

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Gibson R3996

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Sep 2013.

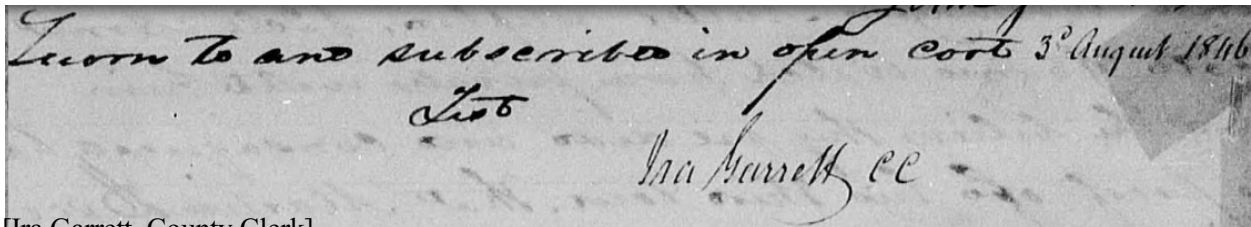
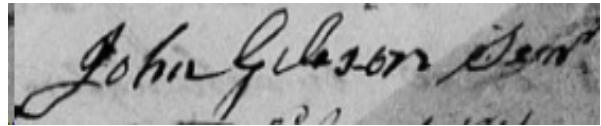
Virginia. Albermale [sic: Albemarle] County S.S.

This day [3 Aug 1846] personally appeared in open Court before the Court of said County now sitting the Reverend John Gibson aged 87 years next november and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 That he entered the service of the United states under the following named officers and served as herein stated making eight months and sixteen days actual service in the revolutionary war from Culpeder Cty [sic: Culpeper County] Virginia he was born in said County the 20th day of November 1759 and was 17 years of age shortly after his first tour began which was the last day in Sept 1776, under Capt Frank or Francis Miller and went to the lower country after remaining at Culpeper C H three weeks, which place they left the latter end of October for Port Royall [sic: Port Royal] in Caroline County. In going down his company passed through Orange and Spotsylvania from Port Royall he was marched in to Essex County where he was stationed he thinks three weeks from thence his company went to Richmond a small place and tarried a few days. The Capt then marched his men to Mobin hills below where Richmond now stands [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] and was stationed there four weeks to the best of his recollection. At which place soldiers from all parts of Virginia were stationed he was then marched to Williamsburg and there remained till his discharge. John or James Thomas was Lieutenant of his Company and one Gadson the Ensign whose given name has Escaped his memory. no extraordinary circumstance worthy of notice hapened during said tour; his privates were Martin Deer [pension application S8311], Moses Philips Mike Smyder [Michael Snyder?] Henry [illegible] Joseph Snyder Thomas Patison Henry Brown and several [several words missing] and others whose names he can not call the above were his acquaintances before the war he thinks one of the Mr Patricks was quartermaster but is not positive of it? He reached home the 8th or 9th of January 1777 having kept the date in his mind. Remained at home till the year 1779 when he served another full tour of three months as substitute fo his Father Peter Gibson who was drafted and he at the request of his Father and with out any compensation agreed to take his place the company was under Command of Capt James Smith Samuel Groves was Lieuant and Mr Gasden was Ensign. He met his Company at Barnettes ford in Culpeper County and on the middle of January 1779 went direct to Williamsburg and there remaind nearly the whole tour excepting a trip to Norfolk and a nother to James town both of which occupied the Company two weeks or more. on their return to Williamsburg from Norfolk went on the Jamestown and then returned to head quarters at Williamsbur where they remained till their discharge. At Williamsburg a great many militia were stationed and he saw them dayly? To witness them parade was a great site to the mountain boys as the upland soldiers ware called in camp Ambrous Weaver Benjamin Hackell Harry Peters John Deer and martin Deer Lewis Graves Seth Tompson and may others were with him under Capt Smith whose name he forgets he reached home the latter end of April 1779 was dischard at Williamsburg and had been guarding the seat of goverment were something like three thousand soldiers at Willsburg from time to time. he remaind at hom till the month of [page torn] when he was drafted [page torn] Rice on his own account and marched from Culpeper Courthouse to Louisa Courthouse the fourth of August 1781. remained at Louisa Courthouse som seven or eight days and then marched to Hanover Courthouse and there remaind till the seage of york [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] to which his Company was ordered, and was dischard the day after the surrender and he came and he never after wards entered the army that one Presly Stevens was Lieutenant of said Comjpany and one Henry dickins was Ensign that Chalres pence washington Miller Stephen Bell Amus Scott James Welch pare privates with him and he beliefs they are dead and consaquenly has no proof of his third tour. That Martin Deer still living was with him first and second tour and appeals to him with entire Confadence in substanciation her of that he Beleavs said Deer is the only living witness who has any personal knowledge of those tours and if

