

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Griffith W7589

Polly Griffith

f41VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/6/14

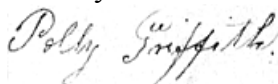
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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 'indcipherable' 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 Virginia King & Queen County SS

On this 5th day of February 1839 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace, Polly Griffith, a resident of King and Queen County aged Seventy 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 7 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows" that she is the widow of Joseph Griffith who was a private soldier in the Army of the revolution.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Griffith on the 20th day of August in the year 1789, that her husband the said Joseph Griffith died on the 12th day of December 1800; That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated

S/ Polly Griffith



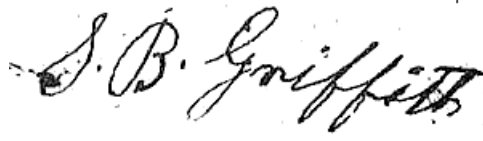
State of Virginia King & Queen County SS

This day Sawyer B Griffith personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in said County and being first duly sworn deposed & saith that he is now in his fifty second year, that he is the son of Joseph Griffith late of said County of King & Queen by his first wife, that the mother of this deponent died as he has always been informed in October 1788. That the said Joseph Griffith was married to Polly Webb now the widow of said Joseph as he has been informed in August 1789, he is confident that there could not have been more than from two to three years difference in the age of this deponent and the eldest child of his father by his said wife Polly as he well remembers his said brother's age, who died when he was about twenty-two years old, he further says that he is confident second child by said second marriage was born previous to the first of January 1794. That he cannot remember the time of the actual marriage of his father with his said wife Polly but he knows they lived together as man & wife until about the 12th day of December 1800 when he was drowned.

That he has often heard his father the said Joseph speak of his service as a soldier during the revolutionary war, that he has heard him state that he served out three years the term of his first enlistment and then reenlisted during the war, that he heard him say he enlisted for the first term under Captain Reuben Butler and that he belonged to the Grenadiers, that deponent further saith that he has no manner of interest in the result of the application of the said Polly Griffith for

a Pension.

S/ S. B. Griffith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. B. Griffith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. To the right of the signature, there is a vertical line that appears to be a separator or a mark on the document.

[p 8: There is a power of attorney dated simply 1833 given by Mary Griffith, SB Griffith, R. Brown and Elizabeth Brown in which the parties identify themselves as the widow of Joseph Griffith (Mary Griffith); Sawyer B Griffith and Elizabeth Brown, daughter of the said Joseph Griffith and wife of Richard Brown, as being the heirs of Joseph Griffith.]

[p 10]

At a Quarterly Court continued & held for King & Queen County at the Court house on Tuesday the 12th of November 1833

It was proved to the satisfaction of the Court that Joseph Griffith deceased late of King & Queen County died about December 1800 that he left a widow named Mary Griffith still alive and five children named Sawyer B. Griffith, John Griffith, Betsy now wife of Richard Brown of King William County, Richard Griffith and Joseph Griffith, that John & Joseph are since dead without will and were never married.

A copy from the original file in the Virginia Land office

Test SH Parker, Register Land Office

A Copy Teste Robert Pollard, Jr., CC

December 9th, 1833

[p 12]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 29th day of July 1783, in the name of Joseph Griffith, as a Soldier of Cavalry for £55.11.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to ___ and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
26th day of September 1839.

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S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 14]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 7th day of June 1783, in the name of Joseph Griffith, as a Soldier of Infantry for £55.17.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to George Pickett and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
8th day of June 1840.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 15]

The affidavit of Leonard Shackelford a Revolutionary Pensioner taken at the time & place mentioned in the caption of the within affidavit of Dick Jones. –

