

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Griffin R4312

Jane Griffin

f25NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/2/08 rev'd 11/5/15

[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' 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.]

[p 2]

Revolutionary Claims

Form of a Declaration to be made by the Officers.

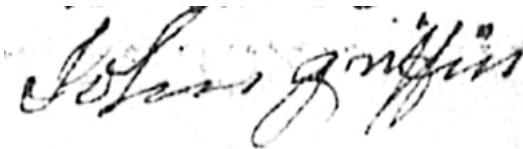
For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May, 1828, I, John Griffin late of the County of Gibson, and now, in the County of Maury, in the State of Tennessee do hereby declare that I was an officer in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, and served as such to the time when the arrangement of the Army provided by the Resolves of Congress of the 3rd and 21st of October 1780, was carried into effect; and that I was reduced under that arrangement, -- at which period I was a Captain in the 4th Regiment of the North Carolina line.

And I also declare, that I afterwards received certificates (commonly called a commutation certificates) for a sum equal to the amount of five years full pay; which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress, of 22nd March, 1783, instead of the half pay for life, to which I was entitled under the resolve of 21st October, 1780.

And I do further declare, that I have not received of the United States as a pensioner since the 3rd day of March, 1826, anything. And I do further declare that the commission under which I acted as above stated, has long since been lost or mislaid.

Witness my hand, this 22nd of December, in the year 1828.

S/ John Griffin



Subscribed & sworn to before me a Justice of the peace in & for Maury County, Tennessee
S/ Alex Johnson, JP

[p 22]

Revolutionary Claims

29 January 1829 Treasury Department,

John Griffin of ___ in the County of Maury in the State of Tennessee has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such until reduced under the resolves of the 2nd & 21st October 1780, at which period he was a Captain in the Fourth regiment of the North Carolina line; and that he received commutation certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826, nothing .

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,
Third Auditor's Office,
3rd of February 1829

It does not appear by the records of this office, that final settlement certificates had been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to John Griffin, Captain in the North Carolina line, amounting to ___dollars.

It further appears that John Griffin is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd March 1826 at the rate of ___per month.

The Revolutionary records of this Office furnish no information whatever in relation to the services of Captain John Griffin of the North Carolina line.

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

War Department: Bounty land office
29 May 1829

The records of this office does [do] not show the name of John Griffin a Captain of the North Carolina line – or [nor] does it appear that a Land Warrant have [has] issued for him

S/ E. Stephens

Tennessee, Maury County, August 10th, 1829

Honorable Samuel D. Ingham,
Sir,

I exceedingly regret that my age, bodily infirmities, & indigent circumstances should have all combined to make it necessary that my applications to your department to be placed on the pension list, (owing to the difficulty of obtaining the requisite evidence,) is likely to cause some trouble to the department over which you preside.

Your communication of 30 May last has been received some time since. In that communication you kindly say, that if I request that you will “cause to be prepared & transmitted to me, a list taken from the papers which have been received at the war department under the above mentioned act, of the names & residence of such officers of the line & Regiment to which I represent myself to have belonged, as are known to be now living.” --Your compliance with this kind promise is now respectfully asked with as little delay as practicable.

I had obtained the affidavit of Captain Edmund Gamble, of the light horse, who is since dead: which affidavit was out of my possession, or so mislaid when I sent on my other papers, under the instructions of Mr. Rush, your predecessor, that I could not then send it on: -- I have hopes of being able to recover that paper, by sending to the Western District of this State. I know of the names & Residence of one other officer who knew of my service, a Captain William Lytle, who lives in Rutherford County in this State. I have been to see him: but unfortunately from extreme age, his mind is entirely gone, so that he is incapable of Recollecting any past events correctly, or doing any kind of business.

