

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Boyd S12269

NC VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 Aug 2013.

State of Virginia }

Patrick County }

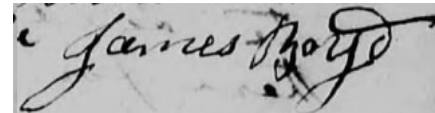
On this 11th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Patrick County now siting James Boyd a resident of Patrick county aged 67[?] years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 that he entered the Service of the united States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

that he entered the service of the united States he believes in the year 77 in the fall season of the year as a volunteer private soldier in place of his father Joseph Boyd under Capt James Gidens of the county of Surry North carolina where he Boyd then lived on an expedition to the raft swamp he believes in South Carolina [sic: Raft Swamp in present Robeson County NC] against Colonel [David] Fanning who commanded a party of tories and British he was Marched to Guelford old Court House [sic: Guilford Courthouse] there joined Capt Parkers company Fanning was at that time in Hillsborough in which place he done much mischief an express was received by the declarants commander to make haste to that place which he did but before he arrived there Fanning had left there but soon made his appearance on a high hill in sight of our army but upon our approach he fled and was pursued by our regiment commanded by Colonel Martin Armstrong to the Raft swamp above mentioned where he took shelter we where then march to the Cheraw Hills where we remained for some time subjecting the tories and out liars [outlyers] from there we were marched back to Guilford was there expecting fanning to return remained there untill our three months tour was at an end the declarant was then discharged by Capt Gidens from whence he returned

the next tour of duty the declarant performed was as a Volunteer again in place of his father under the same officer Capt Gidens he believes in Sept 1778 was marched to the Shallow ford of the Yadkin river from there to Sallisbury [sic: Salisbury NC] where they joined other malitia company. Stayed there a short time was reinforced march up to the Mulberry fields [sic: now Wilkesboro in Wilkes County NC] on the yadkin river from thence to burk [sic: Burke] Court House from there to Iredell and back to Sallisbury from there to the Shallow ford of the Yadkin River again. the object of this expedition was to reconoiter the country and keep in subjection the tories and disaffected who much abounded in that country the declarant was here discharged from this three months tour by Capt James gidens these discharges have long since been lost they served this declarant as a pass during the war which was necessary to have in them days after the close of the war he thought them of no service to him, therefore took no further care of them

the next tour of duty this applicant performed was he believes in the year 1779 he was then sixteen years of age and placed on the Muster list – he entered the service under Capt James Gidens a third time a volunteer during the war was stationed at asberns mills in Surry County on loving Creek [Asbern's, Asber's, Osborne's Mill on present Lovills Creek] where he remained for some length of time he thinks two month or more this was in the fall season of the year the succeeding winter General Pickins [possibly Andrew Pickens] arrived with his army this declarant was there with eight or ten others given up to General Pickins to act as spies or pilates [pilots] Pickins and his army being strangers to the country this applicant remained under Pickins during that winter or about three months our head quarters were then Obediah Bakers in Sury County North carolina though during that time frequent reconneturing expeditions were made in the neighbouring Country Pickins army was stationed here to guard the frontier and keek in subjection the tories and disaffected in the spring Pickins march off his army this declarant believes to the South this declarant then returned to Capt Gidens again. a short time after this a

