

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Gilreath S8564

Transcribed by Will Graves

f22NC

rev'd 4/5/11 & 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas & Order Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina now sitting, Alexander Gilreath, Esq., a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina aged Seventy six years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he was born on the 15th day of November 1755 in the County of Bute (now Warren) in the State of North Carolina (the record of which he has entered in a prayer book now in his possession) where he continued to reside until the year 1776 when he removed to Wilkes County N. C. where he now lives. In the latter part of the year 1779 a call was made for a company of militia from the County of Wilkes; and a company was immediately raised partly by draft and partly by volunteer (of which last description this deponent was one) and placed under the command of Captain Richard Allen (now Col. Allen) and as soon thereafter as the company was organized and the necessary preparations made, they set out upon their march in the early part of January 1780 for Charleston South Carolina, where they were attached to the Regiment of Col. Hampton, which was attached to the Brigade commanded by General Lillinger [sic, John Alexander Lillington?], a Militia General – the whole however being under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] one of the regular officers. After arriving at Charleston they were stationed some time in the vicinity, at a place called the Smokey Camps, where they remained until orders were received for them to march into the City – where they were stationed in houses in various parts of the City as the weather was intensely cold. The Regiment to which this deponent belonged continued in Charleston until their tour of service expired which was on the 24th day of March 1780 when they received their discharges and returned home – which place they reached some time in April, having served for three months. In this tour, this deponent served as orderly Sergeant of the Company to which he belonged.

About the first of July following a Captain Luke Lea raised a company of Tories in the County of Wilkes for the purpose of cooperating with a body of Tories which we were said to be collecting at Ramsour's Mills-- upon hearing this information Col. Benjamin Cleveland issued orders for all the Whig militia of the County to rendezvous at the Court House to pursue Lea. This deponent again volunteered himself and joined Colonel Cleveland at the Court House on the 4th day of July, and marched immediately in pursuit of Captain Lea who had taken the direction to Ramsour's Mills – when Colonel Cleveland and his troops had arrived within about 15 miles of Ramsour's Mill one Captain Gist with some others was detailed by Colonel Cleveland to go forward as spies and reconnoiter the enemy's Camp – they immediately set out and rode all night having reconnoitered the position of the enemy & returned with the intelligence about day light – upon receiving this information, Colonel Cleveland and his troops forthwith marched with all possible speed for Ramsour's Mills, but did not arrive until after the action at that place had been fought – after arriving at that place they assisted in guarding and

taking care of the prisoners which had been taken, for a day or two, and until an express arrived informing Colonel Cleveland that Col. Bryan (a Tory Colonel) was raising a body of Tories in the Counties of Wilkes & Iredell, and was making their way down the Yadkin [River] – upon hearing this information Col. Cleveland with his troops immediately set out in pursuit, and followed Col. Bryan as far as the Trading Ford of the Yadkin River, but finding that Bryan was too far ahead, & his troops not prepared for a long tour, he concluded to return, and after arriving near home he disbanded his troops and each one returned to his respective home having been gone in this expedition between three & four weeks.

About the last of August or first of September following this deponent again volunteered himself and rendezvoused at Wilkes C. H. under Colonel Cleveland to go against the Tories and Major Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] who was said to be advancing from South Carolina – after being stationed at Wilkes C. H. for about two weeks organizing the troops and preparing for their march, they set out for the purpose of meeting Major Ferguson – when they had advanced as far as Krider's [sic, Crider's] fort in Burke County, this deponent was taken sick and was there left – as soon as he was able to march he returned home and there remained until Colonel Cleveland & Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] returned with the prisoners which they had taken at King's Mountain, as far as Wilkes C. H. where this deponent rejoined them and marched with them down to the old Moravian Town in the County of Stokes, where they were stationed about four weeks guarding the prisoners until they were released, when he returned home. In this expedition this deponent believes he served about two months.

