

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Gillam [Gilliam, Gilam] W8848 Elizabeth Gillam f90SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/30/07 rev'd 8/26/15 & 6/12/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina, Newberry District } SS

On this third day of October 1845 personally appeared before me John Belton O'Neill one of the Judges of the Court of law of the said State, Elizabeth Gillam a resident of the District of Abbeville and State aforesaid aged eighty seven 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 on the seventh day of July 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of Robert Gillam, who was a soldier of the Revolution, from the commencement of hostilities, until the end of the War, on the side of Liberty and the Independence of his Country, against British influence, tyranny and oppression, she cannot from defect of memory, at this advanced period of her life, recollect the many incidents of her husband's service, or the periods of it, or time, and can only detail the most prominent acts of his service as follows, her husband volunteered as a private, in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians,<sup>1</sup> commanded by Colonel Williamson [Andrew Williamson] in which expedition her husband's father was an officer in Command, and in which expedition the Indian Towns were burned and their crops of corn destroyed, and which checked the future inroads and depredations of the Indians. Her husband was also a volunteer and private at the Battle of Stone [sic, Stono, June 20, 1779]<sup>2</sup> in South Carolina, he was also at the Battle of Musgrove's Mills [August 19, 1780]<sup>3</sup> and at the Battle of Blackstocks [November 20, 1780]<sup>4</sup> in South Carolina, and he was also at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]<sup>5</sup> in South Carolina, in these several Battles, her husband served as a private, but cannot state the names of the Captains, or Colonels, under whom he served in these several Battles, or during his service in the Revolutionary War, she is certain however, that from the particular character of the warfare carried on in South Carolina in the Revolutionary War, her husband's services in this trying period, was continuous from the commencement of hostilities, until the close of the War, her husband was an active daring Whig and very obnoxious to the enemies of his country, and his safest position was in the actual service of his country, and cooperating with the friends of

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stono\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_musgroves\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_musgroves_mill.html)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_blackstocks.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html)

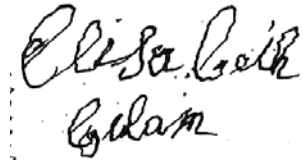
<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

Liberty and contending and battling against British power and influence, and their more dangerous and deadly allies, the Indians and Tories, who were united and confederated together, for the subjugation, and entire overthrow of Freedom, and success of the American Cause. She further states, that her husband was a resident of Ninety Six District were under the command of Col. Williamson, and Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens] but has no documentary evidence, other than the annexed affidavits of Hugh O'Neill and Zach S Brooks,<sup>6</sup> to produce in support of her claim. She further declares, that she was married to the said Robert Gillam, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ 1784, and that her husband the said Robert Gillam, died on the seventh day of November 1813, that she was not married to the said Robert Gillam prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, Viz. at the time above stated, and that she has remained a widow since the death of her husband Robert Gillam, and further, she says, that she believes her husband's services in the Revolutionary War was continuous for three years & upwards but relies with confidence upon the accompanying affidavits, and the particular character of the War in South Carolina against a triple enemy<sup>7</sup> to prove the Justice of her claim, one thing she can assert with truth and confidence, that there is no fraud directly or indirectly in this her application for a pension, and desires to be admitted, to the full benefit, to which her husband would have been entitled had he lived of those acts of Congress passed for the relief of Revolutionary Soldiers as well as of this and other subsequent acts of Congress passed for the relief of the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers.

Sworn to, and subscribed, on the day and year above written.

Before

S/ Elisabeth Gilam [sic]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth Gilam". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "Elisabeth" is written on the top line, and "Gilam" is written on the line below it. There are some faint marks and a vertical dotted line to the left of the signature.

S/ John Belton O'Neill

[p 5]

The State of South Carolina, Newberry District

I John Belton O'Neill one of the Law Judges of the said State and in turn a presiding Judge of the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace and Common Pleas of the said State, and the several districts thereof, do hereby certify that Elizabeth Gillam, widow of Robert Gillam (Deceased), who is an applicant for the benefit of the act of Congress granting half pay, and pensions to certain widows passed on the 7 July 1838, cannot from bodily infirmity attend the court of General Sessions of the Peace and Common Pleas in any of the districts of the State to make oath to her depositions, that she is came in person before me, at my residence in Newberry District, to swear to this her deposition and declaration made before me. That I am personally acquainted with Elizabeth Gillam the applicant, and know her to be an old lady of irreproachable character, credibility and veracity: and that I am personally acquainted with Col. Zachariah S. Brooks, and Hugh O'Neill (this last being my father): and know them to be highly respectable persons of the great credibility and veracity and whose affidavit and affirmation accompany this application; Hugh O'Neill is a member of the Society of Friends and by law permitted to affirm

