Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John G. Griffis R4322 Transcribed by Will Graves f22NJ/SC

1/28/10 rev'd 11/14/14 & 12/17/21

[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 Indiana Vanderburgh County

On this the 25th day of March in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared before the Judges of the Vanderburgh Circuit Court John G. Griffis a resident of Pigeon Township in the County of Vanderburgh and State of Indiana aged Eighty two years in the month of August next, 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 (he thinks in the month of May) or early in June at Monks Corner [Moncks Corner] about forty miles from Charlestown [Charleston] in the State of South Carolina in a company commanded by Captain John Lewis, a man by the name of Evans was Orderly Sergeant there was one other Sergeant by the name of Samuel Taylor, John Jones was drummer & John Case fifer, he thinks the number of the company was 68 -- for the term of five years or during the war, marched from Moncks Corner in the State of South Carolina where he resided when he entered the Service of the United States to Camden in the State of North Carolina [sic South Carolina] was in a skirmish there went from there to the Hawfields from thence to Halifax stayed some time there from thence to Guilford Court House had a battle [March 15, 1781] there then went to 96 [Ninety Six] in South Carolina from there to Eutaw Springs had a battle [September 8, 1781] there in the autumn of 1781 he thinks about the middle of September marched from thence to Hanging Rock and was there discharged about six weeks after the Battle of Eutaw Springs by Colonel Hammond. Captain Lewis' company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel John Hammond & Major William Perdew General Green [Nathanael Greene] was the only General whose name Declarant now recollects under whom he served, has lost his written discharge. Says that he served as a private in the Army of the Revolution at least three years & ten months for which time he claims a pension.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

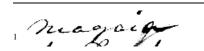
S/W. T. T. Jones, Clerk

S/ John G. Griffis

State of Indiana Vanderburgh County: SS

Supplemental Declaration of John G. Griffis to the one made by him before the Judges of the Vanderburgh Circuit Court on the 25 day of March A.D. 1834 in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

On this the 8th day of November A.D. 1834 personally appeared before me Nathan Rowley a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid duly commissioned and sworn as such John G. Griffis a resident of Pigeon Township in the County & State aforesaid and upon his oath makes the following Supplemental Declaration to the one made by him before the judges of the Vanderburgh Circuit Court on the day and year aforesaid -- which has been returned from the pension office for Correction and amendments. Declarant states that by reason of old age & dissolute habits of life, his memory has very much failed him and in addition to this he is very hard of hearing by reason of which a mistake was made in his Original declaration as to the time and place of his Entering the Revolutionary War in his original Declaration he is made to say that he entered the service of the United States in 1779 when in Truth & in fact he entered it in the year 1775 or 76 -- at Morristown in the State of New Jersey instead of Moncks Corner as stated in his Original Declaration this mistake or omission happened (no doubt) from his deafness and not properly understanding the questions as they were propounded to him by reason of his first Term of Service or northern campaign was entirely omitted. As has been before stated he entered the service of the United States in the year 1775 -- or 76 (his memory will not permit him definitively to said which) at Morristown in the State of New Jersey in a company commanded by Captain Dickenson one Lieutenant's name was William Gordon number of Company Declarant thinks was 85 attached to the 28th Regiment of Jersey Blues as we then called ourselves commanded by Colonel Dayton [perhaps Elias Dayton] & Major Barber [perhaps Francis Barbour] marched from Morristown to New York from thence to Albany (by water) from Albany we marched to a place called Johnstown on the Mohawk River from thence we went to a Fort called Fort Stanwix & rebuilt it stayed there one summer & fall from thence we marched to a place called Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain took up our winter quarters there General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] was commander of the Stationed while we were here from thence we returned to a place in New Jersey called Elizabeth Town we were then placed under the command of a General Maxwell -- we stayed most of the summer in the vicinity of Elizabeth Town and during the time fought a battle with the British & Hessians at a place called the farms about 6 miles from Elizabeth Town - we then took up our winter quarters at Elizabeth Town in the following spring we marched to the Elizabeth Town Returned again to Elizabeth Town & took up our winter quarters in the following spring marched to Bound brook stayed at Bound brook some time from there we marched to a place called Paramus -- Staved there some time the inclement seasons of the year were then coming on we returned to Elizabeth Town again & took up our winter quarters from thence we marched to a place called Easton on the Delaware River from thence we marched to a point on the Susquehanna called Wyoming from Wyoming we went up to the forks of the Susquehanna from thence we marched to New Town on the Chemung [River] and had a battle with the Indians & Tories a few miles back from the River from New Town -- we killed one pack horse and marched towards Niagara [?]¹ from thence we took the Back Track and returned to New Jersey and again took up our winter quarters at Elizabeth Town