his testimony be insufficient to establish claim he must abandon it all together for he can furnish no other proof except that which may be found in his own good character and the confidence which a long life of piety ought to command.

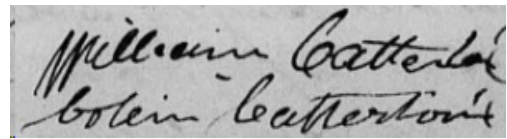
That he has been a minister of the gospel for nearly sixty years past and has kept a record of his marriages ever since 1800 and here with enclosed numbering four Hundred couple. That his reason in not applying before is owing to an objection to the law because his services were rendered purely from love and duty to country with out any even the remotest idea or desire of future pay. and that if any remuneration could be asked it was to be found in the blessings secured to each and every one by the interdependency of this Country. These have been his thoughts [page torn] respecting the law and he hopes they may not be considered new at this day. He waves his objection and is willing to receive his portion for he sees no wrong in doing so (not withstanding his objections) while others without exceptions are taking theirs.

Hereby relinquishes every other claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in these united states

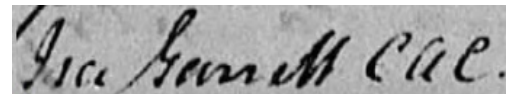


[Ira Garrett, County Clerk]

Wee William Catterton and Collin Catterton residing in the Reverend John Gibsons neighbourhood do certify we are well acquainted with him who has sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 87 years of age next birth day, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood in which he resides to have bin a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that opinion. We certify said John Gibson is a minister of the gospel of the baptist church is now and always has bin in high standing and such is the respect entertained for him by all persons in his region of country that he is called by the appellation of "Father Gibson" and nothing else. witness our hands and seals the day and date above



Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the 3^d [page torn] 1846



Question first

Where and what year were you born

Answer. I was born in Culpeper County Virginia 1759

2 Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Answer. I have and it is here to annex [not found] being the only register I have being a leafe from my Family bible.

3rd. Where were you living when called in to service where you lived since the revolution and where do now live.

Answer. I resided in Culpeper County Va during my services. 1782 I settled in Albemarle and has always continued to reside in the same spot ever since.

4th How were you called in to service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if

so for whom.

Answer. I was drafted under Capt Miller my first tour my 2nd tour I was substitute for my Father Peter Gibson my third tour under Capt Rice was on my own account but was not a full tour

Question the 5th state the names of some of the regular officers who ware with the troops where you served such continental and militia regments as you can recolet and general circumstances of your service

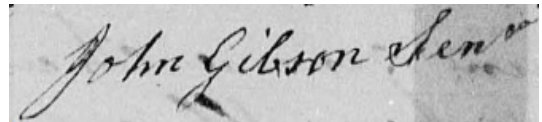
Answer The only regular officer whome I reckolet to have seen was Mager welch [sic: Nathaniel Welsh] from Culpeper he was at williamsburg with the regulars the first tour to the low Country I saw none but militiamen that I know of we war with the militia at various At various times during my first and second tour I reckolet Capt Slaughters Company from Culpeper was with us in the first tour but noth remarkable Happend in Either of his tours except in the way of whipping soldiers a common thing at york town he saw the regular troops and some of them officers but can not name them

6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from service if so what has become with it

