

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Gilreath S6888

f27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/23/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes: SS

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now Sitting, William Gilreath a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina aged Seventy-nine 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1753 in the County of Bute (now Warren) in the State of North Carolina, the record of which he has in his family Bible – that he continued to reside in the said County until he was twenty-six years of age, when he removed to the County of Wilkes in the said State, where he has resided ever since – That in the month of October 1779 in the said County of Wilkes, he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in a company partly composed of volunteers and partly of drafted men which was commanded by Captain John Robbins, and of which company this deponent was himself a Lieutenant – that about the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1779 the company set out upon their march to join the Army (the said Captain Robbins refusing or failing to march as required, the command of the Company devolved upon this deponent) that they pursued their march direct to Purrysburg on the North side of the Savannah River, in the State of South Carolina, where they joined the troops from North Carolina under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], who was stationed at that place in connection with General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] of the Continental Army who had at that place a detachment of the regular Army under his command – Upon arriving at Head Quarters, to wit: Purrysburg aforesaid, the company under charge of this deponent being without a Captain, General Rutherford conferred that appointment upon this deponent, and duly commissioned him as such (but which commission he has either lost or mislaid) which appointment he held until the expiration of his term of service – that after remaining some time at Purrysburg, the Army under Generals Lincoln & Rutherford moved to Black Swamp, some distance above Purrysburg on the same side of the River where they were stationed until the term of service of this deponent expired, when he and his company were discharged and returned home which place this deponent reached about the last of April 1780 having served for six months. During the stay of this deponent at Purrysburg & Black Swamp, he was frequently detailed as a commander of sundry scouting parties which were ordered out for the purpose of reconnoitering the British Army which was stationed the principal part of the time on the opposite side of the River and were under the command of Colonel Prevost [Augustine Prevost] – During their stay at that

place also General Ashe [John Ashe] who had command of a portion of the North Carolina militia detached about 1500 men and crossed the River at Augusta and came down on the opposite side as far as Briar Creek where he was attacked by Colonel Prevost and totally defeated with considerable loss, both killed and wounded [Battle of Briar Creek, marched 3, 1779]. –

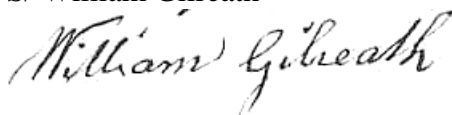
Not long after this deponent arrived at home he was again called upon to go against the Tories, who at that time were very troublesome in the Western part of North Carolina – in this expedition he acted as a Captain, and was principally engaged in scouring the settlements where suspected persons were supposed to reside – He also served another short-term as a Lieutenant under Captain William Lanier – (now General Lanier) against the Tories in which they were principally employed as above mentioned – He also volunteered his services as a private for a three months tour under Captain Jesse Walton and set out upon their march for Newbern [New Bern] in North Carolina and had advanced as far as Salem in North Carolina a distance of about 60 miles, where they were stationed a short time, and where they received information that their services would not be wanting – Upon which they returned, and after scouring the mountains for some time after the Tories, proceeded for whom. In these 3 expeditions, this deponent believes he served as much as 3 months – though the precise length of each tour is not particularly recollected.

This deponent believes he never received any discharges from the service, and as before mentioned his commission which was the only documentary evidence he had of his service has been lost or mislaid, although he well recollects to have seen it within a few years past. He refers however to Alexander Gilreath Esquire and Mister Elijah Vikes for proof of a portion of his services, whose depositions are hereto annexed. He has continued to live in the County of Wilkes North Carolina ever since the revolutionary War, and resides there at this time. – He 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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid\*

S/ R. Martin, C. W. C. C.

S/ William Gilreath



\* He knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure to prove the remainder of his services, but refers to Colonel W. P. Waugh & Captain Benjamin Parker as persons to whom he is well known, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a juror of the revolution.

This declarant further states by way of amendment to the foregoing declaration, that the reason he did not procure the evidence of a clergyman is, that there is none residing in his neighborhood, nor any of his acquaintance within a convenient distance that he could procure – Sworn to & subscribed the day & year last above mentioned before me

S/ Benj. F. Martin, JP

S/ William Gilreath

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

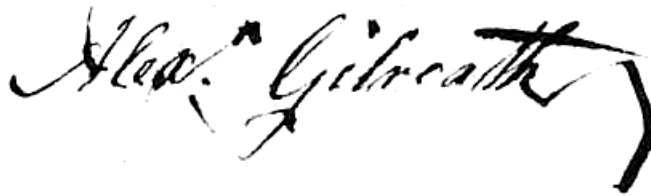
On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of Wilkes County now sitting, Alexander Gilreath<sup>1</sup> Esquire who being

