

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

Pension Application of John Gills S17976

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Bedford County } SS:

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the county court of Bedford & State of Virginia now sitting John Gills a resident of the parish of Russell, & county & state aforesaid, aged 69 years, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That in the month of February 1781 – the day he does not recollect – he was drafted in to the service of the United States from the County of Amelia & State of Virginia where he then resided. He rendezvoused at Rollin's [or Robin's] church then in said county – & marched from thence under Major Cunningham & Cpt. Robert Hudson, thro' Charlotte & Halifax counties, crossing Dan River at Irvine's Ferry, & thro' part of North Carolina & joined Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene's army not far from Guilford C. H. He does not recollect the name of his Col. but knows it was either Col. Beverly Randolph or Col. Henry Skipwith or Col. [St. George] Tucker. He was attached to the Brigade of Gen'l. Robt. Lawson. He was in the battle of Guilford, which took place on the 15 of March 1781 – our orderly sergeant [Robert Childress, pension application R1929] carried off the ground Capt [Jacob] Moon, who was wounded, & who, he believes, died afterwards. The American Army was defeated, & we were marched to Troublesome Iron works – after marching about in various places, we finally marched to Ramsey's Mills on Deep River [in Chatham County NC], and were discharged verbally he believes by Gen'l. Green, or Gen. Lawson, he thinks the last of April 1781. Capt Hudson died during the tour & he was placed under the command of Capt. Dupuy. Of the regulars, he recollects Gen'l. Greene – Cols. [Henry] Lee & [William] Washington – Col Tucker & Capt. Oglesby of the Militia. He recollects two Regiments of horse commanded by Cols. Washington & Lee. He served this tour at least three months. He refers to the affidavit of Robert Childress. Recollects Capt. Oglesby's Militia company marched from Amelia, & was in the army with him.

Again in May 1781, he was drafted into the service of the United States from the County of Amelia Va. where he then resided under Capt. Lewis Ford & John Phillips, one of his subalterns he believes. He rendezvoused at Amelia Courthouse & marched thro' Cumberland & crossed James River at Cartersville, & thro' Goochland & Louisa & joined Gen'l LaFayette in Orange County, he believes. He was attached to Gen'l Lawson's brigade. From old age & consequent loss of memory, he cannot recollect his Colonel's name. Gen'l. La Fayette marched from Orange into Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] & crossed a river [Rapidan River] at a place called Raccoon Ford [on 6 June 1781]. He was marched thro' the country a considerable length of time. From thence thro' Hanover & other counties to near Williamsburg. He did not go thro' Richmond because it was said at the time that the small pox was there. At this place they remained a short time, when they were discharged by Gens. Lawson, he believes. He does not recollect, except Genls. La Fayette & [Anthony] Wayne. He recollects Col Purnell & Maj. [John] Overstreet of the militia. He does not recollect any regular or militia regiments or companies. He is certain he served this tour three months. He was discharged the last of July 1781. He knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services this tour. He offers the affidavit of Susannah Grey & Mildred McGlasson for what they are worth. He was only sixteen years old when he entered the service & of course cannot remember names, dates & circumstances distinctly.

In answer to interrogatories he states:

1 He was born in Louisa County Va the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1764.

- 2- He has a register of his age in his possession
- 3- He lived in Amelia Co. Va. when he entered the service each time. Since the revolution he has lived in Amelia, Richmond, & Fluvanna – in 1790 he moved to Bedford, where he now lives.
- 4- He was drafted into the service each time
- 5- This interrogatory he has answered in the body of his declaration, to the best of his recollection.
- 6- Answered in his declaration.
- 7- Balda McDaniel & Joseph Slaughter are persons in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity, & their belief of his services as a revolutionary soldier.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity, except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

John Gills