Answer I was dischaged by word of mouth and in now other way

7th. State the names of persons to whome you ar known in your preasant neighbourhood and who can testify to your character for verasity and there believe of your services in the revolution

Answer I have lived in my preasant neighbourhood for sixty odd years and have rased a large family all my negbor know me and I refer to them all but partickularly to Capt Edmon Davis of the last war who has known me from his boy hood and also a member of the Court to Capt James Michil also one of the Court and former high sherriff of the County and to Richard dawsey Eq all of whome have known me for many years past



Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year a bove/ Test Ira Garrett CC

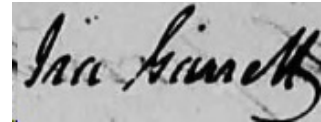
[On the same day the following affidavit was made supporting the application of Martin Deer (S8311):] I John Gibson of Albemarle County certify; I was born and raised in Culpeper County near Madison CH, and am a revolutionary soldier. I served three tours in the Virginia Malitia two of them being for myself and the other in the place of my Father Peter Gibson. I distinctly remember my tour under Capt Miller which commenced in September 1776 and know that Martin Deer now of Madison was with me under Miller and served a full tour together in the lower country; I cannot say that Mr Deer recollects being in the same company with him, but know that on our return home we spoke of the privations we underwent during the tour under Miller for it was the depth of winter before our return. I knew Martin Deer well, we were raised about three miles apart, and had been schoolboys before the war. And I am positive in what I say respecting his being with me. We were at Port Royal in Carolin, Richmond, Williamsburg, and other places during the tour and were discharged by our officers in Williamsburg and returned to our homes in Culpeper in company with each other, and several others. I knew his Father before him and I suppose he knew my fathers family for we visited one another as neighbours. I served another tour of three months with Mr Deer in 1779 under Capt James Smith in the Militia of Culpeper and went over the ground we travelled in our former route, that tour commenced; that tour commenced the middle of January 1779 and continued for three months before our discharge; we were together daily and were messmates a portion of the time under Capt Smith; were at Williamsburg, Norfolk, & James Town together and were discharged at the first named place; all which I remember distinctly. Mr Deer was a fine soldier and good company. I think unless his memory has left him he will recollect all the facts mentioned by me. I was with him but two tours.

age 87.



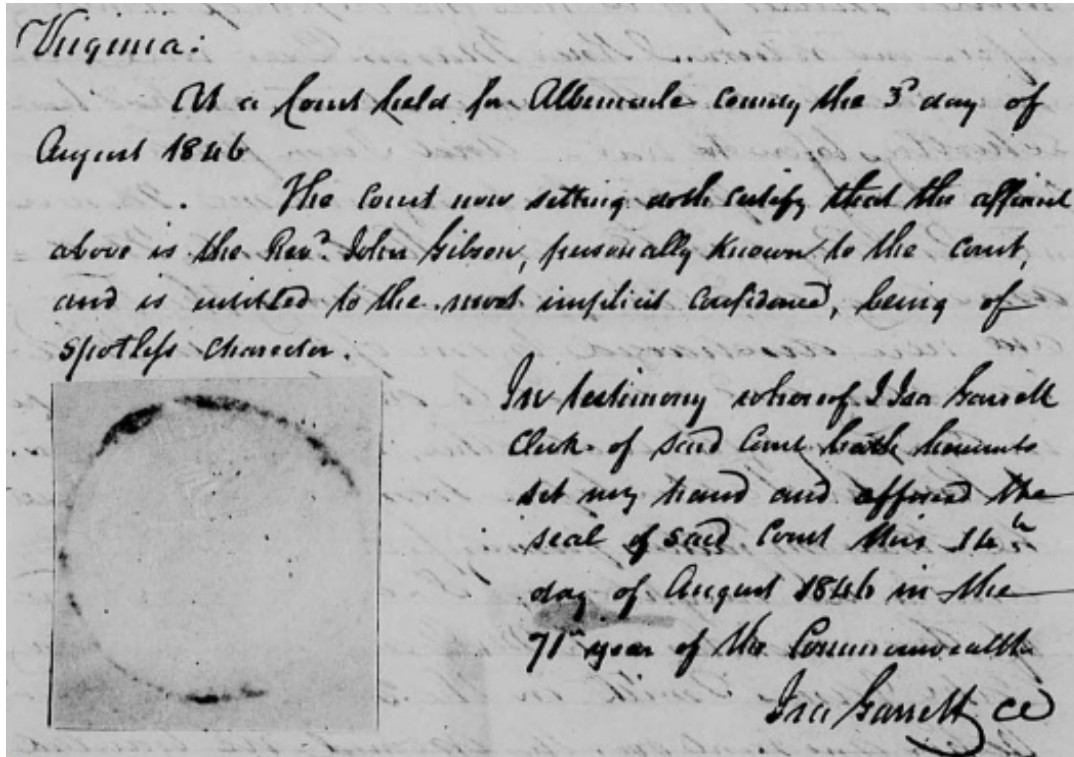
Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 3^d day of August 1846 by the