In the month of February 1781 when Lord Cornwallis was marching through North Carolina this deponent again volunteered himself and rendezvoused at Wilkes court house where he joined a company commanded by Captain Richard Allen and marched through Iredell near to Salisbury, where they received information that, Lord Cornwallis was at that time in Salisbury – upon hearing this fact they changed their route and proceeded towards Salem in order to join General Greene [Nathanael Greene]; who was supposed to be between that place and Dan River. When they had proceeded some distance beyond Salem, orders were received from General Greene for them to return and endeavor to meet General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] so as to conduct him through the country in order to form a Junction with General Greene. They did return, and met with General Pickens in the County of Surry, whom they conducted to Salem where they joined Colonel Locke's [Francis Locke's] Regiment – upon leaving Salem, Colonel Locke & General Pickens divided the troops, the latter taking the road to Hillsboro and the former taking a route higher of the Country. This deponent was under command of Colonel Locke, and when they had proceeded as far as the County of Rockingham, they received information from General Pickens, that a considerable number of Tories had embodied themselves under a Colonel Pyles [sic, John Pyle], and requesting Colonel Locke to repair with his troops to meet him at Trollinger's Ford on the Haw River, in order to attack Colonel Pyle. Colonel Locke with his troops immediately changed their route for Trollinger's Ford, but before they reached it, General Pickens had engaged with the Tories and defeated them – as soon as they heard this, they turned about and marched for General Greene's Army (which they joined near the High Rock – after remaining with General Greene's Army for a few days, the Regiment under Colonel Locke was discharged and returned home. In this tour this deponent served from a month to five weeks.

This deponent performed several other short tours against the Tories, in fact from the first of June to the last of November 1780, he was almost constantly in service against the Tories, scouring the country from place to place, and assisting in disarming suspected persons and bringing them to trial – but the particular periods of each term of service it is impossible for him to remember – nor in fact was he under the command of regular officers, but was governed, as most of the Whigs were, by the necessity for their services, and the circumstances by which they were surrounded.

This deponent has no documentary evidence by which to prove his services but refers to the affidavits of Colonel Richard Allen and Mr. Elijah Vicks who were with him, and which are hereto

annexed for proof of them. He has no discharges, nor has he any recollection of ever receiving any. He has resided in the County of Wilkes ever since the revolutionary war, and resides there at this time.

He hereby are 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 afore said.

S/ Alex^r Gilreath

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



This deponent further states that since the foregoing declaration was prepared (which was some days before the sitting of Court) he has heard of the death of Col. Richard Allen, and is consequently thereby deprived of the benefit of his testimony – he therefore further states that he knows of no person living whose testimony he could procure, who can testify to that portion of his service which he expected to prove by the said Colonel Richard Allen – but refers to Major John Finley & Samuel F. Patterson as persons to whom he is well acquainted, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

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

S/ Alexr. Gilreath

On this day and year aforesaid, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court aforesaid, Elijah Vikes,¹ who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he served with Alexander Gilreath Esquire the above applicant during three of the tours of duty mentioned in the foregoing declaration To wit: the tour under Colonel Cleveland to Ramsour's Mills, and thence down to the trading Ford on the Yadkin [River], after a body of Tories commanded by Colonel Bryan – the tour performed by the said Alexander Gilreath part of Kings Mountain under Colonel Cleveland (he being left on the way sick) and thence down to the Moravian Towns guarding the prisoners &c and the tour under Captain Allen towards Salisbury, and thence to where they joined General Pickens, and thence to Salem, where they joined Colonel Locke – and from thence to the High Rock Ford on Haw River where they joined General Greene – and further, that the said three several tours of duty as set forth & specified in the foregoing declaration, as having been performed by the said Alexander Gilreath, were performed by him.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

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

S/ Elijah Vikes, X his mark

[John Finley & Samuel F Patterson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Alexander Gilreath Esquire, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length 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 three months I served as a Sergeant – For six months and 7 days I served as a private; and for such service I claim a pension –

This deponent further saith by way of amendment to the foregoing declaration and to obviate the objections of the War Department thereto, that the reason he did not procure the certificate of a

¹ [Elijah Vikes \(Vicks, Vickers\) W4368](#)

clergyman, is, that there is none residing in his neighborhood, nor any within a reasonable distance that he could procure.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 25th day of May 1833.

S/ Joel Vannoy, JP

S/ Alexr. Gilreath

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35.77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months and 7 days service as a private and Sergeant in the North Carolina militia.]