

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Obadiah Griffin S8614

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 June 2014.

State of Virginia, } S.S.

Henrico County }

On this third day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court, before John S. Ellis Samuel Pleasants Jesse Snead & John L Bowles justices of the court of Henrico County, now sitting, Obadiah Griffin, a resident of said county, and state aforesaid, aged seventy eight years and upwards, who being first 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 passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, either in the year 1775 or 1776, in the Militia, being a volunteer he cannot say which year 1775 or 1776 nor can he name the month, much less the day, he was about the first that went into the service from his neighborhood in the said County of Henrico where he then lived & where he has ever since resided; under Captn Thos. Prosser [Thomas Prosser] he thinks he first served, he recollects the following officers during his frequent services afterward being drafted as a militia man, Captns. Brooks, Prosser, Wm. Mosby [William Mosby], Wm Price [William Price], Leiut Wm. Duval [William Duval], Cols. Selden, Southall, Pleasants and Innis [sic: James Innes], under the command of the most or all of them, he served at different times, & others whose names has escaped him, and he continued to serve from time to time, until the close of the war, making altogether much more than two whole years service, he thinks he was not at home one third of the time, from his entering the army to the end of the war, in the latter part of his time, he acted for 3 months as a Sergeant & had the command of a guard at the Magazine at Westham above Richmond, he cannot state the different times he was called into & discharged from the service, he was in several skirmishes, and in one which deserved the name of a battle on James River at Coxe's below Richmond, under the command of Col. Southall & others, where the enemy took several vessels where we to prevent it being taking blew up a magazine vessel, in which rencontre he received a severe injury on his head and has been deaf ever since in consequence of it; He marched principally in the lower part of Virginia, from above Richmond to Williamsburg, York, Hampton, about the sea shore, up and down James River. He was aa the Seige of York, & left there two days before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis 19 Oct 1781], he thinks under a furlough, he was sick, and shortly after was again in service at the magazine above mentioned & elsewhere. He served one whole tour of duty in Gloucester & its vicinity and was in Richmond when the enemy burnt warehouses &c. he never had a discharge in writing. they were all by the word of mouth.

He submits the accompanying affidavits in support of his statements.

He declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Obadiah hisXmark Griffin

[Mosby Pulliam (pension application S5957) certified that he frequently served with Griffin.]

Henrico County, Sct.

On this 3^d day of June 1833, personally appeared before John Sheppard, Lyd'l. Bowles, Richard Adams & Jno. L. Bowles justices of the court of Henrico County, now sitting, Obadiah Griffin, of said County, and made the following amended declaration on oath, being first duly sworn in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Henrico County, & has always resided in that county. He has no record of his age – he further states that there is no minister of the Gospel, now living known to him, who can testify as to his revolutionary services, or who knows any thing at all, about them either from hearsay or otherwise – that there had been some years since in the neighborhood where he was raised a minister who could have certified facts in relation to his services, but he is now dead. that during his various tours of duty he was for short periods in company with continental soldiers, but that he knew very few if any of

them, and cannot now state with certainty any continental officer who he may have seen, or then merely knew by sight. he must have seen & at least known by sight at the seige of York many. Messrs Mosby Pulliam, Jno. Mosby and Benjamin Sheppard, residents of said County, have testified already as to his services & the belief of the neighborhood in relation to them.

Since his original declaration was made he has found a furlough amongst his old papers, dated Jan'y. 25th 1781, signed Geo Lee Turberville [George Lee Turberville] major for Colo. [William] Nicholas under whom he then served & a recommendation preceeding the furlough for it, signed J M Galt Surgeon – which paper accompanies this amended declaration. After his said declaration was prepared & sworn to in Court, he was enabled to procure the affidavit of Wm Grinstead [William Grinstead, pension application S15867] of Goochland, whom he had not then for a long time seen and had supposed was dead – which affidavit made before Joseph Tate Esq'r. Mayor of the City of Richmond, was before the department with his original declaration, but not mentioned in it; the certificate of the clerk of the Court of Hustings under seal has been subsequently appended to it, and the said certificate is again sent accompanying this amended declaration. He has no other evidence documentary or otherwise, known to him, in relation to his services than that which accompanies this his said amended Declaration.

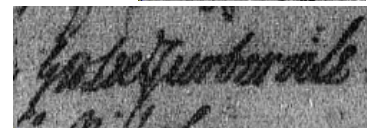
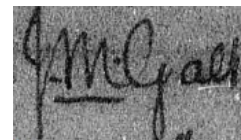
And the said Obadiah Griffin, deposeth and saith, that by reason of the length of time, of his old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For two months under Capt. Prosser & Lieut. Duval as a volunteer, For three months under Capt. Agee whose name is not in his orig'l declaration. For three months under Capt. Wm Burton [William Burton] of lower end of Henrico, name not in declaration. For six months under Capt. Prosser in the Militia. For three months under Capt. Brooks. for three months under Capt. Wm. Price. For six months under Capt. Wm. Mosby. For three months under Capt. Jack or Jno. Williamson [John Williamson], the whole of which time he served as a private; he was appointed a Sergeant by Colo. Southall, & sent to the magazine at Westham, above Richmond & had the command of a parcel of men where he served three months guarding the magazine – and at the meadow Bridges [Meadow Bridge on Chickahominy River near present Mechanicsville] he served 2 months under Capt. Wm. Burton of the upper end of Henrico; where he labored very hard taking the bridges up to prevent the enemy crossing – and he served various other shorter tours, being continually almost harrassed with the approach of the enemy about Richmond & on various parts of the river below, in fact he considered himself almost always on duty – and for which services he claims a pension.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any state whatever. Obadiah hisXmark Griffin

Obadiah Griffin on Examination Appears Unfit for Immediate Duty – he is therefore recommended for a Furlough.

[John M. Galt Surgeon]
Jan'y 25th 1781

The above named Obadiah Griffin has leave of Absence for twenty days.
Jan'y. 25th 1781 Geo Lee Turberville Major
for Colo. Nicholas



NOTES:

William Grinstead certified that he served three tours with Griffin under Captains Thomas Prosser and Jack Williamson.

On 7 Feb 1852 Fendall Griffin, son and executor of Obadiah Griffin, assigned power of attorney to obtain an increase in pension for his father's service.