It will be seen from my other papers on file with you, that my services as Captain was rendered in the 4th Regiment of the North Carolina line. If you have the names & places of Residents of any living officers, or privates of that Regiment on file, please transmit me a list by mail, and the favor would be gratefully received. Such list may enable me to add one more at least, a witness to my Identity, & the fact of my having performed the Services set forth in my declaration, as I have hopes of

getting the mislaid affidavit & Statement of Captain Gamble.


Respectfully your obedient Servant
S/ John Griffin

District to Pleasant Grove, Maury County, Tennessee

26 Oct 1829

Der Sir I have met with a old solder belonging to the forth Regiment and noes of once taking the Command of a Compney in that Campain} this I Do sertefy that John griffin was Captain In the Contenel Line till the terms of his Servises was Ended this trups was Raised by act of asmbley of north Carolina by volunttee to fill up the broken Regeents in gen washingtons army to the noral all things ware got redy for marchen we marched into the stat of virgeney sum Distence to a place Called petersburg a express Came to our fild offecers not to march now funder that way till orders from him we stade there till the orders com back the orders Derectd our fild offecers to Joine ganl Sumners army at Charlton there names was Col thackston and Col Lytel mager Dicson mger nelson mager Donowho this is all the fild offecers we had there with this army

S/ William D. Clower



Swen to this 12 Day September 1829 Acting Justes of the pece in the Countey of Nipton westnon
Destriect S/ John thornnton a yound hand J. P.

[an attempt to decipher the above:

26 Oct. 1829

Dear Sir,

I have met with an old soldier belonging to the 4th Regiment and he knows of your taking command of a Company in that Campaign. [He gave the following affidavit]

This I do certify that John Griffin was a Captain in the Continental Line until the terms of his service ended. The troops [under Griffin's command] were raised by act of the General Assembly of North Carolina by volunteers filling up the broken Regiments in General Washington's Army to their normal [strength]. Everything was in readiness for marching. We marched into the State of Virginia some distance to a place called Petersburg. An express came to our field officers [ordering them] not to march any further that way until orders from him [General Washington]. We stayed there until the orders came back. These orders directed our field officers to join General Sumner's army at Charleston. The field officers' names were Col. Thackston [James Thackston] and Col. Lytle [Archibald Lytle], Major Dixon [Henry Dixon], Major Nelson [John Nelson], Major Donoho [Thomas Donoho]. These were all the field officers we had then with our army.

S/ William D. Clower¹

Sworn to this 12th day of September 1829 [berfore] an acting Justice of the Peace in the County of Tipton Western District [of Tennessee]

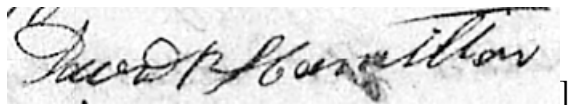
S/ John Thornton, JP]

[p 4: On August 3, 1853, in Gibson County, Tenn., Margaret Pruit, filed seeking the benefits due her father and mother under the various pension acts and stating that she is the daughter of John and Sarah Griffin; that John Griffin entered the Army of the revolution as a private and was promoted to the station of Captain; that he lived at or near Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina at the time of his enlistment; that her father died in Maury County Tennessee in the year 1829; that his widow Jane

1 [William Clower S34690](#)

Griffin died in 1840; that her parents were married in 1783; that when her mother died she was survived by six heirs, 5 of whom are still living, namely, Hugh, Celia [Cunningham], Elizabeth [Hamilton], Margaret, Liby [Libella Hamilton], on whose behalf she is acting. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 6: On August 3, 1853 in Gibson County Tennessee, David P Hamilton gave testimony that he was well acquainted with John Griffin whose acquaintance he made in the year 1815; that Griffin was in indigent circumstances at that time; and remain so until he died in 1829; that John Griffin's widow Jane Griffin died in 1840. The relationship, if any, of the affiant to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David P. Hamilton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style. A small bracket is visible at the end of the signature.

[p 9: On May 1, 1854, in Decatur County, Tenn., Libella Hamilton, 48, filed a claim very similar to that filed by Margaret Pruit. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]