

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

Pension application of William Gillespie (Gillaspi) S32267

f57SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/18/08 rev'd 8/23/15 & 6/14/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 4]

I William Gillespie formerly a citizen of South Carolina in, Abbeville County, but now living in the County of Hardeman, in the State of Tennessee, do hereby declare, that I Entered in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, as Wagoner, in May 1776 for and during the War, and continued in its service two years & eight months, until Legally discharged, at which period I was a Wagoner, in Captain Benjamin Tutt's company of Continental Army, South Carolina Line.

I also declare that I received a certificate of discharge from the Army. And I further declare that I was not on the 15th day of March, 1828 on the Pension List of the United States. I do further I had that I have lost said Certificate of discharge and [indecipherable word] it the proof of my having it is hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed before me September 9 1829.

S/ Wm Gilles Pie



S/ James Bogard, JP

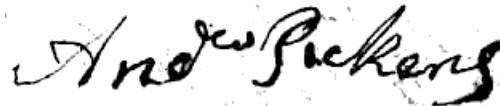
State of Tennessee, Hardeman County

Before me James Bogard an acting Justice of the Peace of Hardeman County in State of Tennessee personally appeared Andrew Pickens of the said County who did make oath that William Gillespie by whom the foregoing declaration was subscribed is generally reputed and believed to have been a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution in manner as therein stated.

Witness my hand this 9th of September in the year 1829.

S/ James Bogard

S/ Andw Pickens¹



Sworn to and subscribed before me

S/ Thornton Jones, JP

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Haywood County September 17th 1829

¹ [Andrew Pickens S3697](#)

Dear Sir I can inform I want you to befriend me and some Business as I Ever Voted for you since you offered that is to make you a power of a Turney [power of attorney] to Collect my pension as a Oald [old] Continental Soldier You will Pie [?] My papers and further after my Waggoning I tuck [took] up my arms and continued during the ware [war] I was with G. Morgan at the Battle of the Cow pens [Cowpens] and several others two [too] tidious [tedious] to mention You will please take all the pains to Get It You can and I will Satisfied you for your Troble [trouble] I want You to Hand It and the first thing that is done and to kno [know] whether any thing can be done or not and write me word By the first oppurtunity [opportunity] direct Your letter to Colonel Post office in Tipton You will please use all industry in Your power as I am a poore old Cripple man not able Hardly to live I am Seventy Years of Age I hope You will Consider on my oald [old] age and infirmities and a Soldier Dear Sir I am Yours with respect &c.

S/ William Gillaspie

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Mr. Crocket [Crockett] You will please to receive this letter and Statements as facts as I am acquainted with Mister Gillespie and I can assirt [assure?] He Stand [stands] in Greate [great] mede [need] of a pension If It will be allowed him he is a Neighbor of mine and I should like for you to do what You can for him as we have surported [supported] You and always Expect to do so If needed I am Yours &c.

S/ Willie Dodd

[Transcriber's note: letters in blue type signed by William Gillespie appear to be in the handwriting of his neighbor, Willie Dodd. I suspect that Mr. Gillespie was illiterate and was relying on his neighbor to carry on correspondence for him.]

[p 23]

State of Tennessee, Haywood County October 18th, 1829

Dear Sir I have the pleasure of writing you a few lines more as I did not Explain my self to you in full Before It will Gave [give] you some more Grounds to go on the they [the] Reason why that I was put as a Waggoner was that I got a fall of [off] a Horse and Broak [broke] my arm that I was not able to Bare [Bear] arms my Father entered me as a Waggoner and I am now very old and infirm and not able to make or Get Surport [support] you will please do all you can and I ever will Be your friend after my discharge as Waggoner I fined [found] my self well Equipped in the same Volunteer Company in the Horse on my Own Expense and Served with Captain R. Carothers a Volunteer during the ware [war] I am Yours with Respt. &c.

