

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Gill R4023

Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary Gill

f104SC

modified 7/24/08 & 8/21/15 rev'd 6/8/21

[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.]

[p 3]

Declaration of Captain James Gill to obtain a pension

The State of Alabama, Greene County

On this 22nd day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Andrew Crenshaw the Judge of the Circuit court now sitting James Gill a resident of the County of Greene & state aforementioned of the age of seventy two years who being first duly sworn according to the law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the seventh of June 1832: that he entered the service United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated; viz, he entered the service in the year 1776 or 1777 under Captain Smith in that part of South Carolina now called Chester District & was marched as well as he recollects in the Spring of 1777 as he is more inclined to believe down into Edgefield district in the forks of Broad River & Saluda [Rivers] into a Dutch settlement known by the name of the Dutch fork for the purpose of securing some flower [sic, flour] & other provisions which the Dutch settlers were secreting for the use of the British & Tories. Winn as well as he recollects was the Colonel who commanded this expedition: after securing the provisions aforesaid he was discharged & he thinks he was on this expedition about one month; the next expedition was to Orangeburg in the district of Orangeburg in South Carolina here he was stationed some time; he does not recollect how long; from thence he was marched to the Black Swamps low down on the Savannah [River] where we guarded the river for some time near a place called the Two Sisters [ferry] for about as well as he recollects two months. In this expedition Lieutenant Campbell commanded for sure to Orangeburg & Capt. Walker [Philip Walker] the balance of the campaign Major Ellison commanded the Regiment; this applicant was in & at the Black Swamp. We joined Genl. Moultrie [William Moultrie] who took command of the whole force as well as he now recollects. Soon after this the British forces crossed the river & we retreated to Charleston closely pursued by the British. After or about the Time of our arrival here General (Count) Pulaski who was also with us on this expedition had a skirmish with the British in which Colonel Cowench or Kowatel [?]¹ was killed; a Col. Huger [sic, Maj. Benjamin Huger] as well as the applicant recollects got killed by our own men while lighting some Barrels of Tar around Charleston for the purpose of exposing the British if they

1 Colonel Cowench, or Kowatel, was killed.

made any attempts to enter the city that night this happened by a false alarm on the part of our sentinels. The British here discovering that General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] with his forces were in there near withdrew from Charleston to Stono.² In this tour the applicant served for about six months as near as he recollects the first 5 months as a drafted militiaman & the balance as a volunteer; his next service was after the capture of Charleston [May 12, 1780] by the British as a refugee to North Carolina where the South Carolinians & Georgians who refused the protection offered by the British collected & elected General Sumter [Thomas Sumter]. The first engagement he was in after this was under Captain Pagan [Alexander Pagan] & Cooper [probably Robert Cooper] Lieut., Richard Winn & Col Bratton [William Bratton] were higher in command. This was at Williams [sic, Williamson's] Plantation [or the Battle of Brattonsville, July 12, 1780]³ where we defeated British Captain by the name of Huck & killed him & a Tory Col. by the name of Ferguson & many others & routed & dispersed the whole of this force. This was some time in July 1780 as well as he recollects. From this time until the close of the war this applicant was consistently in the service. The next engagement was at Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780] under General Sumter this was on Sunday & lasted almost all day the next engagement was the engagement at Fort Carey [August 15, 1780]⁴ which we took from the Tories making them prisoners. This was under company officers whom he does not now recollect & a Col Pat [tear in paper] after this we joined Sumter again at Greaves' fo [tear in paper] on the Catawba river. From this place this applicant was dispatched with some others to Walker's Mill about 30 miles distance for flour & before his return Sumter was defeated [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] & his men all dispersed. This took place near the mouth of fishing creek on the Catawba river; after this Sumter collected another force & this applicant joined him at fishing creek again & was in an engagement under him at Friday's or Congaree fort [Fort Granby, February 19-21, 1781]⁵. The next engagement was at Belville [Bellville, a.k.a., Thomson's Plantation, February 22, 1781]⁶ from thence hearing of a reinforcement we marched to meet them. It turned out to be a small detachment of British guarding some British wagons loaded with clothing & money for the soldiers. These surrendered & the loading was put on a barge & soon after retaken at Wright's Bluff with some of our men [Fort Watson, February 24, 1781]⁷ & we crossed Santee [River] for the purpose of retaking this prize from the British & were met by the British near said Bluff & defeated & dispersed in this engagement. The applicant got a wound in his right arm which disabled this applicant a few weeks. The next service this applicant was under General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] in an expedition down the country to Orangeburg. General Greene [Nathanael Greene] was commander in chief in this expedition at Orangeburg. We had some slight skirmishing when General Greene withdrew his troops to the high hills of Santee as this applicant understood & General Sumter took Lee's [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] Light horse & his own force & marched to & demolished a British fort at Biggin Church. When we arrived near the church Col Lacey [Edward Lacey] & his men were detached with his horse militia to reconnoiter the place. This applicant was at this time under said Lacey when they had a pretty severe skirmish with the British in which we killed many of the British & took some prisoners. This was in the evening. This party returned back to Sumter & the next morning we