This affiant being first duly sworn saith that he is now in his 75th year, that he was a soldier in the Revolution & is now upon the pension list as such – that he was acquainted with Joseph Griffith late of the County of King and Queen both before & after the Revolutionary War – that to the best of his recollection Joseph Griffith enlisted in the Army of the Revolution in the year 1776 and served three years, that he has no recollection of ever having seen him whilst in service as they were never in the same Corps, but from frequent conversation with Griffith after the war & from his known character as a man of the strictest veracity, he has no doubt but he served 3 years – that he often heard him speak of battles he was in, particularly of the attack upon Stony Point [July 16, 1779] – that several years before the death of the late Major Butler, he had a conversation with him in which he stated that Joseph Griffith, John Collins & John Swepston had enlisted under him, that John Collins was for several years before his death a pensioner. That Joseph Griffith died about December 1800, leaving a widow now alive named Polly & 3 children now living named Sawyer B., Richard & Betty now the wife of Richard Brown, and 2 other children since dead without ever being married, to wit John & Joseph and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Leonard Shackelford

[p 16]

State of Virginia King & Queen County to wit

The affidavit of Dick Jones of the County of King & Queen County aged 77 years & 9 months taken before me Alexander Fleet a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid this 25th day of April 1833.

This affiant being duly sworn deposeseth and saith, that he was very well acquainted with Joseph Griffith deceased late of the County of King & Queen, that they were both raised in the same neighborhood & in the habit of constantly associating together, that sometime in the year 1776 the said Joseph Griffith enlisted in the Army of the Revolution for the term of three years, under a recruiting officer by the name of Reuben Butler, this affiant does not recollect whether Mr. Butler was a Captain or what commission he bore, that to others of his acquaintance John Collins & John Swepston enlisted at the same time with Joseph Griffith, that the said Joseph Griffith marched from this County in the year 1776 and did not return again until the year 1780, & this affiant verily believes the said Griffith was in the service of the United States during the whole time of his absence, that he has had frequent conversations with him about the battles he was in & the hardships he endured whilst a soldier – that he well remembers hearing him tell of the battle at Stony Point in which the said Griffith was engaged, as well as many other battles at places the names of which he does not remember, that Joseph Griffith died about December 1800, leaving a widow now alive named Polly & 5 children names Sawyer B., John, Betsy, Richard & Joseph – & none others – that John & Joseph are both dead & were never married. That Betsy is now the wife of Richard Brown of King William County and further this affiant saith not.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 25th day of April 1833

S/ Alexander Fleet, JP

S/ Dick Jones

[p 22: On December 6, 1839 in King & Queen County Virginia Elizabeth Basket gave testimony

that she was well acquainted with Joseph and Polly Griffith; that they were married in 1789 and lived together as man and wife; that they had 2 children prior to 1794; these children were named John and Katy. John died during the late war [for reference to the War of 1812] and Kathy died in 1794.]

[p 31]

The Deposition of Benoni Carlton aged nearly 76 years taken before me this first day of April 1839

This Deponent being first duly sworn deposed and saith that he is now nearly 76 years old that he was well acquainted with Joseph Griffith of King & Queen County from his boyhood, that said Joseph Griffith was always considered and reputed to have been a regular soldier in the Revolutionary War and that he never heard any doubt expressed as to that fact that he believes that said Joseph Griffith enlisted under Captain Reuben Butler who was a recruiting officer during the Revolutionary war, that said Joseph Griffith was absent from this County in the service of his Country for a considerable time but he cannot say how long he served, but he always understood and verily believes he served out his regular term of enlistment. That he knows the said Griffith was in the Army as a militia man at Williamsburg in the year 1781 and was there to his knowledge recognized by the officers belonging to the Regular Army as a soldier that had before that time belonged to the Army, having been called out with many other old soldiers to perform some particular service he does not recollect how long he served as a Militia man.

He further states that said Griffith was married to Polly Griffith who is now his widow a few years before this deponent was and thinks it was about the year 1789 but is positive it was before the year 1794 and several years after the close of the War; that the said Griffith was married; that his said widow Polly Griffith has never married since the death of her said husband Joseph Griffith who died by drowning he thinks in the year 1800 and in the month of December as he believes.

S/ Benoni Carlton

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1843, for her husband service in the Virginia service.]