party of indians were discovered lurking about the lead mines [at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County VA] the white inhabitants fled from there for refuge across the mountains and expedition was immediately set on foot under the command of Capt Underwood this applicant together with twelve or fifteen others of Capt Gidens company was attached to Underwoods company and marched off to the lead mines and from there to the block House a distance of about eighty miles the indians took shelter in the mountains of Clinch river it was considered not worth while to pursue them further— were marched back to Surry again— this applicant states that it is impossible from the nature of his service and the length of time for him to detail it as it actually occurred. in addition to what he has stated he well recollects of being present at the taking of Mark Adkins and Joseph Burk [sic: Joseph Burke] Tories who had come to William Griffins blacked [attacked?] and Robed said Griffin of his money and other valuable property they were condemned and hanged the next day at Bemars camp in Henry County Virginia he was also at the hanging of Adam Short at Stuarts creek [sic: Stuart Creek in Henry County VA] after this he was a short time under Capt Eliphaz Shelton of Henry county Virginia stationed at McGowens in said county [Tory leader John McGowan's at Flower Gap in present Patrick County] he was a second time with said Shelton stationed at headspeths [sic: the Tory Hedspeth's in the Hollow near present Ararat in Patrick County] in the last mentioned county he thinks about two weeks he also states that he was constantly in service from the time he was put on the muster roll until the surrender of Cornwallis at York [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. he was never in any battle was march to the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] under Capt Gidens but did not reach that place until the next day after the battle was fought the British had left there he was informed General [Nathanael] Greene was in pursuit of them he states that he got no discharge except the two mentioned above that he has no documentary evidence of his service and that knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except he can by Major William Carter [pension application W3385] and Elihu Ayres [Elihu Ayers R335] of the county of Patrick and state of Virginia that [he] lived in the county of Surry North Carolina in time of the revolutionary war and for some time thereafter but about forty four years ago he moved to the county of Patrick State of Virginia where he has resided ever since he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state of the United States sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



State of Virginia }
 Patrick County }

This day James Boyd of the County aforesaid personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and in order to amend further explain and more particularly specify his services in the Revolutionary war, stated in his declaration made in open court on the 11th day of October 1832 after being duly sworn deposed and saith. that as respecting his two first three months tours mentioned in his declaration he knows of no further amendment or explanation he can give to them. he states that the section of Country where the residue of his services were performed was in the North western corner of Surry County North Carolina and in the adjacent neighbourhoods it being the frontier settlement lying along the East side of the blue ridge of mountains [Blue Ridge Mountains] that this section of Country so much abounded with Tories and robbers who formed themselves in companies concealing themselves on the west side of the mounty [sic] would frequently pounce down upon the friends to liberty kill and plunder, and off again to their places of concealment, that it became essentially necessary for the safety of the inhabitants to keep companies of men garrisoned or embodied at given points along the East side of the mounty to prevent those depredations and if possible subdue those enemies to liberty. for this purpose Captain James Gidens and his company of militia was stationed at Asbers mills in Surry County North Carolina about ten miles from the mountain near the Virginia line. he

