

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Griffin S13205

f52SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 9/28/09 & 6/6/15

[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 5]

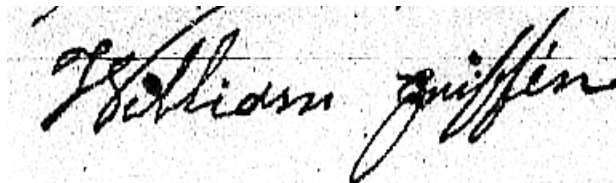
State of South Carolina, Edgefield District

On this sixth day of June 1837, personally appeared in open court before the court of equity for Edgefield District William Griffin 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 is of eighty three years of age & is a resident of Edgefield District, state aforesaid. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That he resided in Newberry District South Carolina at the time he entered the service. That he was drafted as a private some time in the year 1777 or 1778 and was attached to a Battalion commanded by Major Robert Gillam, his Captain was Henry Persons [sic, Henry Pearson] & the only other officer that he now recollects was Lockly Leonard [sic, Laughlin Leonard] who was adjutant. He joined his company in Newberry & marched to the Chalk Hills in Edgefield District opposite Augusta Ga. & was encamped there for two or three weeks from thence he was marched under the command of Maj. Gillam to Cupboard Creek in Georgia below Augusta; from this place his company Capt. Persons was sent forward down the Savannah as picket guard where he remained until the time for which he was drafted expired which was three months. The first tour then that he served was three months. How long he staid at home before he again entered the service he does not presently recollect but immediately after the siege of Ninety Six was raised by Gen. Greene he was appointed a recruiting sergeant by Col. Jos. Hayes & Col. Jas. Williams¹ for twelve months during which time he served in that capacity in the Dist. of Newberry. After the expiration of the twelve months which he served as recruiting sergeant, he immediately volunteered to join Gen. Greene's army at Bacon's Bridge on the Ashley River. From his great old age and the length of time that has elapsed he has not now recollect who his captains were but he remembers that Major Jerrod Smith commanded the Battalion in which he was attached and Colonel Benjamin Roebuck the Regiment. He was marched after he volunteered from Newberry to Orangeburg where he joined Colonel Roebuck's Regiment; from thence he marched to General Greene's army as above stated. In this tour he volunteered as a private and served three months, March, April and May 1782 or 1783, in which of these years he does not now recollects. While with General Greene who was stationed as above stated he was engaged in no battle but performed the ordinary duties of a soldier such as

¹ The applicant is mistaken in this statement since Williams died on October 8, 1780 from wounds suffered at Kings Mountain the preceding day. Williams was the commander of the Little River Regiment of Whig militia until his death. Joseph Hayes succeeded Williams as commander of the Little River Regiment.

going up on foraging parties etc. After the expiration of the three months, he left Genl. Greene's Army still at Bacon's Bridge and returned home. He has no documentary evidence but has procured the affidavit hereunto annexed of two revolutionary soldiers whose evidence he was obliged to take in this form. These two are the only persons now alive as far as he knows who served with him. 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 & year aforesaid.

S/ William Griffin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Griffin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

S/ David Johnson, Presiding Chancellor

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South Carolina, Edgefield District

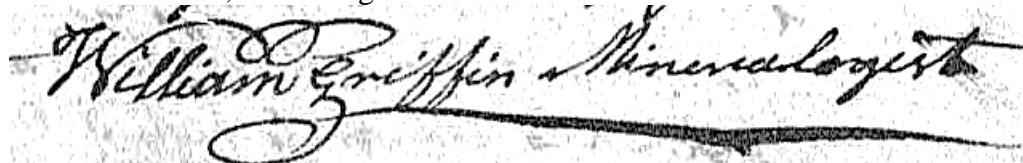
Personally came before me William Griffin & makes oath that for some years past he has lived a wandering life, residing among his different relations in this State & Georgia in consequence of being very poor & unable to work: & having recently come into this District he does not know of any clergyman who could swear as to the general belief of his having been a revolutionary soldier.

Sworn to before me

S/ J. Terry, C. E. E. D.

