

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Gillespy (Gillespie) R4030
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

VA

State of Ohio } SS
County of Gallia }

On this tenth day of April AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven personally appeared in open Court before the Probate Judge of said County of Gallia Lewis Gillespy resident of Perry Township in said County of Gallia and State of Ohio, aged fifty 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 provisions made by an act of Congress, passed June 7th AD 1832 in behalf of Joseph Gillespy of the County of Jackson, Lewis Gillespy of the County of Gallia, Sarah Campbell of the County of Jackson, Baker Gillespy of the County of Ross, Isabella Riggs of the County of Meigs all of the State of Ohio and James Gillespy of the County of Blackford and State of Indiana and William G. Gillespy of Wood County Virginia and that each of said persons are over the age of twenty one years, and who are the only surviving Children of the late William Gillespy deceased, who was a private of the infantry in the Continental establishment of Virginia in the War of the Revolution.

That the said William Gillespy volunteered in the first place for three months in the fall of 1776 and served in Captain Geo. Grimes [George Grimes] Company in the building of a fort in Greenbrier County where he remained during the three months for which he volunteered.

In the Spring, or early part of the year 1777 he again volunteered for the term of three months and served under Mathew Arbuckle about Kenny's Fort [sic: Keeney's Fort N of present Palestine WV, probably the same as Arbuckle's Fort] in ranging the Country, and at the expiration of said three months he was discharged, and returned home to Botetourte [sic: Botetourt] County.

In the fall of the same year (1777) Donnally's fort [near present Frankford WV] was attacked in Greenbrier County by the Indians – a call was made, and the said William Gillespy again turned out and served three months in hunting and pursuing the Indians during which tour he served in John Beard's [sic: John Baird's] company in Colonel [Samuel] Lewis's Regiment.

The said William Gillespy again volunteered the fourth time in the Month of November AD 1780 for the period of three months and served under Captain Henley [sic: Alexander Handley], and marched to Moravian town [Salem, Bethabara, or Bethania in NC], from thence to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] in North Carolina, from thence to Charlottesville [sic: Charlotte] where he joined Colonel Morgan, between Catawba and Broad River just after the battle of the "Cowpens." [see endnote] He was then marched back to Botetourt County Virginia and there discharged at the residence of Colonel George Skebren's [sic: George Skillern] at the end of a six month's tour; That he received written discharges at the end of each service, but which discharges are all lost; and that the declarant does not know of a surviving witness to prove his Father's said services, he therefore relies upon the Record evidence in the department together with such collateral testimony as he may present.

That the said William Gillespy died, on or about the twentieth day of March AD 1833, in Scipio township in the County of Meigs and state of Ohio, and that Catherine Gillespy, his Widow, died at her daughters in said Scipio Township aforesaid on the [blank] day of [blank] AD 1854; and that the said Joseph Gillespy, Lewis Gillespy, James Gillespy, William G Gillespy, Sarah Campbell, Baker Gillespy and Isabella Riggs are the only surviving Children and heirs of the said William Gillespy deceased.

They hereby relinquish every claim for arrearages of pension due them on account of their Father, except the present; and that the name of the said William Gillespy deceased, was never on the pension Roll of any Agency in any state.

[signed] Lewis Gillespy

[Punctuation edited]

State of Ohio

Gallia County Ss. [18 May 1857]

Personally appeared before me, Samuel B Rathbone, Probate Judge of the probate Court of Gallia County – Alexander McDaniel of the county and state aforesaid, who after being duly sworn according to law, says, that he was personally acquainted with William Gillaspys deceased late of the County of Meigs and State of Ohio during his residence in Gallia County aforesaid, for about twelve years from the year eighteen hundred and eighteen; that said Gillespy was frequently at his Father's (Henry McDaniel [pension application R6678]) who was also in the Revolutionary Service as I heard them both say and that, he, the affiant frequently heard his father and the said Gillespy speak of the service; that they had been acquainted while in the service; but not in the same Regiment or Company, that said McDaniel was in Colonel [Charles] Lynch's regiment of Cavalry and Gillespy was in some other.

He says, he often heard his father the said Henry McDaniel and the said William Gillaspys speak of the war in the South; but the following circumstance is the most prominently remembered viz While his Father the said Henry McDaniel was stationed at Guilford in North Carolina, the said William Gillaspys came into their quarters, nearly naked, and brought the news of the defeat of the Americans and nearly all of the company, which he was in, were killed, or taken prisoners in a skirmish with the British. [see endnote] And that McDaniel's Captain had the said William Gillaspys arrested, thinking that he was a deserter; but soon after others who had also escaped arrived and confirmed the report, and the said Gillespy was set at liberty.

It was generally reputed in the neighborhood where we resided that the said William Gillaspys was a Revolutionary soldier, and not doubted; that my Father stated he knew him well, both in the Army and during the period of time mentioned by me in this affidavit.

That my Father was placed on the pension roll as a private on or about the third of April AD 1834 and drew a pension till his death.

Further this affiant saith not

[signed] Alexder McDaniel

Samuel R. Holcomb of the County of Gallia and state of Ohio, who being first duly sworn represents, that he was well acquainted with the said William Gillespy during his life time, that he knew him from the time he came to Gallia County in about the year eighteen hundred and five and up to the time of his death, and that he was reputed to be a revolutionary soldier, that I once made an Amended declaration for the old gentleman, but before he executed it, he died. That at the time, I took the testimony of John Entsminger [S42708]; who testified that he was with William Gillespy in several engagements in the Revolutionary war. [see endnote] That Mr William Gillespy was reputed to be a man of truth, and good character, in the neighborhood where he resided.

