

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jourdan Gilliam R4037

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 Aug 2015.

State of Alabama } On This 4th day of October one thousand Eight hundred and Thirty Seven
Jackson County } personally appeared before me Thompson M Rector Judge of the County court in
and for the County & State aforesaid Jourdan Gilliam a resident of Jackson County and State of Alabama
aged one hundred and five 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 entered the Service of the United States about the year 72. [sic: see endnote] as
well as his memory now serves him he then being a Citizen of the County Sussex and State of Virginia
and served as herein after stated first about the year 72. he was drafted under Capt. Gray Ghiskins[?] to
serve a tour of three weeks to serve as a guard to prevent the British from plundering the Negroes again
he was Drafted under Capt. Harney to serve a Tower of three weeks for the purposes above stated again
he was Drafted under Capt. W Bethel for a Tower of six weeks which tower he served and marched to
little York on York river in the State of Virginia and was stationed near the Bridge on little yourk The
object of this was to prevent the British from coming out to plunder the settlement these three Towers
was fully served out and he was Discharged by his officers though not in wrighting Shortly after he
enlisted under Capt Thomas Mason at Sussex Courthouse in said state of Virginia for Three years and
was mustered into service at old petersburg on Appomatox [sic: Appomattox] River from thence he
marched to the white plains and there joined the main army Commanded by General G. Washington
States that he was in the Battle at the White plains Jarmantown & Brandywine which followed each
other in close succession. After these Battles was fought the Brittish moved to the South They were then
a call for men to go to the South and he with others went and was Commanded by William Hardgrove
Capt. they was marched to Mathews Bluff on Savannah River [in Allendale County SC] where the
Brittish lay on the opposite side of the river in full view and there encamped for the night and during the
night the Brittish marched off they pursued them until the came to the Bridge on Brier Creek upon which
the Brittish had passed over and put fire to it by which the army was prevented from crossing there they
remained three or four days during the time of their stay at that place the Brittish moved up the Creek and
crossed over and attacked them on surprise. at this place we were commanded by General Nash [sic] who
had Instructed us the evening before the attack to wash our clothes take of our gun locks and Barrels out
of the stocks in order to clean them and put them in good order saying that on the next day they would
take up the line of march The Generals orders were obeyed Some began to wash some to clean their
guns and some to kook and in this unprepared condition we were attacked by the Brittish and defeated a
good many of our men being killed on the ground Some Drowned in the attempt to cross the creek &
others were taken prisoners & the remnants of our Army collected at Turkey hill [in Orange County SC?]
and the British marched to and crossed[?] at Stona [Stono Ferry SC?]. In the last engagement General
Nash was strongly suspected of Treachery and I believe not without a cause and shortly after this we had
a battle at Eutaw [Eutaw Springs?] in which battle I was, and we were successful The British were
defeated and a bandoned the place and shortly after this the Indians Broke out upon the frontiers of South
Carolina & Georgia we were ordered to march a gainst the Indians My Company was Commanded by
Capt Thomas Flack Our General was [Griffith] Rutherford & Oneal was our Col. Pastly was our Major
those officers commanded until we Joined the Georgia & South Carolina Army in the Nation Then
General Williamson took the Command of all the armys. but a few days pryor to the Junction of the Two
armys we had a engagement with the Indians in which engagement we were successful Killed wounded
and taken a great many of them prisoners and destroyed their Town & after the Junction of the Two
armeys we also had a battle with the Indians in which we were successful I cannot recollect the names of
the places where the Two Battles were fought it has been long since and was a perfect wilderness
country and after this service was performed we were marched back into the white settlements. The next

engagement we had was with the Brititsh at Gilford Courthouse in which engagement I was also & many killed on Both sides in the battle I was still commanded by Capt. Thos. Flack from Gilford Courthouse I was marched Back to take the forts at Thompson Rugeleys & Ninety six still commanded by Capt. Flack Colonel Oneal Majr Pastley Lieutenant Campbell & Ensign Duffey. the first fort we marched to was Thompsons and not having any Cannons to commence the attack with we commenced Ditching and entrenching by which we were enabled to get near the walls of the fort we were then ordered to prepare our selves with Bows & arrows made out of rich or fat Litewood [light wood] the ends of which we dipped in Sulphur & lit them on fire and shot them on the roof of the fort by which means we set the fort on fire drew the Enemy out and took possession of the fort & the Enemy we took prisoners we then marched to Rugeleys Fort & sent in a proposition by one Jeremiah Furguson that If they would surrender they would be treated as prisoners of war Their reply was to us to come on They did not ask the Rebels any Acts[?] we ware then ordered to cut and prepare pine logs in imitation of six pounders which we pealed and coulored with smoke and mounted them upon the wheels of our Baggage Waggons drove them up within proper distance and presented them at the fort & a gain sent in the same man to inform them that If they would not surrender we would Blow them a cross the Mill pond upon which the enemy marched out an surrendered as prisoners of war The officers here were the same that commanded at fort thompson. from that we were marched to the high hils of Santee where we lay until we received the Information of Cornwallace being taken and that we maught return home our respective Captains then gave us written discharges and we returned home.

