

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gulley S2585

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/2/14

[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 Tennessee Jackson County: November Sessions 1832 of the Court of Pleas [sic] and Quarter Sessions of said County

On this 13th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before William Grey, Tandy K. Witcher and Christopher Clemens Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Jackson County now presiding being a Court of Record John Gulley a resident of Jackson County and State of Tennessee aged ninety-five years who being first duly sworn according to the laws of the land doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832, That he entered the Service of the United States on the 28th day of December 1777 in Orange County State of Virginia where he then resided under Captain Benjamin Johnston as a drafted Soldier. Thomas Borban [sic, Thomas Barbour] was his Major – he marched under them from there to Noland's ferry where there were a great many British Prisoners taken by General Gates [Horatio Gates] & Arnold [Benedict Arnold] at Saratoga [October 7, 1777] he marched from there to Albemarle County Virginia Guarding the prisoners – There some time till another small force came there to guard the said prisoners – he was then discharged and went home – where he arrived on the 15th day of February 1778 he got no written discharge having served one month and a half this Tour. He entered the Service of the United States again as a drafted Soldier on the first of September 1779 – in Culpeper County State of Virginia under Captain Elijah Brantley [perhaps an erroneous attempt to identify Captain Elijah Kirtley] – Colonel James Barbour marched from there to Richmond – which place the British Army had invaded and burnt the public Stores – but had left there before applicant got there – he then marched back to Culpeper County the place of his residence and was discharged having served one month this Tour – but got credit for a three months tour – as he understood from the Governor of Virginia – he got no written discharge. He entered the Service of the United States again as a drafted Soldier on the first day of April 1781 – in Culpeper County State of Virginia under Captain Fisher Rice – Lieutenant Gibbs & Ensign Gordon – James Stanton Commanded the Regiment to which he was attached – he marched from there to a little Town called Suffolk where he joined the main Army commanded by General Mullenburge [Peter Muhlenberg] – he marched with said Army to Petersburg where a battle [April 25, 1781] ensued with the British Army commanded by General Phillips [William Phillips] & Arnold [Benedict Arnold] – which lasted two hours & four minutes – when the Army of the United [states] commanded by General P. Muhlenberg had to Retreat – with a loss of six killed and thirty wounded – he then marched up James River on the South Side to hals [sic, Hall's?] ferry and crossed over to Richmond stayed there two days – the Army was

[indecipherable word]¹ by Leonard Jefferson, General Lafayette & other officers – he marched from there to bottoms bridge stayed there two days – & marched back to Richmond stayed there one day & night he then hired a Substitute by the name of Robert Brown and went home having served two months this Tour – got a discharge signed by Colonel Slauten [?]²—which he lost many years ago. He entered the service of the United States again as a drafted Soldier in the first of September 1781 in Culpeper County State of Virginia under Captain William Watts and Lieutenant Benjamin Cave – ___ Graves was Major and Barbour was his Colonel – he marched from there to Little York where the said Captain Watts Lieutenant Cave & Colonel Barbour were dismissed from the service – he was then commanded by Colonel Edmonds [perhaps Elias Edmonds], Captain Covington & Nathaniel Welch Major [several indecipherable words interlined] under Major Duvall from there to Bantlett [sic, Botetourt?]² County Virginia guarding the prisoners and was discharged at the barracks in that County in the last of November or the first of December 1781 – having served more than two months this tour – he got no written discharge – That he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service or any part thereof nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his Service or any part thereof. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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. And the said applicant further states that by old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear more positively that he has before stated to the length of time he served but to the best of his Recollection he served at least 6 months and a half.

S/ John Gulley, X his mark

Where and in what year were you born

In Orange County State of Virginia in the year 1737

Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it –

I have no Record of my age except it is Recorded in the Church in which I was christened

Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live

I continued to live in Culpeper County Virginia till the year 1794 – I then moved to Pendleton County South Carolina where I lived nine years, I then moved to Barren County Kentucky where I lived about five years, I then moved to Jackson County State of Tennessee where I have lived ever since except two years I lived in Lincoln County Tennessee.

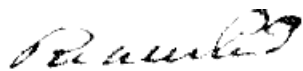
How were you called into service were you drafted were you a volunteer or were you a substitute and if a Substitute for whom

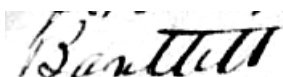
I was drafted as before stated

State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

I refer to the statement made in the foregoing declaration for an answer to this question my Recollection being too much impaired by time and the infirmity of age to state more explicitly

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, If so by whom was it given and what has

¹  reviewed?

² 

become of it

I can make no further answer than is made in my foregoing statement
State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can
testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your Service as a Soldier of the
Revolution

The Reverend Jonas Griffith, Major Plumlee, Captain Benjamin Guess, Captain James
Ruth, Major Clemins, Alexander Keith, Esquire, Major Welch, Captain John Plumlee and a
number of others – he also states that he believes General Jackson [Andrew Jackson] knows that
he is reputed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution – he was sent for and did attend a dinner
given to General Jackson at Carthage Smith County in the 1826, where he was introduced to him
as a Revolutionary Soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Gulley, X his mark

[Jonas Griffith and William Plumlee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for
service as a private for 6 ½ months in the Virginia militia.]