

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Gilbert S31693
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn23NC
8/8/08

State of Georgia, County of Walton

On this 18th day of May 1835 personally appeared before the honorable the Inferior Court of said County being a Court of record William Gilbert a resident of the County aforesaid to wit the County of Walton & State of Georgia aged 77 years on the 10th day of September 1834, 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 1832. That he was drafted into the Army of the United States as a North Carolina Militia Man in the year 1780 with Stephen Moore Colonel & served in his Moore's Regiment of the North Carolina line under the following named Officers Stephen Moore Colonel, __ [blank in original] Nauls [sic, probably John Nalls or Nall or Knowles] Major, Lewis Blecker [sic, Lewis Bledsoe], Captain, Jacob Blecker [sic, Jacob Bledsoe] Lieutenant,, __ __ [blanks in original] Ensign & Sergeants names this deponent is utterly unable to recollect – that he was drafted & entered into the service on (as near as he can remember) the 20th of May 1780 for the period of three months, that at the time he entered the service he resided in the County of Wake & State of North Carolina, that during said three months he was engaged in the battle of Gates defeat near Cambden [sic, Camden] in South Carolina. And this declarant further declares that during this his first tour of service he marched through the following Section of Country He rendezvoused first at the then Court House but now Raleigh in Wake County aforesaid & marched from thence to Chatham Court House in the State last aforesaid from thence to Ramsey's Mills in the County last aforesaid from thence he marched to Cumberland County upon the Cape Fear River from thence to Rockingham County from thence to near the head of the Yadkin River & thence by a circuitous route to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina thence up the Pedee River in the direction of Camden South Carolina to near said Town of Camden at the place where Gates defeat took place. After which defeat the whole portion of the Army to which this deponent was attached was completely routed & every man being compelled to shift for himself this deponent finally arrived at his home in Wake County North Carolina after having served fully five months, though the term for which he was drafted was only three months. In this deponent further declares that on or about the 20th of October 1780 he was again drafted as one of the North Carolina Militia for another three months tour & entered into the service under the same Captain Lewis Bledsoe Colonel Moore having been killed as well as Major Nauls [sic, Nalls, Nall, or Knowles] at Gates defeat & Jacob Bledsoe Lieutenant. And this deponent further declares that he was not engaged in any battle during this tour & that he marched through the following sections of Country his residence still being in Wake County North Carolina First he rendezvoused at Salisbury North Carolina thence he marched of the Country upon the Yadkin River to the Moravian Town upon one prong of said River thence he marched with prisoners taken at said last town down the country to Hillsboro in North Carolina where this deponent was discharged honorably at the expiration of his tour having served three months from whence this deponent returned home again to Wake County North Carolina. This deponent further declares that he was again drafted into the Service as a month North Carolina militia man on or about the 25th of January 1781 with __ [blank in original] Wooten Colonel, his residence still being in Wake County State of North Carolina that he was drafted this time for a three months tour & that he entered the service under the following named officers -- __ [blank in original] Wooten Colonel Majors name he cannot remember John Trent Captain Joseph Peoples Lieutenant & this deponent can't remember the name of the Ensign or of any of the Sergeants. And this deponent was not engaged in any battle during this three month tour. And this deponent further declares that during this tour he rendezvoused at Wake Courthouse North Carolina & thence he marched to Hillsboro North Carolina where this deponent was stationed during this three months tour employed principally in guarding a Tory prisoners & attending at the execution of the

same. And this deponent further declares that he was honorably discharged after having fully served this three months tour at Hillsboro, aforesaid on or about the 28th of April 1781. And this deponent further declares that he was again drafted into the Service as a North Carolina Militia Man on the 19th day of May 1781 with ___ [blank in original] Kenon [Benjamin Kenan?] Colonel & served under said Kenan Colonel & Thomas Criddle Brigade Major, James Hillsman Captain – the Lieutenants ensigns & sergeant's names this declarant cannot remember that this declarant was drafted for another three months tour & that he served to the same that he was not engaged in any battle during this tour – that he still resided at the Wake County North Carolina aforesaid – that he rendezvoused for this tour at Wake Court House then now Raleigh thence he marched down the Country to Duplin County North Carolina where he encamped on a Creek called Rockfish in said last named County thence he marched across Neuse River to one Gray's where he was stationed until near the expiration of said last named tour when he marched back to Wake County where on the 19th of August 1781 this deponent received a written discharge from under the hand of Thomas Criddle which is hereto annexed & herewith Exhibited. And this deponent further declares that the discharge hereto annexed is the only one he has in his power custody or control-- this deponent had written discharges for his other tours but he gave them all up to a board of Auditors a great many years ago & received certificates therefore which certificates he paid away in taxes & for some articles of public property such as guns &c which were sold at the public stores at the termination of the Revolutionary War. And this deponent further declares that after using his best endeavors for better than two years by making inquiries & writing letters to different parts of the country & especially to North Carolina he is entirely unable to find any witness or witnesses by whom to prove his aforesaid services & that this deponent is fully satisfied that such witness cannot be found. He this applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ J P Lucas, Clk