[p 8: In an application dated December 7, 1839, for a transfer of his pension payments to Virginia, Griffin states he served under Henry Pearson and Col. Roebuck and that: "...The following are his reasons for removing from South Carolina, is as follows the peopel (people) in South Carolina County was a Robing, Murdering, Murding Wives one Man hired a black Man to rape his Wife for which he Was haned [hanged?] he also Cut her throat much Law but Neither Justice nor Comity [?] so no Man Stood much chance to get their Rites [rights] Also there Was five or six murdered besides that one Who was raped and Killed and not one of them executed but that negro and also I was born and raised till for the 15 years of my age in Culpeper County Va this is the principal Causes of my removing into Virginia."]

[pp 12-14 is a long, handwritten letter from Griffin to the War Department complaining of the smallness of the pension awarded him (\$31.07/year). In this letter he does not give any more details of his service except as quoted in the PS below. He notes that he went to great expense to get the supporting testimony of Ambrose Hudgens² and Ambrose Rippley. He signs this letter "William Griffin, Mineralogist."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Griffin Mineralogist". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a thick, dark horizontal line.

² [Ambrose Hudgens \(Hudgins\) S18888](#)

The P. S. reads:

“Not half of the Services I performed in the revolution Have been presented to your Honors as Vouchers Was Dead & gone I Did Serve as a recruiting Sergeant for to force out the Disaffected into the army Twelve Months had to go Late and Early also shod Coll. Joseph Hayeses Calvary [sic, Joseph Hayes’ Cavalry] of horse until tory Wm Cunningham took him and killed him and the Most of his Men and then again Waited to be Drafted for to go Down to Genaral Nathaniel Greens army at Bacons Bridge had for to hire a Substitute give a lot of blacksmith tools and a horse beast the first tower I turned –Out Voluntary and all we had for to live on was a pint of rice boiled in water Without Salt or Meat by Which We Were that Weak so I had liked Never to have got Home the Which I have Never got quite Clear of to this Day all this was rejected as I could not prove them &c &c ...”]

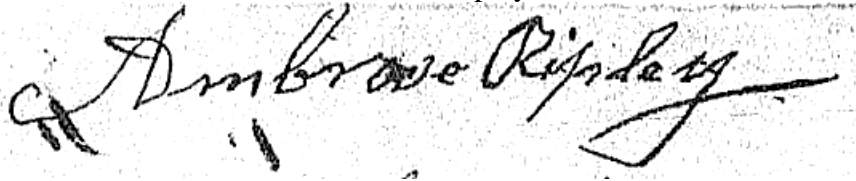
[p 15]

State of South Carolina, Edgefield District

Personally came before me Ambrose Ripley of said District and after being Sworn Saith he was acquainted with William Griffin in the year 1782 or 3 then belonging to General Greene's Army in South Carolina at Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River near Charleston South Carolina he further Saith the tour was three months February & March & April May of the year 1781 or 1782. Sworn to this 15th of June 1836 before me.

S/ Robert Kinney, QU

S/ Ambrose Ripley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ambrose Ripley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

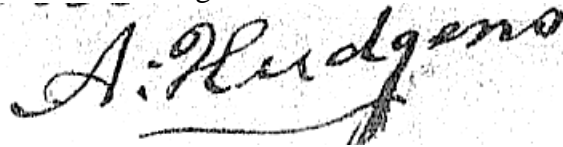
[p 16]

South Carolina, Laurens District

Personally appeared before me Captain Ambrose Hudgins and being Sworn Saith he was acquainted with William Griffin in the Army commanded by Major Robert Gilliam at Caulk Hill South Carolina and that Cupboard Creek Georgia in the year 1776 [could be 1778] and that we Served together a three months tour in said Army and that the above named A. Hudgins does believe the above named W. Griffin a man of truth as far as he is acquainted with him July 6th, 1836

Sworn to and Subscribed before me.

S/ A. Hudgens

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Hudgens". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

S/ Wiley Yeargin, JP

[p 37: Extracts from the records of the South Carolina Comptroller General regarding the payments made to William Griffin for 86 days service in the South Carolina militia.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.07 commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in 27 days in the South Carolina Cavalry & Infantry.]