

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Nathaniel Bilbry (Bilbory) S6645

fn17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/29/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber— besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[NOTE: the pages of this file have been badly scrambled in the digital images thereof as posted on Footnote.com. I have tried to unscramble them as best I could but do not assume that I was totally successful.]

State of North Carolina, Edgecombe County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August 27th, 1832

On this day personally appeared before the worshipful The justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Nathaniel Bilbry a resident of the County of Edgecombe State of North Carolina, aged 74 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 with Christopher Lackey 2nd Lieutenant and served in the third Regiment of the North Carolina line under the following officers: J. Sumner [Jethro Sumner] Colonel, William Austin, Lieut. Colonel, __ Lockhart, Major, William Brinkley, Captain, Isaac Purvat, 1st Lieutenant, Christopher Lackey, 2nd Lieutenant. He left the Army in October 1778. He was discharged near West Point N. Y. and the discharge was signed by Captain Williams and countersigned by Colonel Patten [John Patten] at the Valley Forge he was transferred to the second Regiment commanded by Colonel Patton and attached to the Company of Captain Benjamin Williams at the time of his enlistment he resided in the County of Edgecombe and State of North Carolina after leaving Edgecombe he was first ordered to Wilmington N. C. from thence to Charleston, after having remained for some time in Charleston under the command of General Lee [Charles Lee] he went to Savannah Georgia he was detained some months in Georgia, and sometime in the early part of the next year (1777) he returned to North Carolina. At Fayetteville he received a furlough for a few weeks, and February in compliance with his orders he returned to the service at Halifax. The former Captain Brinkley in the mean time, died or resigned and the company was put under the command of Captain James Bradley. From Halifax he went to Petersburg Virginia thence through Richmond & Fredericksburg to Georgetown, where he remained six or eight weeks, leaving Georgetown he passed through Maryland on to Wilmington in Delaware; from Wilmington he went to Philadelphia thence to Trenton where he encamped for some weeks and passing through Philadelphia again, went to Mud Island Fort. He was alternately in Delaware and Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The movements of the Army being irregular until the battle of Brandywine. He was present at that engagement. At Brandywine he accompanied the Army and at Germantown in the engagement, after this Battle the movements were irregular until he went into winter quarters at the Valley Forge during this period he was attached to the life guard of General Washington. In the spring of 1778, the Army again commenced hostile operations and following the movements of the enemy he was in the Battle of Monmouth. After the breaking up of winter quarters the service to which he was assigned was such as

is usually done by light infantry. After the battle at Monmouth he went into New York and remained in the neighborhood of the White Plains some time and after having been moved to the Orchard near West Point he was discharged.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to whatever pension or annuity except the present he may have been entitled to and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S/ Nathaniel Bilbory

The above statement is correct to the best of my knowledge & recollection.

Sworn to and subscribed.

S/ Micajah Pettaway¹

[fn p. 10: Joshua Lawrence, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit, dated August 27, 1832.]

[fn p. 12]

The above statement I believe to be true

Micajah Pettaway of the County of Edgecombe State of North Carolina do hereby certify that I served in the Army of the United States near 2 years & a half – that during this time I was pretty generally employed with Nathaniel Bilbry and believe the facts set forth in this declaration to be substantially correct.

S/ Micajah Pettaway

Sworn to & subscribed

[NOTE: the following appears on the same piece of paper as Pettaway's affidavit above.]

State of North Carolina Edgecombe County: August Term Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions²

On this 27th day of August personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Nathaniel Bilbry – aged 74 a resident of the County of Edgecombe – State of North Carolina who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7, 1832.

That he entered the military service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein stated.

He entered as a substitute for __ Weaver in the month of December 1782 [last digit written over and unclear but the facts recited suggest the intended date was "1780"] and was attached to a company commanded by Captain Fredk Bell [sic, Frederick Bell] – the company was placed in charge of Colonel John Shepard who was aided in command of his Regiment by __ Sowell Lieutenant Colonel. The troops had been in embodied and proceeded southwardly and he overtook them at Lenoo's ferry [sic, Leneud's Ferry] on Santee [River] South Carolina and accompanied them to Charleston, [where he remained until his 3 months service expired.