² Veteran is describing events chronicled in Prevost's March

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_prevosts_march_1779.html

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_careys_ferry.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_1.html

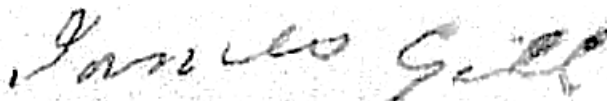
⁶ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thomsons_plantation.html

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_1.html

found the fort & church burned & the place evacuated. From here we pursued the British down to Huger's Bridge where we had another fight tho unsuccessful. From the Bridge we crossed Santee & at a place called Sumter's ponds [we] encamped some time & were discharged. After I returned home I served three months in the regular service as a substitute for my brother George Gill who was sick. This was under Col Wade Hampton. During this time Major Bluford marched around the seaboard from Congaree by the way of Coosahatchie, the horse Shoe & Round O killing Tories—this applicant was with him &c. In the next tour he performed he commanded as a Captain under Major John Adair (since that time Governor of Ky). This expedition was from Fishing Creek down to a place called the four holes where a General Henderson [William Henderson] took the command At this place we remained for some time then marched to Orangeburg & thence to South Edisto where we remained for some time. From this Major Adair left the regulars & this applicant being the oldest Captain in command took command of the regiment & after scouring the swamps some time without much success this applicant then marched the regiment back to Chester District & their term of three months being out he discharged them. This was in the summer of 1781 if he recollects right. This was the last campaign of any note that he took tho he continued regularly in the service against the Tories & in several scouting parties protecting the settlements until the end of the war & in one of these he & six others his two brothers Thomas & George & Cpts. Hardridge & Frost, James Gill & Archibald Gill cousins of this applicant hearing that a Tory company were to rendezvous on Sandy river about 20 miles distant rode down the preceding night to the place of rendezvous & in the morning as the Tories collected, took them prisoners, disarmed & confined them in a house until we had taken about 30. In this service we killed but one & he refused to be taken & started to ride off when Captain Hard[tear in paper] shot him (his name was Hodges & was one of [tear in paper] who had formerly been driven from Ramsour's) & in answer to further interrogatories propounded by the court he says he was born on the 14th day of April 1760 in the state of New Jersey. He has a record of his age in his family bible transcribed from his father's family register he was by his father taken at about six years of age to the place now called Chester District South Carolina where he remained until 1811. In 1811 he removed to Tennessee Davidson County from thence in 1818 he removed to Tuscaloosa County Alabama from thence in 1823 to Greene County Alabama where he has remained ever since. He states that he was a volunteer at all times except the two tours above stated. The names of rest of the officers the recollects besides what are above stated & written whom he was engaged in the service Captain Mills [John Mills], Lieutenant Miller & Gill General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] Cpts Barnett & Culpepper & Ross were in the state troop with him—Cols. Williams, Brandon, Farrow, Hammond, Henry Hampton & a Major Otterson. He does not recollect that while a private he ever had a written discharge if he ever had it is lost nor does he recollect whether he ever had a commission from the time he was appointed or not if he had he has lost it he recollects receiving the appointment in the spring of 1781 as he thinks from that time on until after the war. This applicant can prove his service in the War by Hamilton Brown for part of the time he can prove his reputation for truth by said Brown & Parson John H Gray & he thinks by any of his neighbors & also their belief as to his service He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/James Gill

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Gill". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