farther states that there was but two choices for men to take in this section of country. one was to join the tories and out lyres and of cours take the woods and the other was to join the whigs take the field or garrison or both as occasion mite require. this applicant states that he became of age to go on the muster roll in May 1779. he was accordingly enrolled in Capt James Gidens company he was permitted to stroll where he pleased untill October following – October 1779 the first day of that month to the best of his recollection he entered the service under Captain James Gidens as a private soldier during the war. Gidens was at that time stationed at asbers mills above mentioned he remained here in garrison at least two months during which time a file of men was sent out in pursuit of Shearad Adkins and William Worton tory Robers who was taken and brought to head quarters tried and condemned to be hanged. they were marched to the gallows under guards. while their funeral was preaching only 15 minutes to live (according to orders) Colonel Shepherd arived with a reprieve for them they were accordingly reprieved. while one of the guard was standing the breech of his gun on the ground his hand on the muzzle the gun went off and shot the whole contents through his hand this applicant was then given up to General Pickens as stated in his declaration. Stayed with him in actual service three months General Pickens winter quarters was in about five miles of Capt Gidens garrison, having shufficient defense for the neighbourhood while Pickins remained there gidens’s company set at liberty except those given up to him by gidens to act as spies or pilates as mentioned in his declaration. soon as Pickens went off Gidens company was again stationed at Asbers mills this applicant with the rest. to the best of his recollection this was in the spring of 1780– he remained here in garrison (except when sent out with small parties to see what the tories were about which was frequently the case) about two months. declarant was sent off under Captain Underwood against the Indians as mentioned in his declaration in this expedition he marched through the west end of Henry County Virginia (now Patrick County) over the mountain through Grayson County to the lead mines in Wyth County through Wyth County and washington County to a place called the Block House. thence pursued the indians about thirty miles further into the mountains of Clinch River where they lost their trail and their provisions giving out they returned back to the lead mines which was at that time guarded Stayed here about two weeks to see if the Indians would return and thence marched back to Surry county again, where he again joined his own company he was engaged he thinks in this expedition at least two months but he believes nearly three months in a short time after this Capt Gidens took this applicant and several others and went over the mountains in Grayson county Virginia a distance of about twenty miles in search of Burk and Adkins tory robbers and with the aid of a tory who betrayed them into their hands they succeeded in taking them prisoners who were afterward hanged as stated in his declaration. they were engaged in this tour about ten days and then returned to their garrison (as it was called.) in a short time after this a company of men was sent out in search of Adam Short another mischievious tory who caught him and hung him at Stuarts creek this applicant was present when he was hung but did not go in search of him. in a short time after this William Koil [or William Koyle or William Coyle] a leading tory with four others stole some horses belonging to John Griffeth of Surry County NC. Capt Gidens not knowing how many was with Koil sent Lieut Gidens and four others in pursuit of them who came up with them so near to our fort that the firing of their guns was distinctly heard this applicant with several others were sent to their aid when they reach the spot they found Lieutenant Gidens and two others ded on the ground. the others of the whigs had made their escape they also found one of the tories killed and another wounded whom Koil was attempting to heave upp but was compelled to drop him on whom the work of death was soon finished they pursued Koil on up Salt petre ridge to the top of the mountain a distance of about ten miles could not over take him returned back again to the garrison. Captain gidens took as many of his company as had horses to ride and went in pursuit of Koil and his tory company this applicant and the rest of Gidens company who stayed joined Capt Eliphaz Sheltons company of Virginia militia and was ordered to the upper end of Henry county Virginia to guard the neighbourhood in gidens absence. Shelton stationed his company at Mc Gowens in Henry county Virginia about 7 miles from Gidens headquarters. Henry county and Surry county lay along side of each other only the state line between them. this applicant stayed with Shelton at this place about four weeks he thinks at least four weeks. Capt Gidens in

this time having returned to his station Sheltons company was marched off this applicant again returned to Gidens company. a short time after [2 Aug 1780] a man by the name of Nickols [William Nichols] together with 3 or 4 others murdered William Letcher a whig and a worthy citizen of Henry county Va on the Ararat river within a few miles of our garrison. Gidens as before in the raid of Koil pursued Nickolds – Shelton as before was march up again– Stationed his company at headspeaths near where he was before stationed this applicant together with the rest of the company who did [not] go with Gidens in pursuit of Nickolds again joined Shelton stayed with him at this place two weeks. Gidens again returned Shelton company was as before march off. Nickold as he was informed was taken near the you tow springs [Eutaw Springs SC?] and hanged. this applicant again returned to Gidenns company. nothing more of importance took place untill the last of February or first of March 1781– we were still in garrison when Capt Gidens received information of the approach of Lord Cornwallis near the meravian Towns in carolina [sic: Moravian towns of Salem, Bethabara, and Bethania near present Winston Salem NC]. it was then expected he would cross the mountains to take possession of the lead mines Capt Gidens sent this applicant and 20 or 30 others under Lieutenant Thomas Carlan to watch his Cornwallis movements having ascertained that Cornwallis had pursued a course towards Dan river [toward present South Boston VA], they return to Capt Gidens with the information having been absent about 8 days Capt Gidens received orders from Colonel Martin Armstrong of Surry County N.C. to march with his company and join the North carolina malitia at Guilford Court House. The day before they reached there the battle of Guilford was fought a short time before this Gidens had moved his station to Hammons on Johnson Creek near his former station and in the same county to which place they returned from the Guilford battle. nothing of importance took place within the recollection of this applicant while stationed at this last mentioned place which was from the first of March 1781 untill the last of october 1781 when the surrender of Lord CornWallis at Little Yourk was announced. this applicant was then finally discharged. that this amendment taken in connection with his declaration specifies his services in the revolutionary war as plainly and distinctly as he can set them forth– that after serving the 2 first three months tours mentioned in his declaration he entered the service of the United States again as stated above on the first day of October to the best of his recollection 1777 and was discharged on last of October 1781 during which time he was either in the field or in garrison. and for the time during which the above services was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Question by the magistrate

