

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Hugh Gaston S10729
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn27SC
(modified 7/18/08)

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

On this 25th day of April A.D. 1834 personally appeared before me Samuel Pitts a Justice of the Peace in and aforesaid County & State Hugh Gaston a resident of the County and State aforesaid (he being unable to attend Court by reason of bodily infirmity) aged Eighty three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th A.D.1832.

That he entered the service some time in the year 1775, that he enlisted for the period of six months in a Company of Rangers commanded by Captain Cashaw [sic, Eli Kershaw] in Colonel Thompson's Regiment. He took the State oath and served until he was discharged – during his service as an enlisted soldier he was at the battle at a place called Reedy River, at this place the Tories were defeated and many taken prisoners and carried to Charleston South Carolina and from thence to Sullivan's Island where he was employed in guarding them until he was discharged. This excursion against the Tories is commonly known by the name of the “Snowy Campaign” -- He afterwards served in the militia in the years (1776) (1777) for various periods of time until the close of the revolution, first under the command of Captain William Gaston and afterwards under the command of Captain McClure. While in the militia he served for the space of one, sometimes two, months at a time when the emergency of the times required it. Under the command of Captain Gaston he was stationed for a short time within ten miles of Charleston, thence he was marched to Purysburg near the Savannah River where he was discharged. While under the command of Captain McClure he was at an engagement with the Tories at Mobley's Meeting house, where the Tories were defeated. Afterwards at Moncks Corner they were surprised by the enemy and compelled to retreat – they retreated up the Santee River where they were reinforced by a party of men from North Carolina. He was at battle at James Williamson's plantation near the south fork of Fishing Creek where the Tories and British were defeated. Colonel Lacy [sic, Edward Lacey] was commander at this place. He was also at a battle at Rocky Mount where General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was highest in command. He further states that the discharge he received was a verbal one and that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person whose evidence he can procure who can testify to his services. When called into service he resided in Chester District in the State of South Carolina. 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.

Interrogatories proposed by the Court to Hugh Gaston and answers there to:

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

A. I was born as I believe in the State of Pennsylvania or New Jersey March 12, 1751.

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

A. I have a record of my age in my father's Bible, the Bible is not now in existence.

3rd : Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived sent to the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

A. When called into service I was living in Chester District in the State of South Carolina, after the revolution he resided in Chester District South Carolina. About nine years since, I left South Carolina and removed to Wilcox County in the State of Alabama where I now live.

4th : How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for whom?

A. At first I enlisted for the period of six months, after the expiration of that time, I served at various times in the militia in all amounting to about four months, as I believe.

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 services?
A. I know Colonel Thompson and General Sumter. I also remember Captains Gaston & McClure and Col Lacey – many of the names of individuals of the revolution have faded from my memory. I was at the battle at Reedy River in the Snowy Campaign & at Mobley's Meeting house, I was at the surprise at Moncks Corner and at an engagement at Williamson's plantation also at Rocky Mount, and for further particulars, I refer to the preceding declaration.

6th : Did you ever receive a discharge from service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

A. I received a verbal discharge from Colonel Thompson – he never received a written discharge.

7th : State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

A. I know Thomas S. Witherspoon a minister of a Gospel and Samuel S. Gamble, said Witherspoon resides in Monroe County and Gamble resides in my neighborhood.

Sworn to & subscribed to before me this 25 April 1834.

S/ Hugh Gaston

S/ Samuel Pitts, J. P.

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County – Peter Kelly¹ aged 83 years, a revolutionary soldier & pensioner who being duly sworn deposes & says that he is well acquainted with Hugh Gaston (who now claims a pension under the Act June 7 A.D. 1832) and that he (said Kelly) served under the command of Colonel Thompson in the year 1775 and 1776 and that he was present at the excursion against the Tories on Reedy River and throughout the whole of the Snowy Campaign. He knows that Mr. Hugh Gaston enlisted for the period of six months in a company of Rangers commanded by Captain Cashaw in Colonel Thompson's Regiment – and that Mr. Gaston was at Reedy River at the taking of the Tories and that the prisoners were carried to Sullivan's Island where the said Gaston was employed in guarding them. He knows that when the period of Mr. Gaston's enlistment expired he was discharged & returned home.

Sworn & subscribed or me November 21 A.D. 1834

S/ Peter Kelly, X his mark

S/ Samuel Pitts, JP

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

Personally appeared before me Samuel Pitts a Justice of the peace in and for the said County Hugh Gaston who being unable to attend at appeared before a court of Record in said County by reason of bodily infirmity and who after being duly sworn according to law, on oath, makes the following additions and amendments to his original declaration (herewith annexed) in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832.

viz: That he enlisted for the period of six months in Colonel Thompson's Regiment under the command of Captain Cashaw. During this period he was at the battle at Reedy River against the Tories, the battle commenced early in the morning and lasted only a few minutes. The Tories fled & many were taken prisoners, who were taken to Charleston & thence to Sullivan's Island. This campaign was performed in the dead of winter – and the latter part of the year 1775 the first part of the year 1776. (this deponent is unable to state the precise time) – but he is positive that the expedition was called the Snowy Campaign. After guarding the Tories at Sullivan's Island for some time the term of his enlistment expired & he was discharged & returned home. While engaged in the militia under Captain Gaston he was stationed at the ten mile house near Charleston, from thence he was marched to Purysburg near the Savannah River & encamped there some considerable time in watching the movements of the enemy. He was there discharged, afterwards he was called out in the militia under

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the command of Captain McClure when he was at the battle at Mobley's Meeting house where the Tories were defeated, the battle was fought at break of day & lasted a short time several Negroes were killed & some Tories were taken prisoners. After the battle the militia returned home.

He was afterwards called out to defend & guard provisions toward at Moncks Corner where Captain McClure with the militia were surprised by the enemy's horsemen & compelled to retreat up the Santee River where we were reinforced by a party of men from North Carolina – afterwards hearing of the fall of Charleston they returned home – He was afterwards at the battle at James Williamson's plantation-- the night previous to the battle they encamped at Clem's branch when they crossed the Catawba River and attacked the united forces of the British & Tories about day break – the action continued but a few minutes. -- Captain Hook [sic, Huck] a British officer was killed – several of the enemy were killed & some taken prisoners – afterwards he was at the battle at Rocky Mount – the battle commenced early in the morning & continued upwards of three hours. Tories & British took shelter in a large log house where they defended themselves from the attack of the friends of liberty under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. This deponent further says that he was not engaged in any regular civil pursuit during the revolution, but was ready at a moments warning to take the field when the emergency of the times required his service.

By reason of old age and loss of memory he is unable to state the dates of the events but he is satisfied that the facts set forth above are substantially correct.

S/ Hugh Gaston

Sworn & subscribed before me November 13, 1834

S/ Sam Pitts, JP

[Thomas S. Witherspoon, a clergyman and Samuel S. Gamble gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Alabama, Wilcox County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of aforesaid Hugh Gaston who being duly sworn deposes & says that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below viz: For six months I served as an enlisted soldier -- & for four months I served in the militia – and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed to before me April 24, 1834

S/ Hugh Gaston

S/ Sam Pitts, JP