James Yeats, Clerk

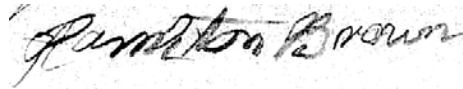
[p 8]

Hamilton Brown⁸ being duly sworn according to law in open court saith that he has knew James Gill ever since said Gill was a small Boy he thinks for sixty odd years & that he was with said Gill in the service of the United States at the Dutch forks & at the Battle of Friday's fort or Congaree fort and at Belville at the taking of the wagons & the Battle that ensued near Wrights Bluff and also at the Skirmish at Biggin's Church from the Battle at Wrights Bluff this deponent was sent home with said Gill whom there received a wound in his right arm this deponent believes that said Gill was in the other service set out in his statement & that he is fully as old as he represents himself to be he recollects that said Gill was Captain in the latter part of the war that he does not now remember of ever being with him in the service while he commanded. He states further that said Gill's reputation for truth is as good as that of any other man he knows of.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Attest: S/ James Yeats, Clk

S/ Hamilton Brown

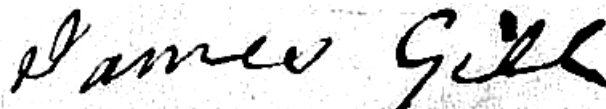


[John H. Gray, a clergyman, and John N. Thompson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10]

State of Alabama, Greene County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a justice of the peace in & for said County, James Gill, who being duly Sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For one year & 10 months I served as a private soldier & for one year served as Captain, and for which services I claim a pension;

S James Gill



Sworn to & subscribed before me an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County of Greene, aforesaid in the State aforesaid this the eighth day of June A.D. 1833

S/ Wm M. Murphy, JP

[p 75: On June 14, 1846 in Greene County Alabama, the veteran made oath that he is the same person who draws a pension for his service in the revolutionary war; that he served under Captain Ramsey, Captain Pagans, Captain Hardwick, Captain Gill in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Winn; that he the veteran now lives in Greene County Alabama and has lived there about 9 years last past; that he previously lived in Chester District South Carolina.]

[p 16: On March 14, 1859, Martha H. Stebbins, 54, filed in Winston County, Miss., claiming to be a child and heir of James Gill and his widow Mary Ann Gill; Stebbins states that James Gill died April 14, 1842, a pensioner of the US, in Greene County Alabama leaving Mary Ann Gill

⁸ [Hamilton Brown W1707](#)

his widow; that Mary Ann died November 1851 survived only by son George, about 62, living in Tenn; Matthew Gill, about 58, living in Hempstead County, Ark., John P. Gill, 54, living in Fort Bera County, Tx; Robert J. Gill aged about 52, living in Texas; Elizabeth P. Gill, 49 wife of Robert H. Dennis of Winston County, Miss and Susanna Gill born July 6, 1812 and died 1845 (having been married to J. B. Cherry and leaving two children Drunetta Cherry, 18, and J. G. Cherry, 16, both of Monroe County, Miss.); and affiant wife of John H. Stebbins; that her parents were married in SC; that her mother was Mary Ann Fox before her marriage.

Martha H. Stebbins

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁹ relating to James Gill pp36
Audited Account No. 2829

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/8/21

[p 2]

[No.] 259 [Book] I

Mr. James Gill (son of Robert) his Account of Sundries for Militia use in 1780

Amounting to £53 [Sterling]

Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]

J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

No. 10

James Gill (son of Robert)

Received 20 September 1784 from the Commissioners of the Treasury full Satisfaction for the within in an indent No. 259 I by an order

S/ Robt. Cooper [Robert Cooper]

Robt Cooper

[p 3]

State of South Carolina Dr. [Debtor] to Robert Gill

Commenced To twenty four Days a Soldier under

[text Captain James Martin at 10S per day

12.00.0

obliterated] Certified the above Account is Just
and true S/ Jas. Martin Capt.