Rev'd. John Gibson
Ira Garrett Clerk C



Virginia:/ At a Court held for Albemarle county the 3^d day of August 1846

The Court now sitting doth certify that the affiant above is the Rev'd John Gibson, personally known to the court, and is entitled to the most implicit confidence, being of spotless character. In testimony whereof I Ira Garrett Clerk of said Court hath hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court this 14th day of August 1846 in the 71 year of the Commonwealth./ Ira Garrett CC



Virginia:
At a Court held for Albemarle County the 3^d day of August 1846
The Court now sitting doth certify that the affiant above is the Rev'd John Gibson, personally known to the Court, and is entitled to the most implicit confidence, being of spotless character.
In testimony whereof I Ira Garrett Clerk of said Court hath hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court this 14th day of August 1846 in the 71 year of the Commonwealth.
Ira Garrett CC

Pension Office/ Septem. 16 1846

Sir [William B. Yager, Esq. Madison Court House, VA]

The Application of John Gibson for a pension under the act of 7 June 1832 has been examined and his papers filed

Claimant has set forth three tours of service in the Militia of Virginia. To sustain which he has produced the testimony of Martin Deer, who states that he served with him under Capts Miller and Smith. This witness must establish his own Claim, before his testimony can be received as evidence of the service of Gibson.

The same objection is made to the affidavits of John Gibsen, Joseph Carpenter and Benjamin Hoffman now presented in the case of Martin Deer. Neither of these witnesses are pensioners. John Gibsen has now for the first time presented his claim and Hoffman states that he is now about to apply for a pension. They must produce the testimony of those whose claims have been admitted to establish their service. [Signature not shown; probably by James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

[Unsigned note in the file:]

John Gibson was born in Calvert County, Maryland – served about 16 days

This information is given by Mr. Dunn, a Member of the Court for Albemarle County. The claim is a bare fraud. Memo to look into it – and endeavor to ascertain who drew up the papers

Dec. 16, 1846

John Watts died in 1823/ Ths. R. Dunn Esq/ Nortonsville/ Albemarle Co/ Va

Washington Jany 1st 1846 [sic]

Sir [J. L. Edwards]:

I beg attention to the enclosed letter from Mr. Dunn. As the object is to detect a rascal who, I doubt not, has been engaged in a system of frauds upon the Pension office, you will, I have no doubt, lend every facility in your power. It is due to Mr. Gibson that I should state that he is a very old and a very honest man who would not knowingly lend himself to such a purpose. Res^y/ Yr. Obt. Servt.

[signed] Shelton F Leake

Nortonsville 17th January 1847.