My first enlistment under Capt Mason was for Three years I then enlisted during the war which lasted Three years and Seven months making in all Six years & Seven months which I served as a regular in the united states service

I hereby relinquish every claim what soever to a pension or an annuity what soever except the present and declair that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state

Jourdan hisXmark Gilliam

Interragatory 1st where & in what year were you born (ansr) I was born on Notaway [sic: Nottoway] River Sussex County State of Virginia. i cannot distinctly recollect what year I was born but born in the same year that General Washington was Born [1732]

2^d have you any record of your age and If so where is it

Ans'r I have no record of my age in my Infancy I was cristioned by one parson Wyley at which time my age was registered in the Church Book from which I have since obtained a Transcript and which I have since lost

3rd Where were you liveing when called into the Service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Ans. I was living upon Notaway river Sussex County State of Virginia
Camden District South Carolina Georgia Wilks [sic: Wilkes] County
Gilford County North Carolina Orange County North Carolina
Madison County State of Alabama Jackson County Ala.

Rutherford County Tennessee from there to Jackson County Alabama State where I now live

qr 4th how were you called into the service were you drafted did you Volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom

Ans When I first entered the service I was drafted for the three first Towers as stated in my Declaration I then enlisted for three years after that time expired I then enlisted During the war

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Malitia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of you service

Ans Capt Thos Mayson [Thomas Mason] Capt Bethel Capt Flack Majr Scott & Majr Lamb Col Mayson, Col Daniel Mayson Col David Mayson Col. Eaton Colonel Fisher Col. Martin Col. Raney General Washington Gen Bateman Genral Harris Gen Blueford Gen'l Green Gen'l Mulingburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] General [Daniel] Morgan. I Belonged to the 10th

Continental regiment it is the only one I can recollect
6th did you ever receive a discharge from the service and If so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans. I was several times discharged from the service as before stated but the only written discharge I ever received was from Capt Flack on the high hills of Santee which I have since lost or so mislaid I cannot lay my hand on it

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in you present Neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character as to Varasity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the revolution.

Ans. Alex'd Mcfarland Esqr James Williams Doct. Lemuel Gilliam Colonel Hugh P Gilliam Capt. James Doran Sen'r. Arthur Long Jourdan hisXmark Gilliam

NOTE:

Many names and events claimed by Gilliam could not be verified. The following is a chronology of events possibly alluded to.

1775

- 21 Apr Hostilities erupt in VA after Lord Dunmore seizes militia arms in Williamsburg
- 7 Nov Dunmore offers freedom to slaves who join the British army

1776

- 28 Oct Battle of White Plains NY

1777

- 11 Sep Battle of Brandywine PA
- 4 Oct Battle of Germantown PA

1779

- 3 Mar Battle of Briar Creek GA; Gen. John Ashe's NC, SC & GA troops surprised and defeated
- May British attempt siege of Charleston SC but abandon it; (no battle at Eutaw Springs)

1780

- 4 Dec Lt. Col. William Washington forces surrender of Rugeley's fort with fake cannon

1781

- 22 Feb Gen. Thomas Sumter's siege of Col. William Thomson's Plantation (Belleville) fails
- 15 Mar Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC
- 12 May Fort Motte SC successfully besieged after setting it on fire with arrows
- 22 May Gen. Nathanael Greene begins siege of Ninety Six SC
- 19 Jun Greene abandons siege of Ninety Six
- 12 Jul Greene takes part of army to High Hills of Santee
- 22 Aug Green leaves High Hills of Santee
- 8 Sep Battle of Eutaw Springs; Greene's army next sent to Round O in SC
- 19 Oct Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

Gilliam's claim was rejected for the following reason: "Not on the rolls of Virginia enlisted soldiers, and militia service must be set forth with more detail." On 10 June 1854 Henry Gilliam assigned power of attorney to pursue the claim.