

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of George Gosnell W5016 Eleanor Kramer PA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Jul 2016.

State of Pennsylvania }  
County of Philadelphia } Ss.

On this eleventh day of April AD 1837 personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Philadelphia Eleanor Kramer a resident of the district of the Northern Liberties in the County and state aforesaid aged Seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her solemn oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1837. that she was lawfully married to George Gosnell who was a sergeant in the Revolutionary war in Capt. Banksons [John Bankson, pension application W25210] Company of the second Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Col. Walter Stewart [sic: Walter Stewart]. that he enlisted in the year 1776 at Philadelphia for the term of during the war that he was in several engagements, and that she was with her husband the said George Gosnell in the service during the year 1780 [see endnote] and that he died in the service when on a southern campaign in South Carolina. She further declares that she was married to the said George Gosnell on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January A.D. 1780. that her husband the aforesaid George Gosnell died in the service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April A.D. 1782 [see endnote]. that she was afterwards married to William Rushworm [William Russwurm, pension application W3390] on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December A.D 1783 who died on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October A.D 1793, and that she was afterwards married to Christian Kramer on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D 1794, who died on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 183[last digit missing; elsewhere said to be 1834] and that she was a widow on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D 1836 and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed Eleanor herXmark Kramer  
[Certified by Christian Hubbert S39754.]

January the twenty third Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and eighty George Gosnell and Eleanor Shaw made Their appearance at Wicacoa and were pronounced Man and Wife, by me Andrew Goeranson  
[Certified by John Curtis Clay, "Rector of the Swedish churches in & near to Philad'a."]

I do certify, That Christian Kramer and Nelly Rushwan, both of the City of Philadelphia were lawfully joined together in holy Matrimony, on the thirtieth Day of December, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety four. Witness my Hand and Seal.  
Philadelphia, this 30 Day of December 1794. J. Friedrich Schmidt,  
Minister of the Gospel of the Lutheran  
Congregat. at Philadelphia

NOTES:

The following is written on the file jacket: " See claim of William Russwurm (widow Eleanor Kramer) N.C. W3390. this woman also drew that pension."

It was not uncommon for wives and other "camp followers" to accompany the troops in

the Revolutionary War.

On 11 April 1837 Eleanor Walters stated that George Gosnell died at or near Charleston SC. At the time of George Gosnell's death the Southern Army under Gen. Nathanael Greene was headquartered at Bacon's Bridge about 20 mi NW of Charleston.

The independent researcher, Mr. John Rees, has kindly shared with me the following, which indicates that George Gosnell was executed on orders of Gen. Greene.

Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene's orders,  
"Head Quarters near Bacons Bridge 22d. April 1782 ...  
At the Genl. Court Martial of which B[rigadier]. Genl. Gist is Presdt. held the 21st. Instant was tried Sergeant [George] Gosnell of the Pennsyla. Line, on the following charges – Viz. – For having spoken words tending to excite Mutiny – The Court after having considered the evidence for & against the Prisoner, and [?] due weight to his defence, are of oppinion, that he is guilty of the charge, and that he is Punishable by the 3d. Article of the 2d. Sect. of the Articles of War, and do sentence him to suffer Death, two thirds of the Court Agreeing. The General Approves the sentence and orders the Prisoner to be shot to Death, on the Field in the rear, this afternoon at 3 oClock – 100 Men from each Brigade properly officered to attend the Execution."

1st Pennsylvania (Provisional) Battalion Order Book, 13 March 1782 – 12 May 1782, vol. 58, target 8 41, Numbered Record Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, (National Archives Microfilm Publication M853, reel 9) U.S. War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93, National Archives, Washington.

According to an article by Robert M. Dunkerly, Gosnell was involved with another Sergeant who had been recruited by the British to corrupt American soldiers. "8 Fast Facts about Camp Followers." J. Amer. Rev. 2 April 2014 (<https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/04/8-fast-facts-about-camp-followers/>)