[fn p. 11]

These facts he proves by the testimony of Gilead Thigpen

At the suggestion of Colonel Lytle he volunteered for the Siege and through his interference he received a lieutenant's commission from Governor Rutledge and remained in Charleston until the Siege was abandoned and in a few days after the capitulation he received a parole & returned home. These facts he also proves by Gilead Thigpen –

In the following autumn (1781) the legislature of North Carolina having authorized the organization of State Troops he volunteered and the company to which he belonged was commanded

1 [Micajah Pettaway \(Petway, Pettway\) S3668](#) NOTE: Pettaway's application is almost word for word identical to Bilbry's application.

² I could not find the year in which this declaration was made—I believe that the veteran must have filed on the same day (to wit, August 27, 1832) two separate applications, one for his service in the Continental Line of NC and the other for his militia service in SC and NC.

by Captain Swan Trouton & the Regiment was commanded by Major Bennett Crafton. The Regiment was organized in Granville County and he was appointed Sergeant Major, the duties of which office he performed for about three months. He remained through the winter at Durham Hall's and during the winter a new organization being made he was appointed Adjutant which office he held until the Regiment reached Hillsboro. He remained at Hillsboro during the session of the legislature protecting that body and making occasional excursions against the Tories. In the meantime he received a lieutenants commission from Governor Martin. After the legislature adjourned he was left to guard the Jail and magazine at Hillsboro by order of the Governor the Regiment having marched to the South. He was thus employed for three months. He was then dispatched to Chatham County by the commander of the Regiment to search for Tories and having performed the duty they assigned him he went to the camp at Deep River and remaining at that place 8 or 10 days returned to Hillsboro – and was discharged –

These facts he also proves by the oath of Gilead Thigpen. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on any pension [roll] of any state agency of any State

S/ Nathaniel Bilbory

S/ Gilead Thigpen, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed

[fn p. 6]

State of North Carolina Edgecombe County: April 20th 1833

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County – Nathaniel Bilbrey, who being duly sworn deposed and saith – that for the proof of his service as detailed in the first section of his declaration here with returned, besides the positive evidence of Micajah Pettaway he refers to the certificate from the Department of State at Raleigh NC which Certificate was forwarded to the Commissioner of Pensions a short time since – this period embraced 2 years and a half as will be seen by reference to said Certificate.

In regard to the service rendered by him in virtue of his Commission from Governor Rutledge of South Carolina as Lieutenant deponent saith that he has no other proof than such as has been rendered by Gilead Thigpen.³ The circumstances attending his appointment having transpired in another State present so many difficulties to deponent in obtaining other evidence that he prefers waving his claim under this head of the declaration made by him to encountering these difficulties.

The same difficulties present themselves in regard to the service under Commission from Governor Martin. The fact of its having transpired in North Carolina may seemingly diminish them: but the great distance of time with the peculiar character of the service in his mind render any application at the offices at Raleigh for other evidence than that eluded in a foregoing part of this statement hopeless. – In conclusion deponent will merely repeat that he served in addition to the 2 years and 1/2 which he proves by the oath of Micajah Petway and by the certificate from the State Department at Raleigh NC one tour of three months in Captain Bell's company Colonel Shepard's Regiment – under the commission from the Governor of South Carolina as Lieutenant he served two months. Subsequently, in ('81) he entered the service again as a volunteer in Captain Trouton's Company and served three months as Sergeant Major – three months as Adjutant – And six months under Commission of Governor Martin as Lieutenant. These facts he has proven by the oath of Gilead Thigpen to which he refers.

Sworn to before me

S/ Charles G Hunter, JP

S/ Nathaniel Bilbory

³ [Gilead \(Gilliad\) Thigpen R10492A](#)

I, Gilead Thigpen of the County of Edgecombe do hereby certify that I was in the service of the United States [with] Nathaniel Bilbry and believe the facts herein stated to be correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn to & subscribed

S/ Gilead Thigpen, X his mark

[fn p. 17]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that Nathaniel Bilberry a private Soldier in Captain Granberry's Company of the 3rd Regiment enlisted on the 20th April 1776 for 2 1/2 years, and was discharged in October 1778.

Given under my hand (I have no seal of office) this 5th April 1833

S/ Wm Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 2 years service as a private.]