

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Girardeau S17979

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Transcribed by Will Graves

10/1/08

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original on footnote.com and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

State of South Carolina, St. Andrews Marriage, Charleston District

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace, John Girardeau who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For 5 years and 7 months, I served as a private; for 11 months, I served as a Sergeant, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to before me this 5th July 1833

S/ John B. Girardeau, JP

S/ John Girardeau

State of South Carolina, Charleston District

On this 22nd day of February personally appeared John Girardeau a resident of Charleston District in the State of South Carolina aged 76 years, who 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 June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That after the lapse of so many years he is unable to state the particular time at which he entered the service having been engaged as early as the year 1775, in defending his native State against the Indians, and other depredators: That in the year 1776 he was drafted into the service of the country, under the immediate command of Captain Moses Way; Colonel John Baker, and Major Baker commanding the Regiment to which he was attached, and General McIntosh the whole force: he was mostly engaged at this time in defending the frontiers of the State (Georgia) against Tories and Indians, principally from Florida, the duty being one week on and two off except from the invasion of Florida by General Howe to the invasion of Georgia by the British Army under General Prevost [Augustine Prevost] from Saint Augustine in the year 1778 when he was constantly on duty under Captain Ball; who in this time met and defeated Captain Scott a Tory, in the invasion of the State by Prevost's Army, the whole of the Militia of the County was called into active service. He still continued to serve under Colonel Baker, James Screven being General of the Army who had an engagement with a detachment from Prevost's Army commanded by Colonel Brown [probably Thomas Brown] at South Newport bridge (Georgia) General Screven had not been long in command when he received, in action, his death wound. General Howe taking the command of the Army engaged Colonel Campbell before the City of Savannah, but was defeated and the City taken. At this time he left the Army under General Howe and went into South Carolina where he again entered the service under Captain Mills, who belonged to Colonel Baker's Regiment which was about the first June 1779. This officer then went into Georgia with the view of attacking Savannah in the absence of General Prevost who

being unsuccessful in his attempt on Charleston returned to Savannah when Colonel Baker again retreated into South Carolina with a number of prisoners he had captured in an engagement with a Captain Miller on the Ogeechee River. In October of this year he joined General Lincoln's Army in South Carolina. This General was joined by General Williamson and Count d'Estaing and after their repulse at Savannah he returned with this Army into South Carolina; and was engaged in the year 1780, in endeavoring to prevent a Junction between Generals Clinton and Patterson: the former officer coming by sea and the latter by land to attack Charleston, General Lincoln was compelled to retreat. About this time General Lincoln ordered off a detachment of 3 companies to suppress a collection of Tories on the Edisto River in this duty he was engaged under Captain William Day; before returning from this expedition Charleston had surrendered to General Clinton (May 1780). He then left the Army and went into North Carolina where he continued out of service until the following month, when Baron De Kalb coming on with an Army to the South he met him between the Roanoke and Deep rivers, and volunteered his Services under Captain Mills. He had not been long in this Army before General Gates took the command and marched for Camden South Carolina, after the defeat of this Officer near Camden, he left the Army and went into Virginia, and remained there until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] came on with an Army for the Southern States, this was about the month of March 1781. He volunteered under this General while on the Staunton River, with this Army there were General Lawson, Colonels Posey & Lee and the latter of the Cavalry, and Lieutenant Davenport of Virginia who fell at the battle of Guilford Court house. After this battle he was ordered in the month of June under Colonel Crawford after beef cattle for General Greene's Army while on this service he took the smallpox from the effects of which he did not recover until about the month of October following when he went into South Carolina where he joined General Wayne, under the command of Captain Samuel West, about the beginning of the year 1782. He served as Sergeant under this Captain until peace. Colonel Baker was with this Army to whose Regiment he was attached. While with this General he was ordered off in a detachment under Major Habersham, who was ordered to intercept and meet a body of Indians collected on the Altamaha River, and by mild measures to reconcile, and bring them to a good understanding. In this service he suffered severely for want of food; subsisting 3 days on the hearts or inner parts of the Saw Palmetto. After Major Habersham had executed his orders he permitted Captain West to separate his company from the detachment and had it against a stockade Fort in McIntosh County (Georgia) built around the House of one Captain McDonald a Tory who was killed and the Fort taken we then joined General Wayne with whom the company continued until peace.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

Answers to Questions put by [the Court]

1<sup>st</sup> He was born in Liberty County in the State of Georgia on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March in the year 1756 –

2<sup>nd</sup> There was a family record kept by his father, but his Brother being the elder kept the Bible containing the record -- believes it might have been destroyed in the Revolutionary War -- if not, it may now be with his Brother's family in Georgia.

3<sup>rd</sup> He lived at the commencement of the war in Liberty County Georgia; has since lived and the Parishes of St. John's, Colleton, St. Paul's, and now in Saint Andrews all in this State.

4<sup>th</sup> He was drafted as above stated in 1776 -- he had enlisted under Captain Ball but received neither bounty money or pay the other engagements he was under he entered voluntarily

5<sup>th</sup> For this Answer he refers to the above narrative.

6<sup>th</sup> Never was commissioned, nor did he ever receive a discharge.

7<sup>th</sup> Rev'd Dr Leland, Abraham Wilson, Dr Libby, John W. Holmes, Rawlins Rivers, Thomas  
Wescoat

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Girardeau

[Edward T. Buist, a clergyman, and John Rivers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]