

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjah Gill W416 Mary Gill

f31DEL

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/15/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

State of Illinois Franklin County

On this 2nd day of June 1834 personally appeared before Demsy __ of the County Commissioners Court for Franklin County and State of Illinois Benajah Gill 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 that he Enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1784 during the war in Captain George Handy's Company in what was called Henry Lee's Legion [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee's Legion] for during the war that he rendezvoused at Burlington in the state of Jersey. That he lived at the time he enlisted in Kent County State of Delaware from Burlington they were shipped to go to Charles Town [Charleston] in the State of South Carolina but were stopped at Porty Smith [Portsmouth] in the State of Virginia from thence they marched by land to the British lines near the city of New York from there they were marched to the State of South Carolina where they were Inoculated for the smallpox by Doctor Ervin we were then sent [to] a place called the Scotch Lake in the same state where we got two men wounded from there we marched to Fort Thompson in the same State from that we marched and crossed the Wateree and Congaree Rivers to a place where the British were stockaded in which place Colonel Lee took by making use of a wooden cannon from that he marched to a place called Gavephins [Galphin's] Fort about 15 or 20 miles below Augusta in the State of South Carolina from there to Augusta where the applicant was wounded by a shot through the left ear in the state of Georgia from there to Moncks Corner in the State of South Carolina there we reinforced or join General Green [Nathanael Greene] from which place we retreated and went to Camden which was in the year 1782 and after the Battle at the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] at which time the applicant was sick and after recovering from his sickness he was employed in scouting or ranging about until they went to George Town [Georgetown] in South Carolina from there they were marched into Charles Town State of South Carolina near which place they continued until they were legally discharged or furloughed without date. That his discharge or furlough without date became so obliterated by the lapse of time that it was in possible to distinguish what the writing was on the face of it. This was in the year 1782 or 1783 when he got his discharge.¹

He here positively states that he forgot to state that he was in the battle at Guilford Court

¹ While in SC, the forces commanded by Henry Lee are known to have participated in the following actions: Georgetown, January 24, 1781; Fort Watson, April 16, 1781; Fort Motte, May 7, 1781; Fort Granby, May 14, 1781; Fort Galphin, May 21, 1781; Quinby's Bridge, July 17, 1781; McCord's Ferry, August 3, 1781; Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781; Fuller's Plantation, March, 1782

house [March 15, 1781] in the state of North Carolina which battle was fought in the year ___ on the 15th day of March the battle lasted about one hour and a half he then was commanded by the same officers as before mentioned 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/Benajah Gill, X his mark

[p 5: On March 4, 1855 in Williamson County Illinois, Mary Gill, aged about 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Benager Gill [sic]; a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$100 per annum; that her husband died in Williamson County Illinois on or about September 28, 1843; that she was married to him on April first 1800 or 1809 in the County of Cumberland in the State of North Carolina; that they were married by one John Demans, JP. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 14: On June 28, 1855 in Williamson County Illinois, the widow, then stating her age as 80, and stating that she is a resident of Johnson County in the state of Illinois made application for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner. She signed this document with her mark. There is no explanation for the discrepancy in the age she states in the 2 documents filed in 1855.]

[Note: there is reference made to the veteran and his wife having "several children" but the only ones named in the file are Stephen Gill, aged 43 in 1853 and Catharine, wife of Philip Upchurch, aged about 38 years in 1853.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]