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<sup>1</sup> [Alexander Gilreath S8564](#)

first duly sworn according to law depose and saith that he is well acquainted with William Gilreath who has subscribed & sworn to the forgoing declaration – and further that he was well acquainted with Captain John Robbins who is mentioned in the said declaration, and that at the time the company commanded by the said Captain Robbins was ordered to march to Purrysburg in South Carolina, he (Captain Robbins) refused or failed to go, and that the command of the Company devolved upon the said William Gilreath, who was the first Lieutenant thereof, and who marched with the company as set forth in said declaration; and after being absent about six months, the said William Gilreath with several others who had marched with him returned home, from all of whom he was informed that, upon the arrival of their Company at Purrysburg, in South Carolina, General Rutherford appointed the said William Gilreath Captain of the Company, and duly commissioned him as such; & further that he has borne the title of Captain ever since.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
S/ R. Martin, C. W. C.C. S/ Alexr. Gilreath

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexr. Gilreath". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Alexr. Gilreath".

On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared in Open Court before the Court aforesaid, Elijah Vicks<sup>2</sup> who being first duly sworn according to law, depose and saith that he entered the service of the United States under Captain Micajah Lewis a regular officer for the term of nine months, and marched about the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1779 from Wilkes court house North Carolina Purrysburg in South Carolina – that at the time they set out, of call had been made from the militia of Wilkes County and a company raised partly by draft and partly by volunteers, which Company was placed under the command of Captain John Robbins and Lieutenant William Gilreath – that at the time the company marched, Captain Robbins refused or failed to go, when the command devolved upon the said Lieutenant William Gilreath, who assumed it and took charge of the company and marched to Purrysburg in South Carolina, where General Rutherford who had the command of the North Carolina troops place conferred the appointment of Captain upon the said William Gilreath; which appointment he held until his term of service (for six months) expired – & further that the six months tour set forth and specified in the foregoing declaration of the said William Gilreath performed by him – in the capacity of Captain as aforesaid.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid  
S/ R. Martin, CW CC S/ Elijah Vicks, X his mark

[William P Waugh and Benjamin Parker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

Personally came before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Captain William Gilreath, who, being first duly sworn, depose & saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length

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<sup>2</sup> [Elijah Vicks \(Vicks, Vickers\) W4368](#)

of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For six months, I served as a Captain – for three months I served as a Private: & for such service I claim a pension.#

Sworn to & subscribed this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833

S/ William Gilreath

S/ Benjamin F Martin, JP

# During this three months, service, this declarant performed two tours, one as Captain & the other as Lieutenant but not being regularly commissioned as such, he relinquishes any claim to additional pay on that account.

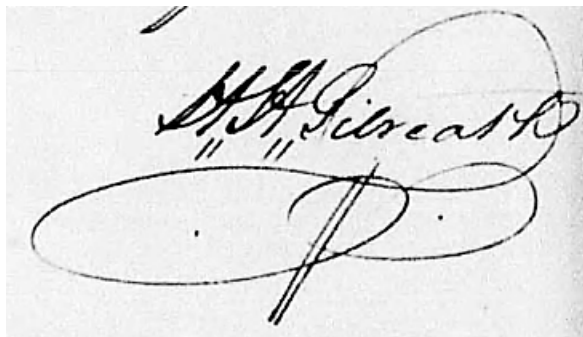
State of North Carolina Wilkes County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Hilliar H. Gilreath, who after being duly sworn according to law, deposed & saith that, he is the son of Captain William Gilreath of said County who has lately made an application for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – that he has lived with his father for the last twenty years, and during that period has had frequent and unrestrained access to the papers of every description in the possession of his father – And that during the period aforesaid he well recollects to have often seen among said papers a commission signed by General Griffith Rutherford of North Carolina, conferring the appointment of Captain for six months, or during a six months tour of duty, upon his father the aforesaid William Gilreath – that he well recollects remarking to his father at one particular time, after having seen the said Commission frequently among his papers that he might as well throw it away, as it was then worthless, and that there was no probability that it ever would be of any value – that he has no recollection what has become of said Commission, but is confident that it has been destroyed or mislaid as he has searched diligently among the papers of his father aforesaid, and has been unable to find it.

Sworn to & arrived before me this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1833

S/ Edm. Jones, JP

S/ H. H. Gilreath

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. H. Gilreath". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Gilreath".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$130 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for three months & Captain for six months in the North Carolina militia.]