Dear Sir [J L. Edwards]

On my return home I informed my old neighbour Mr. John Gibson of the Declaration filed in his case, he again informed me he was born and raised in Calvert County MD stood guard a tower or two of 16 days and that was all he served in the Revolutionary War. I informed him that the Declaration stated he was born in Culpepper County Va. that he served 4 full towers & 16 Days making 8 months and 16 Days in the lower parts of Virginia giving the names of offices places &c and that the said service was proved by one Martin Dear who swore he was a school mate with John Gibson and served with him in the war – the I stated from memory the agent, Mr Payne [Coleman Payne; see endnote], gives a flat contradiction to my statements and positively asserts no such Declaration has ever bin filed in the name and behalf of John Gibson You will be so kind as to make a minute of the facts, if the whole Declaration is too long, and send them to me at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Gibson is exceedingly anxious to see for himself. I wrote to Mr S F Leake our Congressman two weeks ago and requested the like favour of him but he has not replied. I presume on account of his pressing engagements, a copy or minute will be thankfully received and if any charge, it shall be promptly met. I conversed with a member of the court who sat the day on which the Declaration was made and he too seems astonished at the facts I stated to him. I shall be under lasting obligations if you will spare so much time as to give me the above information I am Sir your obedient Servant

[signed] Thomas R Dunn

Nortonsville 17 January 1847

Dear Sir [Hon. Shelton F. Leake, Washington DC]

I wrote you a short letter some two weeks ago, not having received an answer I fear you have not received it. I now take the liberty again to address you. I made as near as I could from memory a statement of the Declaration of John Gibson that he in the Declaration was born in Culpepper County Va served in the lower parts of virginia 4 full towers and 16 days making Eight Months and 16 Days that he had been a minister above 50 years had married between 3 & 4 hundred couples, the names of the offices and places where he was stationed all being named. I apprised the old man of his Delaration he is very sollicitus to see a copy and will be undr great obligations for a minute or copy. if you should not have time to give a full copy plees read the Delaration and state as many of the facts as you can “to wit Birth time of service place of service names of Officers” where he start from, a complian will be gratefully received, the scoundral Payne says there is no such Declaration as I have Described – pleas write as soon as you can and much oblige your friend and obedient servent? [signed] Thomas R Dunn

N.B./ I wrote (this day) a note to Mr J L Edwards requesting him to send me a copy, but am fearful he will not be able to comply as soon as desireable./ Yrs truly/ T R Dunn

House, Jany. 23^d 1847.

Sir [J. L. Edwards]:

I shall be greatly obliged by a copy of the declaration, asked by the enclosed letter of Mr. Dunn. The object is to detect the frauds of Payne.

Very Res'y./ Yr. Obt. Servt./ Shelton F Leake

Cannot the original be withdrawn?

NOTES:

In the federal census for Greene County VA dated 5 Aug 1850, John Gibson, age 90, is listed as having been born in Maryland.

It is unclear how John Gibson could have sworn to the pension application in open court without knowing its contents. Ira Garrett's signature appears authentic, and the county seal had evidently been attached to the court certificate. Garrett remained Clerk of Court for many years after this event.

Other suspicious pension applications in which Coleman Payne of Harrisonburg VA acted as agent include those filed in the names of Dabney (Abney) Freeman (R3778) and Richard Lane (R6136). The Commissioner of Pensions, James L. Edwards, suspended the pension applications of Robert Chewning (R1915), Daniel Cole (S8236), and Martin Deer (S8311) probably because Payne was their agent, although Edwards usually stated that the applications were suspended pending further evidence. Coleman Payne was also the agent for the successful pension application of William Herndon (S9575). Statements in the files of Cole and Herndon suggest that Payne defrauded them of their pensions.

Gibson's "reccord of his marriages ever since 1800 and heare with enclosed numbring four Hundred couple" appears authentic, as shown by comparison of names and dates in other marriage records. The booklet, with a tattered cover inscribed "Marriage Book," contains 18 pages of names and dates of marriages performed by John Gibson between 15 Nov 1800 and 20 July 1846. There are also notations of debts owed to Gibson for officiating weddings and funerals, as well as of iron sold and of horses. This valuable genealogical resource is in the file and available on www.Fold3.com. A transcription is at http://genealogytrails.com/vir/albemarle/marr_byrevjohngibson_1800-1846.html. On the back cover John Gibson's name is written several times, presumably by him, as shown below. There is also an entry for the marriage of a John Gibson and Rebecca Long on 9 Nov 1843 showing how the elder Gibson wrote his name.