Where and in what year were you born – Answer I was born in the County of Bucks State of Pennsylvania on the 8th day of May 1763


Question by the same have you any record of your age– answer my age is set down in a bible in my possession which used to belong to my parents. here he wishes to make a statement of his services which is as follows

	years	m	days	
Capt James Gidens as a substitute		3		in 1777
a substitute under the same		3		“ 1778
General Pickins as a spy or pilate		3		“ 1779 1780
Capt Underwood		2		“ 1780
Capt Eliphas Shelton of Henry County Virginia		1	15	1780
under Capt Gidens as a Volunteer at different				
periods from Oct 1779 to Oct 1781	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{6}{7}$	$\frac{15}{-}$	
				making in the whole

two years and seven months– he states that he can produce no other evidence than traditionary– he hereby releases any part of the above claim which in the opinion of the officers of the war department may not be sufficiently clearly set forth– and desires that he may be placed on the pension Roll for as much of his services as are sufficiently set forth. sworn to and subscribed

before me this 21st day of September 1833

Martin Cloud J.P.



State of Virginia }

County of Patrick }

on this 17th day of April 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid James Boyd a resident of Patrick County aged 71 years the 8th day of may 1834 who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832

that he entered the Service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated

he says he entered the service of the united states he believes in the fall season of the year in 1777 as a private soldier under captain James Gidens of the county of Surry State of North carolina. this applicant states that his father was drafted and was unable to march in consequence of a severe beating he had a short time before received from the tories this applicant states that he volunteered to go in his fathers stead and was accepted of by captain gidens and marched under him from the county of Surry North carolina the time above mentioned in an expedition against Colonel Fanning who commanded a party of tories and british. he was march to Guilford old court House there joined a company command by Capt Parker from there he march to Hillsborough NC where Fanning had done much mischief from Hillsborough they pursued Fanning to the raft swamp he believes in South Carolina where he took shelter he was then march to the Cheraw Hills station there a short time was march back to Hillsborough was there discharged by Capt Gidens from which place he returned home having served in this expedition three months Canonel Martin Armstrong commanded this expedition untill they left Hillsborough for the raft swamps they were then commanded by Canonel Pacely of Guilford County.

the next tour of duty he performed was again instead of his father who was drafted to march against the tories this he thinks was in the year 1778 he marched under captain James Gidens from the county of Surry North carolina to the Shallow ford of the yadkin River from there to Sallisbury where he was joined by other companies Marched from there to the Mulbury fields on the Yadkin River from there to burk Court House from there to Iredill court House thence back to Sallisberry was here station a short time March again to the shallow ford of the Yadkin was there discharged from this tour of duty having served three months this expedition was commanded by Colonel Williams of Surry County. the two discharges above mentioned he says was signed by Capt Gidins and have long since been lost. the next tour of duty this applicant performed he says was he believes in the year 1779 he was then 16 years of age and placed on the Muster roll in Capt Gidens company of Malitia in Surry county aforesaid this was in the spring of the year and in the fall of the same year to the best of his recollection an army of men was order to be stationed at Asberns Mills in Surry county North carolina for the defence of the frontier this army consisted of several hundred persons composed of parts of several companies chiefly under the command of Cols Shephed and Armstrong this declarant states that he volunteered in this engagement and was stationed at this place under capt Gidens at least two months when General Pickens arrive with an army for the defence of the frontier was stationed at or near Obediah Bakers Mills in Surry county North carolina this applicant with several others of Gidens company was given up to Pickins to act as spies or pilates being acquainted with the country he was station here under General Pickens during the time his army remained here which was at least two months he thinks this took place in the winter of 1779, 80 though he does not pretend that he is entirely correct as to dates but states that he is certain of the performance of the service at some period of the war when Pikens army was marched off he again returned to capt Gidens the next tour of duty this applicant performed was under captain underwood against a party of Indians who were discovered lurking about the Lead mines in with county Virginia from which place the white inhabitants fled for reffuge across the mountains in this expedition he marched from Surry county North carolina through the west end of Henry county Virginia across the mountains to the Lead mines on new river where they joined a company commanded by capt Newel [probably James Newell of Montgomery County] they pursued the Indians to a place called the block House he thinks in Washington County Virginia rested a while here and then pursued the indians into the mountains of Clinch river then give up the pursuit and returned back to the lead mines remained at