S/ William Gillaspie

Mr. David Crocket [David Crockett]

State of Tennessee Haywood County 8th of February 1830

Dear Sir

Your letter dated Washington City 20th of December 1829 together with Instructions from the Treasury Department relative to the business which I have troubled you with I have received and now send you such further information as it is now in my power the first service I performed was in the Continental line in the State of South Carolina except a trip to St Augustine the Term of my service was 2 years and 8 months which service ended at the taking of Charleston and got a legal discharge which is long since lost the Regiment to which I belonged I cannot now with certainty remember but think it was the 6th the last service I performed I entered during the war and continued in it until peace took place but whether the company to which I belonged was ever attached to the Continental line is not now remembered the officers under whom I served I believe I have already stated in some of my other papers the information I now send I consider to be under the obligation of the oath that accompanies my other papers

showed this still be insufficient I have sent on a petition which I wish you to lay before Congress and make use of such other measures as your wisdom may direct any assistance will be thankfully received and laid me under a particular obligation to you.

S/ William Gillespie

N. B. I do not now remember whether I have stated in my Former papers all the officers in command in that part of the country But the [they] were Captain Benjamin Tutt, Major Samuel Taylor and John Bog.

[p 34, is a letter dated March 27, 1830, from David Crockett² (signed by him and possibly in his handwriting) asking "Hon. S. D. Ingham" to look into Gillespie's claim and let him know where the application stands.]

29 March 1830. 1834
House of Representatives March 27, 1830
Hon S. D. Ingham
I enclose you a letter of Mr
William Gillespie relating to a
Claim which I laid before your
Department early in the Session
of Mr Gillespie's services as an
old Revolutionary Soldier will
you examine his letter and inform
me of the Decision
I remain with high
Respects your obt. Servant
David Crockett
Samuel D. Ingham

² CROCKETT, David, (father of John Wesley Crockett), a Representative from Tennessee; born at the confluence of Limestone Creek and Nolichucky River in the State of Franklin, present day Greene County, Tenn., August 17, 1786; attended the common schools; served in Creek campaign, 1813-1814; member of the Tennessee state house of representatives, 1821-1823; unsuccessful candidate for election to the Nineteenth Congress in 1825; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twentieth Congress (March 4, 1827-March 3, 1829); changed from a Jacksonian to an Anti-Jacksonian; elected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-first Congress (March 4, 1829-March 3, 1831); unsuccessful candidate for reelection to the Twenty-second Congress in 1830; elected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1835); unsuccessful candidate for reelection to the Twenty-fourth Congress in 1834; fought at the Battle of the Alamo, San Antonio, Tex., 1836; died about March 6, 1836; remains cremated. Bibliography: Crockett, David. *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee*. Edited by James A. Shackford and Stanley J. Folmsbee. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1973; Shackford, James Atkins. *David Crockett: The Man and The Legend*. Edited by John B. Shackford; Introduction by Michael A. Lofaro. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994.

[p 9]

State of Tennessee, Haywood County: SS

On this 13th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of our Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for the County aforesaid, William Gillespie a resident of said County of Haywood and State of Tennessee aged seventy-three 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated (viz.) That he entered the Militia service of the United States in July 1775 under Captain Robert Anderson to guard the Fort Independence, there continued for nine months -- then released by Captain John Bowie of the Continental Line, then entered a Block house on Savannah River, under Captain Robert Anderson -- at McGowen's ferry -- three months service in the year 1776 -- That his field Officers were Andrew Williamson General, Andrew Pickens Colonel, Alexander Noble Major, all of the District of 96 in South Carolina -- Major Samuel Taylor of the Continental line -- Captain Benjamin Tutt, Captain George Little and Captain John Bowie -- That afterwards about the year 1780 he volunteered under Colonel Pickens and joined the Army of Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and continued in that service until the close of the war, that the Country through which he marched was principally North & South Carolina -- That at the defeat of Tarleton [Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781] he was sick with the smallpox -- and was never engaged in any battle but with the Indians and Tories -- that he was born in the District of Ninety Six in the year 1759 and remained in that State until 1804 when he removed to Livingston County Kentucky, and there remained until 1824 when he removed to Haywood County Tennessee at which place he now resides that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. And this declarant 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.

