## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Gillon W25629 Ann Gillon f33SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/18/08 rev'd 1/15/15

[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 10]

State of Connecticut, District of Litchfield

On this 25th day of December 1849, personally appeared before the Court of Probate holden at Litchfield in and for said District, Mary S. Brisbane a resident of Litchfield in said County & State aged fifty-six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" and of the provisions of the Acts of Congress of March 3rd, 1843 & of June 17th 1844 extending the provisions thereof.

That she is the daughter and only surviving child of the late Commodore Alexander Gillon and Ann his wife; that said Alexander Gillon was a Commodore in the Navy of the United States, and served the United States as such in the war of the Revolution, under an appointment as such, by the State of South Carolina; that he served as such Commodore as she is informed and believes a period of more than four years viz. from November 3rd, 1777 to April 1st 1783 and during a part of that period commanded the Frigate *South Carolina*<sup>1</sup> & perhaps other vessels in that while in actual service he captured several prizes & was engaged in sundry naval expeditions the particulars of which she cannot state, and supposes such statement unnecessary, inasmuch as the evidence of his service is probably to be found on the public records at Washington City, & because it is a matter of history. In proof however of his service she refers to the accompanying certificate from the Office of the Comptroller General of the State of South Carolina; to "Ramsey's History of the Revolution" page 72 and to "Moultrie's Memoirs" Vol. 1<sup>st</sup>

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James A. Lewis, Neptune's Militia: The Frigate South Carolina during the American Revolution, Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 1999

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> South Carolina. Foote: 112-116, 119, 120, SchV:55, M:274, privateer man of war of 40 guns, 1355 tons, manned by 540 men, which left the Texel (the Netherlands) on 25 August 1781, with SC Navy Commodore Alexander Gillon in command. This vessel was the property of France, originally the *Indien*, built in Holland, loaned to the State of South Carolina for 3 years for privateering. It took part in the Spanish/American capture of Nassau in 1782, under Capt John Joyner. The ship was taken by the British in Sep 1782, and crew sent to prison in New York. One of its prizes was taken Sep 1781 and one of its prize crew sent to Mill Prison. (Clark:I:138 shows her captured 19 Dec 1782, by the British *Astrea, Diomeda, Quebec*. The ship is said to have arrived in New York on 24 Dec.) Ford1782:309, 632, 703, Ford1784:332. JA6:295, 9:491. CTN:58. CTP:123. Foote:120-121, Caleb Foote served as a seaman on the *South Carolina* for 14 months. DaviesXIX:2156, Germans in crew. Volo:53. Silverstone:20. Paullin:448. Chapelle:96, 116. Coggins:102. http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20S.html and

page 209.

That she has not the Commission of said Gillon and believes it was lost or destroyed many years since.

She further declares that the said Alexander Gillon was married to the said Ann (then Ann Purcell) on the 10th day of February 1789; that the said Gillon died on the 6th day of October 1794; that the said Ann was not married to the said Alexander prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated; and that the said Ann Gillon died at Litchfield Connecticut, May 13th 1844 aged seventy-five years; and this applicant prays for the arrears of pension to which the said Ann was entitled that her decease, said Ann then being the widow of said Alexander.

S/ Mary S. Brisbane

3/ Mary 3. Brisballe

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written Before me S/ Charles Adams, Judge of Probate

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I Sarah Pogson Smith of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, but now in Charleston, South Carolina of lawful age, being duly cautioned and sworn, depose and say, that I was personally acquainted with Commodore Alexander Gillon of the State of South Carolina, and that the said Gillon died at Gillon's Retreat on the Congaree River in the said State of South Carolina on Monday the 6th day of October 1794 Aged fifty-three years, and that I was present and attended his funeral.

Dated at Charleston the 10th day of December 1849.

S/ Sarah Poyson Smith

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Family Record

"Seventeen hundred and Eighty-nine

Alexander Gillon and Ann Purcell second Daughter of the Reverend Dr Purcell were married February 10th."

"Seventeen hundred and ninety three

Mary Susanne Daughter of Alexander and Ann Purcell Gillon was baptized November Tenth." [The above certified as true copies of record of St. Michael's Church in the City of Charleston, SC, by the Rev'd Thomas John Young, Asst. Minister of St. Michael's Church, December 11, 1849.]

Charleston 6th of October 1849

I hereby depose that I was personally acquainted with Commodore Alexander Gillon who commanded the frigate *South Carolina* during the American Revolution, & that he continued to be called "Commodore" until he died. That when I first knew him his first wife was alive, but when she died, he the said Commodore Gillon married Miss Ann Purcell daughter of the Reverend Henry Purcell Rector of St. Michael's Church in Charleston. Commodore Gillon had

no children surviving by his first Wife living at the time of her death; but by his 2nd Wife he had 3 children who became adults, of whom the only survivor at this time is their daughter Mary Susanna the widow of John Brisbane Jr, who resides in Litchfield Connecticut.

S/ Jos. Johnson

[p 33 is the SC Comptroller General report of the payments to Commodore Gillon during the Revolution.]

## [Facts in file:

p 3: Mary S. Brisbane (widow of John W. Brisbane) gave an affidavit in which she states she is the daughter and soul surviving child of the late Commodore Alexander Gillon and detailing the Bible register of her parents. Her affidavit includes the following entries from the Bible "This Bible was given to Alexander Gillon by Mrs. Mary Gillon his mother at Rotterdam ye 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1766."

"Alexander Gillon was born at Rotterdam in the Wine Street, the North sided the East end, the 2nd house on Sunday at one o'clock at noon ye 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1741 with a Caul [sic curl?] down to his eyes -- was married to Ann Purcell second-daughter of the Reverend Doctor Henry Purcell Rector of St. Michael's in Charleston, on ye 10<sup>th</sup> of February 1789, by ye Rev'd Doctor Robert Smith at 7 in the evening."

She further indicated that the family Bible there's the following entry made by her mother: "March 22, 1827 John W Brisbane married to Mary Susanna Gillon at Goose Creek in the Parish of St. James Boose Creek by the Rev. Mr. Kankill Rector of St. Paul's Church Charleston SC"

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[Veteran's widow's heir was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836, and ending May 13, 1844 when the widow died. The pension was awarded for the widow's husband's service as a Commodore in the United States Navy.]