

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Gibbs S16825

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Punctuation edited.]

State of Kentucky

Greenup County Sct:

On this 4th day of July 1834 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, James Gibbs, and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed on the 7th June 1832, entitled "an act supplementary to the 'act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution.'" That he was born in the County of Lancaster, Virginia – can not state the time as he has no record of his birth – that when he was large enough, he was bound as and apprentice to a sea captain – and thinks he was about the age of seventeen, when the Revolutionary War first commenced. That a short time thereafter, the precise period he cannot now state, his master gave him up, and he enlisted as a sailor on board the Galley, called the Page then lying in Carter's Creek [Carter Creek], commanded by Capt. James Markham [pension application R72], for three years – that the Galley lay in Carters Creek, a few days after he went on board repairing her rigging – she then went on a cruise and continued cruising in the Chesapeake Bay and the Capes of Virginia – that as well as he now recollects he continued with Capt. Markham on the board the Page galley about a year, from that Vessel Capt. Markham and his crew, or the greater part of them, (among them, himself, were transferred to the Ship Dragon, then lying off or near the mouth of York River – that the Dragon sailed on a cruize in company as well as he now recollects, with ships Tartar and Tempest – and tenders Patriot and Liberty – the whole being under the command of Comodore Richard Taylor [S25873] – that between the Capes of Virginia & Bermuda they gave chase to a British Sloop of War – the name of which he has now forgotten [HMS *Lord Howe*, Oct 1778] – that the Dragon and Tartar being slow sailers, he, with good many other sailors, were transferred from those ships by the Commodore's command, to the Tender called the Patriot, then ahead in the chace. That the Commodore left his ship, the Tartar, & took the command of the Patriot about an hour's sun in the evening we came up with the Enemy and attempted at once to board the ship – that we run afoul of her – our jib boom passing thro one of her quarter galley windows – that whilst lying in this position we attempted to board – our gallant old comodore, at the bow of the Vessel, cheering his men, in the thickest of the fight, was wounded in the thigh which was severely shivered – and finding himself, not supported by the other vessels of the squadron – he gave orders, after he had fallen to Brittain [Sailing Master John Brittain R13], who had the command of the Tender, to 'fall' or 'sheer off' from the enemy. The commodore was very indignant at Capt. Callenders [Eleazer Callender's] conduct – and the next morning, refused positively to see Callender – who then joined us. After this fight, I was returned to the Dragon & the whole fleet put back to York River and we put the commodore ashore at York Town & I assisted in this duty. As well as I recollect, we remained at Yorktown refitting about a fortnight. We sailed on cruise outside of the Virginia Capes, and lay off, on the coast sometimes at the mouth of Delaware – off Staten Island &c – often chasing – oftener chased, by the Enemy. Finally we put into James Rivers and after serving out faithfully the term of my enlistment I was discharged by Capt. James Markham. I served, in consequence of the ship's not getting into port, from ten to fourteen days over the term of my enlistment, for which service I was paid by John Richards then acting as purser of the Dragon.

After I was discharged I entered the merchant service, and in a voyage to France, the ship was wrecked in the Bay of Biscay – the Cargo totally lost & fifteen or sixteen men drowned. I then lost the discharge which Capt Jas. Markham had given me. I have no document or other testimony, nor do I know of a single individual now alive, who can testify to the truth of this statement. After I left the sea I lived about about nine years in the county of Culpeper, Va. I then removed to this state about thirty-six years ago – six of which I resided in Mason County, six or seven on the Ohio River, in Lewis County & the

remainder in the County of Greenup. From the best of information I could obtain I think I am now between 75 and eighty years of age. I solemnly declare that this statement, is to the best of my knowledge, remembrance and belief, correct. I am not on the pension roll of the United States, nor on the pension roll of any of the United States and I hereby relinquish all claim to any such pension, except the pension under the act herein before referred to. James hisXmark Gibbs

NOTES:

The [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) include an 1835 petition for bounty land by James Gibbs, but online images of it and related documents are not legible enough for reliable transcription.

A certificate accompanying Gibbs's declaration states that he was unable to attend court because of "weakness in the back and loins, which prevents his riding on horseback, or taking much exercise of any kind."