Questions by the Court

1 Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: in the ~~District of 96~~ County of Rowan and State of North Carolina in the year 1759

2 Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have a record at home in my family Bible

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

Ans: My Answer is included in my declaration viz. living in the District of 96 South Carolina when called into the Service -- lived in that place in Livingston Kentucky since -- and now live in Haywood Tennessee.

4 How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I entered as a militia man -- but did not enlist nor was I drafted -- A volunteer without any definite understanding as to time

[5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans:] Is embodied in the declaration

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: No There was none given to the Militia Sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm. Gilles Pie



[David O. Shattuck, a clergyman and John G. Carithers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 42]

State of Tennessee, Haywood County

On this 11th day of April 1833, personally appeared William Gillespie a resident of said County, before me Mason F. Johnson an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration to amend the one he made on the 13th day of September 1832 (which is herewith annexed) 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 according to his other declaration in July 1775 which service he here wishes further and more fully to explain --

About the first of July 1775, the Cherokee Indians made an attack upon the Frontiers of Georgia and South Carolina on the same day. This declarant (with others) was called upon by draft as a Militia man to guard Fort Independence and defend the frontiers of his native State (South Carolina). Robert Anderson commanded the company to which he belonged and in which company this declarant continued nine months then released as stated in his declaration in chief. In May 1776 by the command of Captain Robert Anderson this declarant was sent to guard a block house on Savannah River at McGowan's ferry where he continued three months then relieved by another guard, and this declarant was then sent to guard Crawford's mill on Rocky River -- where he served three months more, He was then released, The service above mentioned, was all performed in the District then called Ninety Six , (now Abbeville) South Carolina under the Officers stated in his principle declaration -- In all amounted to fifteen months service. In May 1777 this declarant commenced driving a wagon for the public service and continued in the Employment until first of June 1780 when he was discharged by James Ponder [?] Wagon Master. This service he does not relate, for the purpose of increasing his pension but merely to show that he was not idle and at ease while his country was suffering.

In November 1780 this declarant joined Colonel Andrew Pickens who with one or two hundred other volunteers marched and joined themselves to Morgan's Army then lying on Pacolet River -- near a place called Grindal Shoals at which place -- in 4 days before the battle of the Cowpens this declarant was taken with the smallpox -- and removed from the Camp. In May 1781 this declarant had so recovered as to return to his duty which he did by placing himself again under the immediate direction of Colonel Pickens, in marching with his men to Augusta Georgia, which was then possessed by the British under Colonel Brown (their Officer) [Thomas "Burnt Foot" Brown] and besieged [?] by Americans in which the British were taken prisoners and sent to Savannah without a battle. From thence this declarant returned to the Siege of Ninety Six -- from which place they were drove -- (the British out numbering) down upon the River Congaree. The British soon after evacuated Ninety Six Colonel Pickens returned, and took possession and took a few prisoners that had broke off from the Main body. The men under Colonel Pickens were sent home to be ready again whenever called upon. This was October 1781. This declarant was afterwards called out (about May 1782) to repel an attack made by Indians & Tories -- by which the provision wagons were burnt and several made prisoners among whom was the brother of Colonel Pickens, the Tories & Indians were followed into the Cherokee Nation to what is called the Middle grounds, This declarant afterwards about August 1782 commenced & served three months under Captain Robert Carithers as a Dragoon in scouring the

Country in defending the frontiers. This service closed November 1782 -- and with this closed the service of this declarant, Except some few scouting parties which he joined --

And this declarant further states, that from his age and debility he cannot precisely recollect the amount of time he served as a soldier of the Revolution but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades (viz.) As a private

