

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Josiah Giles W3799

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia. Prince Edward County SS:

On this 17th day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the justices of the court of Prince Edward County, now sitting, Josiah Giles a resident of the said state and County, aged seventy six years, who being first sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He performed a three months tour of duty in the Millitia in the year — during the War of the Revolution. That he filled his own place and marched under Capt Jacobs of Amherst County and went to the barracks of Albemarle and there continued untill his time was out guarding prisoners [captured at Saratoga 17 Sep 1777 and brought there early in 1779]. That Stephen Davidson [pension application S8306] and Harden Woodruff [W3485] are now living who can testify as to his services. He recollects Colo. Burley and Meredith (or Major) were in command.

2nd. The next tour succeeded the above; the date he does not recollect. he went from Amherst County under Capt Richard Ballinger, marched to Richmond thence to Hood Fort in Prince George County. there he remained untill his tour of three months expired. there were no troops attached to his Company, consequently there were no General or field officers over him; he knows of no one by whom he can prove this service.

3^d. The next tour he marched from Amherst County (the date he does not recollect) under Capt. John Christian to Richmond thence to Chickahominy swamp, Hobbs hole, Bottoms bridge and other places. he thinks he was attached to General Lawsons [Robert Lawson's] brigade and served a tour of three months (he supposes) there is no one living by whom he can prove this service that he knows of

4th. The next tour he went from Amherst County under Capt John Phillips marched below Richmond and then various routes & places which has escaped his recollection and was finally discharged having served a tour of three months. he does not recollect any field or General Officers. neither can he prove this service by any person that he knows of. In all the above cases he filled his own place in the Millitia except once which he substituted but cannot at this remote period distinguish which, neither the dates he served being entirely illiterate. All his discharges are lost and to give a distinct detail account of the time of his entry into service or discharge he cannot. He knows they were performed during the Revolutionary war which gave birth to our national Independence.

5th. The next tour his father's waggon was pressed into service by Colo. Gabril Pen [sic: Gabriel Penn] of Amherst County, and he was ordered by the said Colonel to go with it, and was assured it should answer as a tour of duty, that the consideration of taking care of his fathers waggon and horses was urged as a further reason why he should go. That accordingly he entered the service and went to Gilly's Creek below Richmond and from thence to Yorktown, at which place he was at the siege and surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. He does not recollect how long this tour lasted neither has he any person by whom to prove the same nor does he recollect the date.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Josiah Giles

The following Interrogatories were propounded by the Court Viz

1st Where and in what year were you born? Answer I was born in Chesterfield county Virginia. I do not know the year.

2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it? Answer I have none neither do I know where to find it.

3d Where were you living when called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were

you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? Answer, I was drafted three times and substituted once. the fifth is explained above. I substituted for Robert Hudson as well as I remember who lived in Amherst County.

4th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental & Militia regiments as you can recollect and the General Circumstances of your service? I have given all the information upon this subject I am in possession of in my declaration, to say more would be to recapitulate what has already been said.

5th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer I did but they are all lost. I suppose they were given by my Captains with whom I served.

6th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer Regin Porter Esquire and The Revd Philip Mathews [pension application S5729].

NOTE: On 17 Feb 1840 Patsey Giles, 68, applied for a pension stating that she married Josiah Giles on 15 Aug 1793, and he died 16 Jul 1837. In the file is a copy of the minister's return for the marriage of Josiah Giles to Patsey Abbott in Buckingham County VA. In 1848 Patsey Giles was living in Appomattox County VA.