

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Gholson R4097

VA

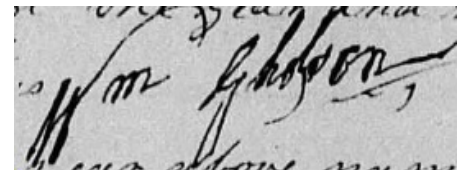
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky }
County of Greenup }

On this nineteenth day of October Eighteen hundred and forty-two pearsonally appeared before me a Justis of the piece in and for the county of Greenup, William Golson a resident of the county of Greenup and state of Kentucky aged eighty 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 of seventeen hundred and seventy nine he thinks it was in the fall of the year in the Virginia continental line [sic: see endnote] with Captain Henry Pallding he had the command of the company for one month and then Captain Joseph Prior took the command of the company and in Colonel William Preston,s ridgment both of the Capt was in Col Preston's ridgment (he states that he remained under Capt Prior until he was discharged which was nine days before the seag of Little York [Siege of Yorktown] which was in the month of October seventeen hundred and eighty-one He further states that he was appointed sargant by the company and acted in that capasity at least one year. That he lived in the County of Botetourt town of Fincastle and state of Virginia that he enlisted for one year and six months but was kept in servis six month longer than the time he enlisted for owing to thair being station on the Brittish lines at a time when it was important for them to be kept in servis. That he was in a battle at Well's Mills whare they defeated the Brittish and took them prisners but before they got to head quarters with them Col Talton [sic: Banastre Tarleton; see endnote] with his light horse retook them. He further states that they crossed the blue ridg at the Flower gap [between present Carroll and Patrick counties] and marched down the mountain to Captain Carlon's house [probably Daniel Carlin of the Henry County Militia] thair they remained four days getting provision and fixing for the campaign from thair they march'd to Yadkin river in North Carolina and from thair back to Virginia crossing James river he thinks at Hale's ford and kept down the river until they got near to Ritchmond [sic: Richmond] from thair to the neighbourhood of Williamsburg thair they ware stationed for three weekes. From thense in in the direction of Little York until they got within thirty miles of it then they turned back and mached to the burnt chimnys twelve miles from Williamsburg (all of this time watching the movements of the British) He further states that they ware then kept between York and James rivers watching the movements of the British and giving information to the main army; head quarters at the burnt chimnys and they remained hear until they ware discharge by the orders of Genl La Fayitt [sic: Lafayette] at the time above stated which discharge he has lost or got mislaid that he canot find it at this time

He further declares that after he was discharged: in Febuary seventeen hundred and eighty-two he left Virginia for the now state of Kentucky and went to Bryants Station now in the county of Fayette Kentucky [sic: Bryan's Station at Lexington in Fayette County] and thair searved as an Indian spy with Thomas Hurndon [sic: Thomas Herndon, pension application W8924] betwen Bryant station and the mouth of licking river he states that they searved ninety six days as a spy and was thair when the seage took place [sic: siege, 15-16 Aug 1782] and remain'd in the station until he returned to Virginia to assist his Father to moove to Kentucky making at least one year and six months that he searved against the Indians

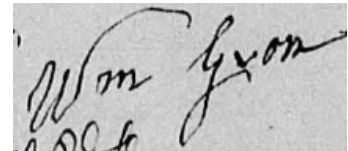
Sworne to and subscribed the day and year above named
Wm Kouns JPGC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Gholson", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Amendment to the Declaration

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Greenup and state of Kentucky William Gholson who from a stroke of the dead Palsy is unable to attend court who being duly sworn deposed and saith that, by reason of his affliction with the palsy and his great age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time he served; but according to his best recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. Two years in the continental service one year of that time as a sergeant (against the British) and one year and six months against the Indians and ninety six days of that time as a spy with Thomas Hearndon He further states that he is not on the pension roll anywhere and the reason he has not applied for a pension before he had a sufficientcy to live on until he was afflicted with the dead Palsy six years ago which has taken all he had to support him and he is unable to support by his labour. For the above services I claim a pension and there is not any person living that I can prove my services by that I can recollect of at this time

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this nineteenth day of October 1842
Wm Kouns JPGC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Gholson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

Captains Henry Paulding and Joseph Pryor were in the Botetourt County Militia, and William Preston was a Colonel of Militia. Militia tours were generally for three months each, and Gholson could not have served continuously in the militia for as long as stated.

I could not identify any Battle of Well's Mill. The reference may have been to the skirmish at Wetzel's Mill NC on 6 March 1781, although neither that or any other engagement fits the description given here.

The file includes a document certifying that William Gholson died on 14 Sep 1843 leaving no widow but the following three children: Elizabeth Rigg of Greenup County; James H. Gholson of Lawrence County OH; and Cynthia Gholson of Greenup County.