his Sons give their lives for the cause of their Bleeding Country and himself reduced to absolute Poverty Leaving the care of a Widowed Mother to your Petitioner after the Enemy had Stripped us of every Article of property that it was Possible for the hand of Rapine and plunder to remove amounting to about 1500 or 2000 of this was not a large Estate but what made it more Sincerely felt was, that it was all – These losses and these embarrassments produced by them were long and Sorely Experienced as nothing was to be had for Revolutionary Services and losses and while your Treasury was far from being able to meet the most especial demands of our Government and while every State could put its debts on your collections which may Heaven prevent from ever being the case again.

But now a well regulated Finance and the Prosperity of our Government has enabled you to do ample justice to the few Remaining Patriots of the Revolution by your act of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 Yet as there is no Discretionary Power left to the Functionaries of Government in they Execution of that Act to make any distinction with respect to wounded men a particular Sufferings and as I never before applied to either General or State Government (which I might have done long since) I now cast myself on your Honorable Body Praying to allow me a reasonable pension as a wounded man in addition to my services to commence from the time of the afore mentioned Act operates being now about to Close my three score and 10<sup>th</sup> year like of my fellow sufferers we cannot long be expensive to Government and would enable your Petitioner in the evening of Life to live more Comfortable and to Liquidate all just demands against him before his final remove Trusting to the Justness of his Claim and the Generosity of Honorable Body he feels Strongly encouraged to submit his case. And as in duty Bound will for ever pray. Drawn up myself and signed by my own Hand. S/ Joseph Gaston  
January 12<sup>th</sup> 1833

State of South Carolina, Chester district

Personally appeared before me Peter Wylie Judge of the Court of ordinary for said district Samuel McCreary & being duly sworn saith that he is personally acquainted with Joseph Gaston Esq. who applied for a petition under the act of Congress June 1832 as stated in the accompanying documents the Declarant being his neighbor & raised with him from his childhood & that according to the record of his father's family Bible he was born on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1763 & is now 70 years of age.

This deponent further saith that when Charleston fell on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1780 & the British flag was raised in every part of the State within three or four weeks after that event he joined the corps commanded by Captain McClure who opposed and twice defeated the British partisans err he joined him & that on being over powered they retired into North Carolina.

This deponent further saith that Captain McClure's company being attached to General Sumter's brigade in which company himself & the applicant served that they decamped on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July to make an attack on the British Stationed at Rocky Mount the attack was made on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> & that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August the same brigade made an attack on the British station at Hanging Rock in which action the applicant being in his file men fell being severely wounded with their heroic Captain with two elder brothers whose wounds proved mortal with several others who followed their leader into the action & that he remained 8 weeks in the hospital until Cornwallis advanced on Charlotte & then took their flight to the mountains & was there until in the defeat of Colonel Ferguson at King's mountain on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October [sic, October 7, 1780] & then returned home & served in several skirmishes in his own state & neighborhood until he marched in General Sumter's brigade to the Battle of at Blackstock's near the last of December 1780 when he returned home was seized with the smallpox & lay seven weeks under that complaint in the range of the marauding enemy & when recovered, he joined with scouts & served with them as before until March 1781 when a requisition was made for a two months tour he served again in General Sumter's brigade and Colonel Lacey's Regiment & Captain Steel's Company & was at the siege of fort Motte but left that place before it's surrendered & returned home the last of May.

This the deponent further saith that the family of the applicant sustained the loss of all their measurable property with 4 of their lives in serving the revolutionary cause.  
Sworn to & signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1833 in open Court. S/ Samuel McCreary  
S/ Peter Wylie