

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abel Gower W7552

Transcribed by Will Graves

Elizabeth Gower

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f59NC

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Georgia, Gwinnett County: SS: Inferior Court October Term 1832

On this 5th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court (it being a Court of Record) Abel Gower aged seventy-four years & being 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 the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service as hereinafter stated under the following named officers – to wit: He entered the service as a drafted militia man in the County of Johnson [sic, Johnston County] & State of North Carolina in the year 1779 or 1780 (the date he cannot positively recollect) under Captain Philip Thomas for the Term of three months Moses Johnson was Lieutenant of Captain Thomas's Company & the Ensign was named William Lee – that Isaiah Hales,¹ Joseph Benfield & Henry Hales of the same Company & belonged to the mess of deponent -- was attached to Colonel Kenan's [probably James Kenan's] Regiment. Marched to Rockfish in order to prevent the British from marching from Wilmington to ravage that Section of the Country at Rockfish bridge a battle was fought² with the British & Tories deponent was assigned as one of the Guard to protect the baggage after the battle beat about that quarter of North Carolina until near the expiration of his term of service – was then marched to Smithfield in North Carolina & was there discharged by Captain Thomas at the end of the three months service.

Shortly afterwards the date he cannot recollect with any certainty but thinks it was in 1780 at the same place he again entered the Service as a drafted Militia man for three months more in the company & under the Command of Captain Jonathan Smith Lieutenant Alexander Avery Ensign Lee and the messmates above named were of the mess in this Company also. Marched to Portridge in North Carolina & ranged about there & in that quarter and joined Colonel Linton's [Lieutenant Colonel William Thomas Linton's] Regiment at Kingston [sic, Kinston] in North Carolina – that he continued in the service chasing the Tories & scouring the Country around & about there until near the expiration of his second Term when he was marched back to Smithfield & discharged there by Captain Smith at the end of his second Term of service.

That afterwards sometime in the year 1781 at the same place he again entered the service as a drafted Militia man for three months more in the company & under the command of Captain

¹ [Isaiah Hales S1824](#)

² Perhaps the engagement known as the Battle of Legat's Bridge or Rockfish, May 13, 1781

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_legats_bridge.html or perhaps the engagement at Rockfish Creek, August 2, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_rockfish_creek.html At the latter engagement, Capt. Jonathan Taylor of the Duplin County NC militia was present and it MAY have been that officer under whom the veteran served.

Edmund Griffin – Lieutenant William Roberts – Ensign Zadock Stallings, Starling Johnson, Absalom Carroll & Josiah Gaddon was of his mess in this Company – that he marched from Smithfield to Blueford's Bridge [Buford's Bridge]³ in North Carolina & there joined General Butler's [John Butler's] Brigade – after remaining at Bluford's Bridge something near a month he was marched to Wilmington – before they marched the news of the Surrender [October 19, 1781] of Lord Cornwallis reached them & they were marched to Wilmington & placed under the Command of Colonel Young [Henry Young] to superintend the taking possession of the town by the inhabitants who had been expelled by the British – the British evacuated the town after the surrender of Yorktown – he continued at Wilmington under the command of Colonel Young until his term of service expired & was there discharged by Captain Griffin --

That he got no pay for his services – sold his claim for his pay for the service for the three terms to a man of the name of Layton [could be Taylor, but if so, the scribe crossed the "l" each time]⁴ & for the proof of service delivered his three discharges to said Layton & does not know what has become of Layton or the discharges – immediately after the close of the War he removed from Johnston County North Carolina to Richmond County Georgia – thence to Wilkes County – was cut off into the County of Oglethorpe – thence to Clark County – thence to Gwinnett County where he now resides – that he has a copy of the original Register of his age which shows that he was born the 17th day of October 1757 – That he knows of no person living by whom he can prove the service above stated nor has he any documentary evidence of the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Abel Gower, X his mark

Attest: S/ Wm Maltbie, Clerk

[Mitchel Bennett, a clergyman, and Elijah Winn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

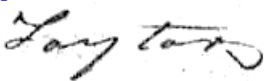
[p 10: On June 26, 1843, Elizabeth Gower, 78, filed in Gwinnett County, Georgia for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she was the widow of Abel Gower a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$30 per annum for his revolutionary services; that she married him in June 1782; that he died July 17, 1841. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: On June 28, 1843 in Gwinnett County Georgia, Sarah Matthews gave testimony that Elizabeth Johnson now Elizabeth Gower married Abel Gower in Johnson County [Johnston County] North Carolina at the time stated by the widow in her application. The affiant signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 17: On October 16, 1843, Robert M. Gower, 46, filed a supporting affidavit in Gwinnett County Georgia stating that he was the son of Abel & Elizabeth Gower; that he had one brother and three sisters by the same parents other than himself to wit: Polly, Nancy, John and Phereby, the oldest of which if alive would now be upwards of fifty-four years old; that the ages of his

³ JD Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strenghtened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge." See,

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html



parents children were once entered in his father's family Bible but has long since been torn out and lost except for the age of himself and his brother younger than himself but he does not know in whose handwriting those entries were made; that his parents were both entirely illiterate and neither could read or write.

Robert M. Gower]

[p 35: Cairy Johnson [spelled Cary Johnson in other documents], aged 72, of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, gave an affidavit dated November 21, 1843, in support of the application of Elizabeth Gower. He states that when 12 or 14 years of age and living in Johnson County North Carolina, he was present when Elizabeth Johnson was legally married to Abel Gower. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]