S/ William Gilbert, X his mark

[William Hardin, a clergyman, and Simon Holt gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

To the Interrogatories required by the War Department to be propounded to the Applicant the said William Gilbert answers in open Court as follows

To the first Interrogatory he answers – I was born in Brunswick County State of Virginia in the year 1757

To the second he answers He has no record of the time of his birth but he has of his marriage in a prayer book of the Episcopal Church or Church of England which book is here in court & the record of said marriage therein contained & further that by said record it appears that he was married the 4th of October 1779 & he knows he was 22 years old the September previous to his marriage.

To the third Interrogatory, He answers, In the Wake County North Carolina Since the Revolutionary war I have lived some time in Wake County North Carolina said 16 or 17 years then in Martin County North Carolina about six years then in Morgan County State of Georgia & now in Walton County & State last aforesaid.

To the fourth He answers I was drafted

To the fifth He answers General Gates, General DeKalb, Major Sharp and as regards the General or particular circumstances of his service he answers I have stated everything as fully (as I know how to do) in my declaration. He states among the Militia Generals the names of General Butler, General Rutherford & General Caswell.

To the sixth He answers, I have already stated that I received discharges for every tour & what has become of them all except the one hereto annexed I have also stated in my declaration Captain Bledsoe signed one of the discharges Captain Trent signed another discharge the alert was signed by Captain – but I don't remember his name Thomas Criddle Brigade Major signed the discharge annexed to the declaration

To the seventh he answers John Backus, John Malcom, Gannaway Malcom, Samuel Williams Esq. & John Blasingame & Hugh Abercrombie.

“William Gilbert having Served a Tour of Duty in Cap. Hilsman's Company is Discharged.

Aug 1781

S/ Thos Criddle B M”

[Gilbert appears to have written miscellaneous notes on the discharge above—those notes are largely illegible.]

State of Georgia, County of Walton

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid William Gilbert who being duly sworn deposed & saith that his declaration made out & heretofore forwarded to the War Department of the United States for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832 was made out & drafted from the best of this deponent's recollection. This deponent further saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory there possibly may be some inaccuracies in the dates as to the periods of time intervening between some of the tours – this deponent further says that during the whole time from his first entering the service until his final discharge he was not at home scarcely any – that he did nothing towards raising a crop during the time – that the way he happened to be out five months was that he was required to serve three months on in over words to make up three months after he crossed the South Carolina line. This deponent is certain that he served the 14 months at the least & of this he has a perfect recollection by reckoning of the tours & the five months he also distinctly remembers. This deponent further says that he was with the baggage wagon at the time he received a discharge – that Major Criddle would not give this deponent a discharge until most of the others had been discharged on account of it being necessary that this deponent should be detained to take care of the baggage wagon – this deponent further states that it was near night when this deponent was discharged – that Criddle was without paper having used it all in writing the discharges of others – that this deponent was also without paper when he bethought himself of some blank leaves in a prayer book of his being the book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. This deponent further says that it was upon a blank leaf in that book that this discharge already forwarded was written under the circumstances herein before stated. And this deponent further says that the piece of paper hereto affixed by seal is the balance or remainder of said leaf & herewith forwarded as required by the letter of the Honorable J. L. Edwards dated War Department Pension Office 1 Aug. 1835.

And this deponent further states that he did apply at a very early date after the Act of the 7th June 1832 in the County of Upson & State of Georgia where he then resided – that either through the neglect of his counsel or some of the reason unknown to deponent he never could hear anything from said application for near or quite two years – that he afterwards removed to this County Walton where after writing to the department he received for answer that no application had ever reached the Office on his behalf. This deponent further states that a while after receiving the aforesaid answer from the Pension Office he advised with his present counsel who informed him if he could prove his services by two witnesses he would ensure him success in his application. Whereupon this deponent says letters were sent to ascertain the fact if it was possible to prove his services by living witnesses as his counsel had advised – that said letters were written some of them to North Carolina & some to distant places in this State the result of all which was an utter inability to prove services by living witnesses they all having departed this life. These are the circumstances this deponent saith which have created such seeming delay upon his part. Deponent saith that he was as it is already stated to serve three months out of the State that is out of the State of North Carolina under the first draft – And this deponent further says that he was not at home he is confident any of any account during the whole period of his service.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 10th day of August 1835.

S/ Leroy Pattillo, JP

S/ William Gilbert, X his mark