Jas Martin

Commenced

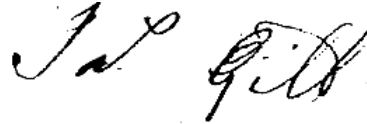
⁹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

12 July			
1780	To forty Seven Days a Soldier under Capts. Pagan and Mills [John Mills] at 20 S per day		47.00.0
	I Certify that the Voucher for this Charge is mislaide S/ Wm Tate [undeciphered word]		
August 18	To one hors [horse] Sedele [saddle] and bridle Lost	100.0.0	
Ditto	To [illegible] Lost in action		200.00.0
	To twenty four Days a Soldier under Capt. James Martin at 10S per day		<u>12.00.00</u>
	Certified the above Account is Just & true S/ Jas. Martin Capt.	Total	<u>£371.00.0</u>
		Sterling	£53

[p 4]

I Do hereby Certify that I have empowered Captain Robert Cooper to receive an indent to the Amount of my Account against the State of South Carolina & his Receipt shall be a Sufficient Discharge from Gentlemen yours &c

S/ Jas. Gill



To the Commissioners of the
Treasury of the State
South Carolina

[p 19]

To the Honorable the President & Members of the Senate

The humble petition of James Gill shows to your Honorable body that he was a Soldier of the War of the Revolution and has lost his blood in the service of his Country. That he has served his Country at Purrysburg, at Black Swamp, in Charleston, at Friday's ferry, at Belville, at Rights Bluff [Wright's Bluff] and several other points of service. That he received a wound being shot through the arm at Rights Bluff which now affects him materially. Your petitioner would not now have brought to your new subjects which rouse his sleeping passions and stir him up to think of the days that are past and gone but for the purpose of showing to your Honorable body that he has some ground to expect the favor which he now asks at your hands. He is now old infirm and poor, not able to support himself by his own labor and asks the bounty of his country to assist him. His situation is peculiar. Having removed from this State some years ago and being now a Citizen of Alabama if your Honorable body would think proper to grant him a pension it would be very inconvenient for him to attend every year to receive it. Your petitioner therefore prays your Honorable body to take his case into consideration and to grant him such relief as you in your wisdom may think proper. That you will grant him relief he fondly hopes That the relief granted will be such as to enable him to pass the down hill of life smoothly, and to enter the valley of the shadow of death with joy & rejoicing in the gratitude of that country for his youthful blood has been spilt and for whose prosperity his daily prayers are offered up

Signed

James Gill

by his agent
S/ Gee Gill



[p 22: same petition addressed to the South Carolina House of Representatives]

[p 25]

South Carolina Chester District }

Personally came before me the Subscribing Justice William Lewis a Soldier of the Revolution and certifies on oath that he knew James Gill the Petitioner from a Youth. That he went early into the Revolutionary service and served one Campaign at Purrysburg on Savannah River and after a few weeks was called out again to an expedition to black Swamp and repeatedly before the British from Thence into Charleston so Deponent Further Says said petitioner was under General Sumter at Friday's ferry (now Granby) at Thomson's (now Belville) from thence to Rights Bluff on the Scotch Lake where in a skirmish with the British said James was Shot Through the arm and further Says That he is an old man upwards of Sixty Years and has reason to believe that said James is in but moderate circumstances and not able for labor.

Sworn to before me this 21st November 1826

James Gill, JP

William Lewis



[p 27]

South Carolina Chester District }

Personally appeared before me The Subscribing Justice David Morrow¹⁰ (a Soldier of the Revolution) and certifies on oath That he knew James Gill The petitioner from a Youth That he went early into the Revolutionary service and served one Campaign at Purrysburg on Savannah River and after a few weeks was called out again to an expedition to black swamp and retreated before the British from thence into Charleston said deponent further says That said James Joined General Sumter at Clem's branch in the Catawba Indian Land and at Williamsons where Hook [sic, Huck] was defeated at the Battle of Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780] and has reason to believe that said James was at the battle of Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780] and after That was under General Sumter at Friday's ferry (now Granby) at Thomson's (now Belville) from Thence to Rights Bluff on the Scotch Lake, where in a skirmish with the British said petitioner was wounded in the arm and further says that he is now an old man upwards of Sixty in moderate circumstances and unfit for Hard Labor

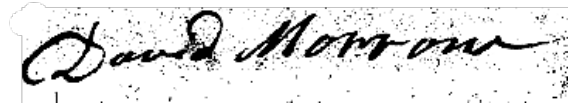
Sworn to before me

this 21st November 1826

James Gill, JP

David Morrow

¹⁰ [David Morrow S7253](#)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Morrow". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

[p 36: Report from the committee on pensions recommending that the petitioner cannot be granted. The report is dated December 1826 and signed by John McComb as chairman.]