

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Gilliam W5282 Mary Gilliam VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 April 2014.

State of Virginia }
Amherst County } S.S.

On this the seventeenth day of January eighteen hundred and forty six, personally appeared before me Elliott Worsham a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Amherst and State of Virginia, Mary Gilliam, a resident of the State of Virginia and County of Amherst, aged eighty-eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July the 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of John Gilliam, who was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, and that he enlisted from the State of Virginia and County of Buckingham under Captain Charles Patterson, and that he served under Captain Samuel Cabell [Samuel Jordan Cabell], in [Gen. Daniel] Morgan's Corps of Riflemen, and that Captain Samuel Cabell commanded in the same, and that he belonged or served in the fifth Regiment, and that she has frequently heard him speak of being engaged in battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776] Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] & Germantown [4 Oct 1777], and that he was in the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and was principally engaged in the Northern States. She further declares that she was married to the said John Gilliam by Parson Peasley in the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia about or in the year 1783 or 1784 and that her husband the aforesaid John Gilliam died in the year eighteen hundred and twenty one, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-four Viz at the time above stated

Mary herXmark Gilliam

NOTES:

With the application is a copy of a bond signed on 22 Nov 1781 by John Gilliam and William Tooley for the marriage of Gilliam to Mary Tooley, both of Albemarle County. Capt. John Thomas (pension application S46515) stated that he had served with John Gilliam, and that Mary Tooley was the daughter of William Tooley.

The file includes the following letter apparently relating to a different John Gilliam:

Estellville Scott Co Va Nov'r 12th 1868,

To the Com'r of Pensions,/ My Dr Sr,

I want you if you please to examine the muster rolls & see if you can find upon them the name of one John Gilliam who was a soldier under Gen'l Geo Washington in the close of the Revolutionary war; I have had an interview this morning with one of his sons who is upwards of seventy years of age & he says that he had heard his father often state the number of the battles he had been in; the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] for one, Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] for another & various others that he does not now recollect & he was at Yorktown when peace was made [sic: surrender of Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781], said Gilliam was in the service about eighteen months & received no pay for his services; he has been dead about thirty years.

Said Gilliam went from the County of Buckingham Virginia.

I wrote to the Com'r of Pensions several years ago in reference to this matter & he wrote me a few lines stating that Pension Certificates had been granted to one Mary Gilliam of Amherst County Va widow of John Gilliam in the year 1846; which could not have been; there must be some mistake about it because it could not have been the widow of the J. Gilliam above named for his wife died before he did which has been more than thirty years ago, & it can also be made appear that John Gilliam never lived in Amherst Co Va for he moved to this portion of this state more than fifty years ago & they both lie buried in this county. Please respond at your earliest convenience. I am your's &c John W Stallard

P.S. The object of the within enquirey is to get a Pension for the four children of the said John Gilliam dec'd. I am yours J.W.S.