That I knew Catherine Gillespy his wife, they resided near me for many years and were respectably reputed as husband and wife by all their neighbors.

That the said Applicants who have made the foregoing declaration are the Children of the said William Gillespy, and are creditble and respectable persons entitled to full credit and belief.

[signed 22 May 1857] Sam'l R. Holcomb

State of Illinois } ss

County of Champaign }

On this 18th day of February A.D. 1885 personally appeared before me, the Clerk of the County Court in and for the aforesaid County and State Lewis Gillespie aged 77 years, a resident of the County of Douglas and State of Illinois, and who being by me first duly sworn on his oath states. That he is the Son and heir at Law of William Gillespie, who enlisted in the County of Botetourt and State of Virginia on the James River in the war of the Revolution and was under General Francis Marion and also Scout &c under General Washington in the said war [see endnote] And that said Soldier William Gillespie died on

or about the 20th day of March 1833 aged 78 years and 6 days at Scipio Township in the County of Meigs and State of Ohio. And that there was due said Soldier at the time of his death a land warrant for 160 acres of land as he is informed and believes That said Soldier did not up to the time of his death Receive any land Warrant or certificate from the Government of the United State for any land. That applicant makes this statement for the purpose of receiving as the heir at Law of said William Gillespie or Gillespey as affiant believes his said father spelled his name at that time. That his said father was with General Marion as a member of his command at the night attack of General Francis Marion to Capture the British & Tory's at or on the little Pedee in the State of Virginia [sic: Little Pee Dee River in SC] And affiant makes this application for the purpose of obtaining the land Warrant so due his said father for said service. Affiants Post office is Tuscola. Douglas County State of Illinois and he hereby appoints H. M. Russell his Attorney to prosecute his said claim and requests all communication addressed to his said Attorney in regard to said claim for land warrant. [signed] Lewis Gillespie
[On the same day Lewis Gillespie made an application similar to the one that follows, witnessed by Stelle Gillespie.]

State of Illinois } ss
Champaign County }

On this 21st day of June AD 1886 personally appeared before me the Clerk of the County Court in and for aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths, Lewis Gillispie, Aged 78 years a resident of Tuscola Township Douglas County and State of Illinois, personally known to me, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the Son and Heir at law of William Gillispie, who enlisted under the name of William Gillespy or Gillispie as a private in The Command of General Francis Marion and was one of the command to the Little Pedee to capture Tories and British and surround them at night and took them prisoners, and also one of the guards with General Washington When the General was invited to dinner at a Tory's house, and the Guards of which said soldier was one dressed up in British uniform and when the Tory arrested the General, the General by his guards took the Tory prisoner. [see endnote] Applicant can relate a great many other instances to identify said soldier if needed, but he does not now remember the Company or Regiment but was mostly on scout with or for General Washington and also General Marion, and that some time before the death of said Soldier he made an application for Back pay etc due him as such Soldier, through an Attorney named Lewis Newsome, Attorney at Law, & Claim Agent, residing at Gallipolis in the County of Galia and State of Ohio, and that there was about the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars allowed him, either as back pay or as pension, which affiant does not now remember. That before said soldier received the said money, he died and the money was never paid. That said soldier died on the 20th day of March AD 1833 at Scipio Township in Meigs County, State of Ohio. That said soldier enlisted in the County of Botetourt and State of Virginia on the James River, as near as he can remember the place, and he further states that he has never aided or abetted the late rebellion in the United States and has hitherto been a loyal man to the Government of the United States and he hereby appoints with full power of substitution and revocation H M Russell of Urbana Illinois his Attorney and authorizes him to present and prosecute this claim to receive and receipt for the certificate or money that may be issued or paid upon his foregoing application and to do any and all acts necessary to effect the purpose of said appointment. His Post Office address is Tuscola. Douglas County and State of Illinois.
[signed] Lewis Gillespie

NOTES:

After his victory at the Battle of Cowpens SC on 17 Jan 1781, Gen. Daniel Morgan raced with the prisoners to the northeast, traveling from Broad River to Catawba River between Jan 20 and 22 without going through Charlotte.

On 22 May 1857 Daniel Prose stated that he heard William Gillespy say that he saw Henry McDaniel on the day following the Battle of Cowpens.

The skirmish with the British referred to by McDaniel appears to have occurred on Feb 4-5, 1781

at Trading Ford, where Gillespy's captain was captured. In his pension application, Henry Entsminger stated: "Again volunteered for three months about the time Col Daniel Morgan defeated the enemy at the Cowpens in this service was engaged in a sharp skirmish on Atkin [sic Yadkin] River near Salisbury in N. Carolina with Tarleton's Corps in which Captain Alexander Hanley was taken prisoner & died with the enemy."

Since Gen. Francis Marion served entirely in South Carolina, it is doubtful that William Gillespy served with him. It is virtually impossible that Gillespy also served with Gen. Washington, who was in New York.

The tale of Washington's guards capturing the Tory is, of course, extremely improbable.