

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Griffis R4323

f17SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/11/06 rev'd 11/14/14

[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' 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.]

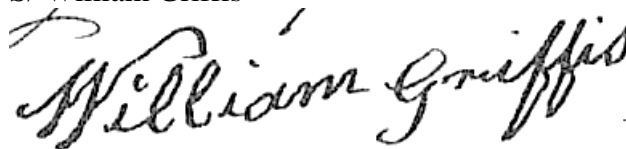
State of Illinois, Fulton County

On this sixth day of June A.D. 1836 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court of Fulton County and State of Illinois William Griffis aged Eighty 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 A.D. 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year A.D. 177_ [?]¹ (this declarant cannot recollect the year) at Ninety Six or as it is sometimes called Cambridge in the Abbeville District South Carolina in the Company of Captain Samuel Taylor, one William Hammonds [William Hammond] was also Lieutenant of the same Company – that he resided near Ninety Six or Cambridge, at the time he enlisted and that he enlisted for two years does not recollect the name of his Colonel or Regiment particularly but believes his Colonel's name was Washington [William Washington?] and knows that Morgan [Daniel Morgan] was the General – was in the battle at Ninety Six [May 22-June 18, 1781] and at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and after having served two years was honorably discharged at the Cowpens in the summer (the year he does not recollect) by Samuel Taylor who was his Captain during the whole of the said two years; In the fall of the same year that he was discharged from Taylor's company he again enlisted at or near Halifax in the State of North Carolina for five years or during the war, he enlisted in the company of Captain John Lewis or his captain's name was John Lewis, William Perdew or Perdue was his Major but this declarant does not recollect the Colonel or Regiment, his company was with General Green [Nathanael Greene], he was in the battle at King's Mountain [October 7, 1780], Guilford [March 15, 1781], Ram Towers Mill [sic, Ramsour's or Ramsey's Mill, June 20, 1780], also at Cowpens, Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780], Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], this declarant was severely wounded at Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] in the head and at King's Mountain he was wounded in his right shoulder and a bayonet was run through his leg at this place and at Eutaw Springs a ball perforated his body by reason of which he has even now to wear a truss – two of his brothers were killed at Eutaw Springs, he was marched through different parts of North and South Carolina but during the whole five years was most of the time as far as he can now recollect in those two States, he was honorably discharged at the Eutaw Springs after having served

¹ 1777

five years, this declarant states that his Captain's name under whom he served was John Lewis. He has lost his discharges by the misfortune of having his house burned and all his papers about fourteen years ago in Pendleton District South Carolina, that he resided in Edgefield District South Carolina and Pendleton District until about 10 years ago when he removed with his family to the County of Vandenberg [Vanderburgh] in the State of Indiana where he resided until the month of September A.D. 1835 at which time he removed to Fulton County and State of Illinois – that he is at this time in very feeble health and is in indigent circumstances – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any State.

S/ William Griffis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Griffis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ William Griffis".

To subscribed and sworn to in open Court this sixth day of June 1836

S/ Stephen Dewey, Clerk

[John Holcombe, a clergyman, and Samuel Cozad gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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On this seventh day of September A.D. 1836 personally appeared before the Honorable County Commissioners Court of the County of Fulton and State of Illinois William Griffis a resident of the County of Fulton and State of Illinois aged Eighty five years who being first duly sworn according to law and on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the seventh A.D. 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in A.D. 1776 with Captain Samuel Taylor at the Cowpens in South Carolina and served in the Regiment (the number of the Regiment this declarant does not recollect) commanded by Colonel William Washington of the Continental line under the following named officers, to wit, General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Colonel Washington, Captain Samuel Taylor, Lieutenant William Hammond; served two years and left the service in the fall of 1778 by being honorably discharged, was in the battle of the Cowpens and also in the battle at Cambridge as it is sometimes called Ninety Six, that he was discharged at the Cowpens in the fall of 1778 after having served two years; and this declarant further states that in this same fall of 1778 after having been discharged from Taylor's company and Washington's Regiment and Morgan's Army, that he went into North Carolina to see two brothers who were in Greene's Army under Captain John Lewis, to wit, J. G. Griffis and J. L. Griffis who were stationed with the Army near Halifax or between Halifax and the Hoffields [sic, Hawfields], that after seeing his brothers he enlisted there in one Captain John Lewis' company for five years or during the war and served under the following named officers (to wit), Captain John Lewis, Major William Perdue or Perdew (his colonel's name this declarant does not recollect), General Greene was the commanding General, that he was in the battle at the Hawfields, and at Guilford Court House and at the latter place was wounded in the head, the scar of which is very visible at present and at King's Mountain, was in the battle at Ramsour's Mill, also at Camden; went to Camden immediately after Gates got defeated, was in the battle at Rocky Mount and also at Eutaw Springs where he was wounded in the lower part of his bowels by means of which

has to wear a truss – at the battle of King's Mountain before mentioned was wounded in his right shoulder and had a bayonet run through his right leg the scars of which are both visible, continued in the service until after the peace and was honorably discharged by Captain John Lewis at the Eutaw Springs sometime in July – that he lived in Edgefield District South Carolina at the time he first enlisted about 6 miles below Cambridge on the Saluda River and returned there after the close of the war. Removed from there into Pendleton County or District about 4 miles from the old Pendleton Court House and resided there two years with his family and while residing there he and his family went to a meeting on one Sunday about 4 miles from where he live and stayed until Monday and on his return home on Monday found his house burned and all his household goods and all his papers, and among them were his discharges from Captain Samuel Taylor and from Captain John Lewis – this declarant further states that he knows of no person now living who can testify to his being in the Army – that he was informed unless he could produce his discharges he could not procure a pension which is the reason he has not applied before. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the To pension Roll of any agency in any State – this declarant states that he removed from Pendleton District to the State of Indiana in Vanderburgh County about 10 years ago and removed from Vandenberg County Indiana to Fulton County Illinois about a year ago where he at present resides.

S/ William Griffis

Question by the Court: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer: I did receive to discharges one from Samuel Taylor and one from John Lewis as mentioned in the body of my declaration.

S/ William Griffis

And the court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states and that it is inconvenient for him at this late period of the Court to procure persons who are acquainted with him.

S/ Wm Johnson

S/ Jared Lyon

S/ Charles Newcomb

County Commissioners