

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jasper Billings W10295 Elizabeth fn54NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/29/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or 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 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. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County

On this 22nd day of October 1832, personally appeared before me John Gambill, one of the acting Justices of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid, Jasper Billings, a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, aged seventy-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 act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he was born on the 3rd day of April 1759 in the County of Pittsylvania & State of Virginia, (the record of which was entered by his father in a Bible now in possession of the family of his brother) where he continued to reside until he was about 15 years of age, when he removed with his father to the County of Surry (now Wilkes) in the State of North Carolina, where he lived until he entered the service of the United States about the month of August 1776 as a volunteer under Lieutenant Martin Davenport, and rendezvoused on Roaring River in the said County of Wilkes, and marched immediately to the North Western side of the Blue Ridge against the Cherokee Indians, who at that time were very troublesome – when they had proceeded as far as the Grandfather mountain they halted and struck up camp, and after detailing a portion of the Company to guard the camp, they [sic, the] remainder divided themselves into scouting parties and were employed during their stay at that place in scouring the country round about after the Indians – after about a month or six weeks employed in this manner, and without meeting with any of the Indians, they concluded that they had abandoned the Country – and therefore there was no longer any necessity for their services – they accordingly set out for home, and when they had reached the County of Wilkes, they were discharged by Lieutenant Davenport, and each man repaired to his home. Soon after the return home of this deponent he removed with his father back to Pittsylvania County Virginia, where he lived for about three years & again returned to North Carolina in the fall of the year 1780.

In the month of October of that year, this deponent again volunteered himself for three months, and joined a company of volunteers commanded by Captain William Hewlit [sic, William Hewlett?] & Lieutenant John Harper or Parker, and rendezvoused at Surry old C. H. [Court House] where they remained for a few days until they were properly organized, and thence marched direct to Salisbury, when they were stationed in conjunction with other troops for nearly three weeks, guarding a portion of the prisoners which had been taken at the battle of

Kings Mountain (this deponent believes that the troops at that place during the time aforesaid were under the command of Colonel Washington, but of this fact he is not certain) – sometime in the month of January 1781, information was received at Salisbury that Lord Cornwallis was approaching the State from South Carolina, when the prisoners aforesaid were immediately put in preparation and marched off under the guard aforesaid to the State of Virginia – and when they had proceeded as far as the Horse pasture Creek in Patrick County, the term of service of Captain Hewlit's company having expired, they were relieved by the substitution of some other troops, and were discharged and sent home. In the month of July following, this deponent again volunteered himself for three months, and joined the company of Captain Alexander Gordon at Hamblin's old store, in the said County of Wilkes, and very soon thereafter marched direct to Camden in South Carolina, when they joined the Army under General Greene – immediately after joining the main Army, General Greene set upon his march crossing the Wateree and Congaree, to Thompson's Fort – after remaining at that place for about a week, they marched direct for the Eutaw Springs, and after a hard march for a day and night, they arrived within a few miles of the Eutaw Springs where the British had taken post – as soon as the necessary arrangements for an attack could be made, General Greene moved forward with the Army, and when they arrived within about three miles of the British Army, they came upon their advance guard (who were getting potatoes) whom they attacked, and who immediately retreated, but who were very soon surrounded by the American Light Horse and the whole party taken prisoners. General Greene then pressed forward with all possible speed, until the general action at that place commenced, and after a hard fought battle of about two hours, the Americans retired, having taken a great many prisoners, and left a great many dead upon the field –

Soon after the engagement, the prisoners which were taken were given in charge to the North Carolina militia who guarded them on their march back until they reached Salisbury, where they were stationed for about three weeks when their term of service of this deponent expired, and he received his discharge and returned home – having been in service about three months and two weeks. This last tour closed the services performed by this deponent during the revolutionary war. This deponent has lived in the County of Wilkes ever since the revolutionary War, and resides there at this time.

He received discharges from Captain's Hewlit & Gordon under he served, for both his three months tours, but which have been lost or mislaid for many years. He has no documentary evidence to prove his service, nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, except Thomas Jines who served with him during the last tour to the Eutaw Springs, and whose affidavit is hereto annexed, and to which he refers for proof of that tour – for the remaining part of his services he refers to James Bangus [?] and the aforesaid Thomas Jines, as persons to whom he has been long known in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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 & subscribed, the day and year aforesaid

Test:

S/ Jasper Billings

S/ John Gambill, JP

On the day and year aforesaid, personally appeared before me John Gambill an acting Justice of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid, Thomas Jines, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he served with Jasper Billings the above applicant

during the three months tour mentioned in the foregoing declaration as having been performed under Captain Alexander Gordon to Camden where they joined General Greene, and thence by Thompson's Fort to the Eutaw Springs, when the engagement was fought, and from thence to Salisbury NC guarding the prisoners taken at the Eutaw Springs – and where they were discharged and further that the services set forth and specified in the said declaration as having been performed by the said Jasper during the three months tour aforesaid, were performed by him –

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Test: S/ John Gambill, JP

S/ Thomas Jines, X his mark

[James Baugus & Thomas Jines gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 13: on December 11, 1850, in Wilkes County North Carolina, Elizabeth Billings, 76, applied for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of Jasper Billings; that she Elizabeth Richardson was married to Jasper Billings on June 14, 1795; that her husband died November 12, 1835 as marked on his tombstone the family record in the Bible having been destroyed; that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 14: Susanna Roberts, 66, states that she was not present at the wedding of Jasper Billings and Elizabeth Richardson but that her brother and one of her cousins were present at their wedding. She did not name either her brother or cousin. Likewise, Sarah Stamper, 67, also gave testimony that one of her brothers and one of her cousins were present at the wedding. She too fails to name either her brother or cousin.]

[fn p. 16: on December 15, 1850 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Joseph Richardson, 79, states that he was present at the wedding of Jasper Billings and Elizabeth Richardson and salting joined together as husband and wife; that they were married on June 14, 1795; that affiant was married on September 25 1796. The relationship, if any, between Joseph Richardson and Elizabeth Richardson Billings is not stated by this affiant.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months & 14 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]