

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gillaspie ¹ W27593 Holly Gillaspie f106SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/17/08 rev'd 8/22/15

[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.]

[p 11]

State of Kentucky, Todd County: SS

On this 1st day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Todd County now sitting John Gillaspie a resident of Todd County and of the State of Kentucky aged sixty-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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service as a drafted militia man under Captain Drewry Pace [Drury Pace] and was immediately removed into the company of Captain Henry Key [Henry Thomas Key], Lieutenant William Key, Ensign Tandy Key three brothers orderly Sergeant Game Harvey I was drafted and entered the service in the month of April 1781 about the first of the month and I served under the above named officers & Major Hugh Middleton Colonel Purvis [John Purvis] & General Clarke [Elijah Clarke] for nine months I was only drafted for three months but after we started home we were ordered back by General Clarke and we continued six months which made the nine months we rendezvoused at the Cow ponds in Edgefield [or Litchfield?]² County South Carolina we marched from there to Liberty Hill there we were stationed on the Savannah opposite Augusta which we besieged, at the beginning of the six months we commenced firing which was kept up more or less during the whole time we lay there, we had laid there three months before we began to fire, about two weeks after we commenced firing we took Grayson's [Grierson's] Fort [May 23, 1781] in Augusta at the end of the siege we took Augusta [Siege of Augusta, May 22-June 6, 1781], having succeeded in storming Brown's Fort [also known as Fort Cornwallis] and we captured Colonel Brown [Thomas "Burnt-Foot" Brown] and his men, we were then discharged & went home, there were but two regiments of militia on our side of the River, the Georgia militia and all the regulars were only opposite side of the River and I was not acquainted with any of the officers except Colonel Dunn, I got a discharge signed by Colonel Purvis. On May the 12th day of 1782 I enlisted in the service of the United States under Captain William Butler who commanded a company of South Carolina horseman, Lieutenant Myers & Ensign Thomas Jackson we rendezvoused at Tutt's Mill and marched to Matthews shop, from there to Thomas race paths where we had an engagement

¹ BLWt26596-160-55

² *Litchfield*

with the Tories from there to the pine Log on Edisto there we encamped several days, from there to Rambough's Mills on the eel Swamp there we were attacked by the Tories we whipped them from there to the old Ridge from there to the Juniper Springs there we fought the Tories from there to Lee's ferry on Saluda about 3 miles after we crossed the River the Tories fired on us and we had to retreat, we then recrossed the River at Lee's from there we marched to Davis' mill, there we were detained 9 days and every day he had a fight or skirmish with the Tories at last we took the mill from them, from there to Orangeburg from there to the Eutaw Springs where we arrived in September we were after with Colonel Washington's [William Washington's] troop at the Eutaw but I do not think we belonged to his troops we were not at the battle of the Eutaw [Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] but were at that time sent out after provisions we continued at the Eutaw and in the neighborhood for some time after the battle, General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] commanded at the Eutaw battle, I was acquainted with him, then Colonel Washington who commanded a Regiment of horsemen and with Colonel Rump [possibly a reference to Lt. Col. Jacob Rumph] a regular Officer³ we were directed to return to pursue the Tories and we continued in their pursuit towards Edgefield having frequent skirmishes with them until about the first of February following when we were discharged in Edgefield County at Captain Butler. I enlisted only for 7 months but was kept in service from the 12th of May until the first of February

1st I was born on the 17th of August 1763

2nd I have no record of my age but received this information from my uncle and my mother.

3rd I was living in Edgefield County South Carolina about 5 miles off the Georgia line when called into the service, I lived in Georgia 2 years after the war Wilkes County then moved to South Carolina stayed there 2 years in Fairfield, then moved to Clarke County Kentucky and staid one, then to Georgia where I staid 7 years 5 of them I was in the service of the United States against the Indians under my old General Clarke & his son John who was our Colonel, then I went to South Carolina and there staid about 19 years I then moved to Kentucky Todd County where I now [reside].

4th I was drafted in the first term of my service of 9 months and enlisted in the service the last time and was never a substitute

5th I was acquainted with General Greene, Colonel Rump & Colonel Washington & with no regiments except as above stated

6th I received 2 discharges one given by Colonel Purvis at the end of my first service the other given by Captain Butler at the end of my 2nd term they both are lost and I believe were burnt up in my mother's house got burnt in Carolina

7th I am acquainted in my present neighborhood with Jones Stokes, Matthew Stokes, Amos Phips David Moore Benjamin Deason and many others who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my military services. I have no documentary evidence and I know of no person whose evidence I can procure who can testify as to my service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Gillaspie

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Gillaspie", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

³ Jacob Rumph was a militia officer in the Orangeburg District Regiment

[Joseph McBride, a clergyman, and Matthew Stokes gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 5: On June 12, 1843 in Todd County Kentucky, Holly Gillaspie aged 67 filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Gillaspie, a revolutionary war pensioner; she states that she married him March 15, 1792; that her husband died May 31st, 1835. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: On March 27, 1855, in Todd County, Ky, Holly Gillaspie, 90, made a claim as the widow of John Gillaspie for her bounty land entitlement stating that she married him in 1792, her maiden name was Holly Medford; and he died in Todd County Kentucky in 1835.]

[Facts in file: Veteran died May 31, 1835, in Todd County, Ky; he married Holly or Hollidith Medford March 15, 1792, in Spartanburg County South Carolina; she died December 22, 1870 in Christian County Kentucky at the home of Wilson L. Berry; [p 56 & 74 & 76] that she had a sister Mrs. Frances Walker who lived in Todd County Kentucky in 1843 and was then 70 years old.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$66.96 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the militia infantry for 9 months and in the militia cavalry for 8 months and 19 days in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]