this place a short time then march back to Surry county having been engaged in this tour two months and 15 days. this applicant states that he served under capt Eliphas Shelton of Henry county Virginia 4 weeks stationed at Mcgowens in Henry county Virginia to guard the frontier in the year . he says he served a second tour of 2 weeks under the same officer in the same year stationed in the same county at headspeaths on the Ararat River. he states that portions of several companies where stationed at the two last mentiond places to wit parts of Sheltons Lyons [Henry Lyons's] Carlans [Daniel Carlan's] and Capt Gidens companies consisting in the whole of upwards of two hundred men. he dose not recollect any higher officers than Captains – they were ordered here in consiquence as he was informed of the murder of Letcher and others by the tories. in the three last expedition he was a volunteer never wanted to be drafted

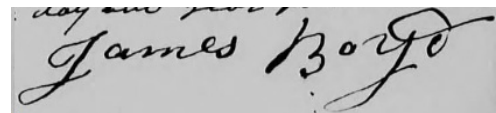
the next tour of duty this applicant claims for was performed in the month of February and March of 1781 when the news of the approach of Lord corn wallis from the south he march under Lieutenant Thomas Carlan to ascertain what direction Corn Wallis was taking it being thought by some that he intended crossing the mountains to take possession of the Lead mines having volunteered marched to Salem North carolina and having ascertain that Cornwallis had changed his course towards Eastern Virginia they returned back and marched under captain gidens who was ordered to march with his company and join the North carolina malitia at Guilford courthouse but did not arrive at the appointed place untill the second day after the battle of Guilford was fought the dead was not all buried. gidens's company was ordered by General Hamilton to returne back to the defence of the frontier. they accordinly marched back again having been engaged in this expedition at least one month and six days. he states that he performed many other short tours of duty after tories claimed in his former declaration which services he now declines claiming for. he says he never got a written discharge but the two mentioned above he also says he may be mistake as to the periods of the war when his services were performed but that he has stated the periods to the best of his recollection. that he was not acquainted with any regular officers his services being entirely with the militia that he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no living witness by wome he can prove his services – he states that he was born in the county of Bucks in the state of Pennsylvania on the 8th day of May 1763 according to his Fathers register of ages now in his possession

that he resided in the county of Surry state of North carolina in time of the revolution and about 48 years ago he move to the county of Henry State of Virginia now the county of Patrick where he has resided ever since and where he now resides

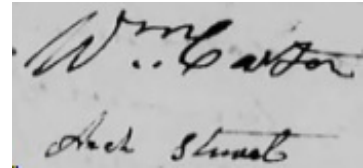
he says that he is known to Mager William Carter & archabald Stuart Esqr [sic: Archibald Stuart] of this county who can certify to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution and as to his carrector for veracity.

he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state of the united states. and further states that by reason of bodily infirmity he is unable to attend the court that he resides near thirty miles from the court House is old and infirm and no horse to ride and if he had a horse he thinks the fatigue would be too great for him to bare. sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year first above written

Martin Cloud JP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Boye". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "James" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Boye".

William Carter and Archabald Stuart residing [in the] county of Patrick and state of Virginia hereby certify that we are well acquainted with James Boyd who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 71 years of age and that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of April 1834

A rectangular inset showing two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is "W. Carter" and the bottom signature is "Arch Stuart".

NOTES:

On 22 April Thomas Ayres swore that 45 years previously he had heard Joseph Boyd say that he was twice drafted, and his son, James Boyd, served both tours for him.

The information provided by James Boyd suggests that Flower Gap was located on the Blue Ridge between Patrick and Carroll counties at the headwaters of Johnson Creek.