Under Captain Anderson 1 st Tour	9 months
“ “ “ 2 nd Tour	6 do
“ Col. Pickens, different Tours	11 do
Under Capt Carithers by Pickens Order	3 do

making in all two years, and five months regular service besides, a wagoning, skirmishing &c And this declarant is amending his principle declaration in reference to the 7th question prescribed by the War department, would state that in his present neighborhood he is known by John Wilson Esquire, Willie Dodd Esquire, Captain Newman Parker, John Moore, William Reid (and many others if required) who are willing to state as to this declarant's veracity and their belief as to his service in the War of the Revolution -- and that this 7th question was propounded by the Court who have certified to his other declaration, and answered as above -- but that it was neglected to be inserted in the declaration.

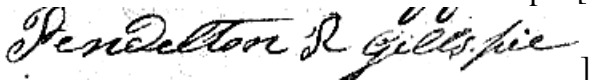
S/ Wm Gilles Pie



Sworn to and Subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid
S/ M. F. Johnson, JP

[p 13: On April 29, 1843, William Gillespie filed in Macoupin County Illinois for a transfer of his pension benefit payments to that location since he had recently moved there from Mississippi to live with his son Matthew Gillespie.]

[p 14: On April 29, 1843 in Macoupin County Illinois, Pendleton R Gillespie gave a supporting affidavit as to the identity of William Gillespie. The deponent's relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated. S/ Pendleton R. Gillspie [sic]



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$82.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 3 months in the Cavalry and for 21 months in the Infantry, all in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts³ relating to William Gillespie (Gillaspie)
Audited Account No. 2845

pp9

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/14/21

³ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

[p 2]

No. 28

[Book] O [No.] 445

21 April 85 [1785]

Mr. William Gillespie his Account of 182 Days Militia Duty as Private on Horse in 1781 and 1782 and for 183 Days Hire of a Waggon and Team in the Militia in 1779 and 1780

Amounting to Viz.

182 Days at 20/ [20 shillings old SC Currency per day]	£182
183 Days at £4	<u>732</u>
	Currency <u>£914</u>
	Stg. [Sterling] £130.11/5

Ex^d. W.R. [Examined by W. R. [identity unknown]]

J. M^c. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

Received the 21st of April 1785 full satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 445 Book O
S/ Wm Gillaspie



[p 3]

State South Carolina Dr. [Debtor] to William Gillespie
for 182 Days Militia Duty as Private Horseman
per Captain Carrithers [Robert Caruthers'] Pay Bill commencing in April 1781
and ending in October 1782 at 20/
183 days Duty Wagon Service at £4

	<u>£182</u>
	<u>£732</u>
	Currency <u>£914</u>
	Stg. £130.11.5

[p 4]

No. 46

[No.] 500

[Book] S

Mr. William Gillaspie his account of Militia duty as private before the reduction of Charlestown
[Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] amounting to

Currency	<u>£100.0.0</u>
Stg.	£14.5.8 ½

Ex^d. T. W. [Examined by T. W. [identity unknown]]

J. M^c. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 5]

State of South Carolina	To William Gillaspie	Dr.
Duty per Col. Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] return [not extant]	Currency	<u>£100.0.0</u>
	Stg.	£14.5.8 ½

Received June 18th 1785 the full Amount of the above Account in a Treasury Indent No. 500
Book S for William Gillespie

S/ Matthew Gillaspie

Matthew Gillaspie

[p 6]

I do hereby authorize and empower Matthew Gillaspie to draw and receive for my use the interest of my Indents and principal Being do Me for service or otherwise to the public of this State agreeable to the return made by Colonel Robert Anderson into the auditor's office Given under my hand this 12th day of August 1785

S/ William Gillaspie

Wm Gillaspie

[p 7: Printed form of Indent No. Book S]

[p 9: Reverse of the above Indent with 3 endorsements each signed by Matthew Gillaspie as follows:

Matthew Gillaspie