in the Tour first mentioned General Sullivan who commanded during this winter Declarant was taken sick and was permitted to leave the service on furlough to return when he regained his health but not regaining his health he went to the South in the winter of 1778 & 79 -- and in the Spring joined the Southern Army at Moncks Corner in the State of South Carolina as stated in his Original Declaration -- the length of service in the several campaigns in this amended Declaration mentioned he cannot distinctly say but knows positively that it was the full & just period of three years and he believes a few months over -- that the service mentioned in this Declaration taken in connection with the time he served in the South will make in all at least four years that he served as a private in the Army of the revolution for which he claims a pension. The reason why he makes this amended declaration before a Justice of the peace is that the Circuit Court for Vandenberg meets but twice a year to wit in March & September -- he is informed by the department that his name is not found on the roll of the Army & that it requires two witnesses to prove his services he has now procured the Testimony of Ziba Arnold² a pensioner on the Agency of Kentucky & the affidavit of William Meads³ who is also a pensioner of the United States both of whom knew him while in the Army of the Revolution & who have testified to the same their affidavits are hereunto appended -- he therefore asked the department to take this his supplemental Declaration in addition to his Original one & the evidence he has abused in support of his claim and award him a pension.

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year above written S/ N. Roweley, JP S/ John G. Griffis

State of Indiana Vanderburgh County

This day personally appeared before me Nathan Rowley a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid William Meads and after being sworn according to law upon his oath says that he was ninety-four years old last August that he was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution that he knows John G. Griffis (who is here present) that he (Griffis) enlisted as a soldier in the Army of the Revolution in the year 1775 or 1776 in the same week that affiant enlisted at Morris town in the State of New Jersey and in the same company under the command of Captain Dickerson (or Dickenson) that he continued in said company (number affiant believes of company was 85) in the 28th Regiment of Jersey blues (Colonel Dayton commanded) until affiant was taken prisoner and sent to the South in a prison ship called Asia which was at least 3 years from the time of Enlistment the next place affiant saw him was at the battle of Guilford Court House was then told by Griffis that he had been taken sick and sent home on parole with the understanding that he was to join the Army so soon as he recovered his health that he was lingering for some time and went to the South where he regained his health and again joined the Army at Moncks Corner saw him again at the Siege of Ninety Six then again at Camden the next place I saw him was the day before the battle at Eutaw Springs he was there in the Army of the United States this was the last time he saw him until some years after the war says that he positively knows he served with said Griffis at least 3 years and the Jersey Regiment saw him at the South in the Continental line & further he says not.

Subscribed & sworn to before made this 8th day of November 1834 S/ Nathan Rawley, JP S/ Wm Meads, X his mark

The deposition of Ziba Arnel [sic] taken in the Town of Hartford Kentucky on the 26th day of

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² FPA S30832-- testified only to services in New Jersey and surrounding areas

³ William Mead (Meads) S31860

October 1834

This deponent being of lawful age and first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is seventy-seven years old past that he knew John G. Griffis (who is now present) was a regular soldier of the revolutionary Army that he belonged to the same Regiment with the deponent commanded by Colonel Dayton that he lived an at the time and said Sussex County New Jersey. That he knew him well and served with him one year and this deponent was taken sick and left the Regiment the said Griffis remaining can further state that the said John G. Griffis is the Identical person he knew by that name at the time stated above and further saith not.

S/ Ziba Arnold

Tiba Arm

[Note in the file: Cause given for rejecting this claim "Not on the rolls. No proof of service"]