<sup>6</sup> [Zachariah Smith Brooks S9294](#)

<sup>7</sup> The British, the loyalists and the Indian tribes that sided with the British

instead of being sworn: his affirmation made and subscribed before me. The signature of Colonel Brooks, I believe to be and that of my father, I know them to be genuine. That I have satisfactory evidence from the declaration made by Mrs. Gillam, the affidavit of Colonel Brooks and the affirmation of Hugh O'Neill, that Robert Gillam and Elizabeth Gillam the applicant lived together as husband and wife since the year 1784 until his death. That the said Robert Gillam was reputed to be a Revolutionary Soldier, and true friend of his Country: that I knew him personally, and have often heard his Revolutionary Services spoken of by those who have a part in the Revolutionary War. That the evidence before me is, according to the law of South Carolina, ample to establish the marriage of Robert and Elizabeth Gillam for marriage is regarded as a civil contract, and is here proved by evidence showing that persons have lived and cohabited together, and have been commonly understood and reputed to be man and wife. The affidavit of Colonel Brooks & the affirmation of Hugh O'Neill prove these facts: and in addition, I will say that I well remember Robert Gillam for several years before his death, and that he and the applicant – Elizabeth – were living together as man & wife, were highly respectable people, and that I knew their children who were also highly respectable. There is no public record of marriage in South Carolina. I can safely certify that there is no fraud in the application, but on the contrary I believe it to be highly meritorious.

In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name and caused the seal of this Court of Newberry District to be hereto affixed this third day of October A.D. 1845.

S/ John Belton O'Neill

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Belton O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a decorative flourish underneath.


[p 8]

State of South Carolina Abbeville District }

Personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Magistrate in and for said District, William Burgess a Citizen of the same, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath state, that he is now in his Eightieth year and was born, brought up and for the greater part of his life has lived in Newberry District in this State joining that in which he now resides. That in the same vicinity with this Deponent in said District of Newberry from his earliest recollection lived, as his acquaintances & neighbors, Robert Gillam Senior & Robert Gillam Junior both of whom then & during life enjoyed the undisputed reputation of having borne an active & prominent part in the Struggle of the Revolution in the American army: That this Deponent has frequently heard the old Whigs of the neighborhood detailing incidents and scenes of the service in which they had engaged in that War, and knows the high esteem in which they held the father & son above named, viz., Robert Gillam Senior & Robert Gilliam [sic] Junior for their gallant & honorable careers in said service; and that soon after the Revolution when deponent had grown to boyhood Robert Gillam Senior was the Acting Justice of the Peace for the neighborhood, and that about the time deponent had grown up as a young man he was at times deputized to act as said Gillam's Constable: This was but a short while before his death which took place as deponent remembers in 1795. That from his intimate Acquaintance with his said Robert Gillam Senior & having acted as his Constable as aforesaid & from having seen him frequently write he was & is well acquainted with his handwriting, and that having been requested to examine the above & here unto attached paper purporting to be an order from James Mayson (who lived not far from said Gillam) on the Commissioners of the Treasury of this State, dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1786 and attested by "Robert Gillam JP" "Ninety Six District" as it was then termed, this Deponent has no

hesitation in saying that it is in his opinion in which he feels certain, in the handwriting of the said Robert Gillam Senior father of Robert Gillam Junior both above mentioned as to the body of the Order or power of attorney and the Signature of "Robert Gillam JP" to the attestation thereof. That Robert Gillam Junior & his wife Elizabeth survived said Robert Gillam Senior, till about the year 1813 when said Robert Gillam Junior died leaving him Surviving his widow Elizabeth Gillam who died a few years since at her son's the present General James Gillam, who together with William Gillam are now the only Surviving Children of said Robert Gillam Junior & his wife Elizabeth Gillam both deceased. That this Deponent is wholly now, heretofore & forever disinterested in giving this testimony. Sworn to and subscribed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 1854

S/ William Burgess



And the said deponent being duly sworn according to law in addition to the foregoing statements as to his early & intimate acquaintance with Robert Gillam Junior, doth further Swear that he has seen said Robert Gillam Junior write and is acquainted with his handwriting & that by request, he has examined the signature of "Robert Gillam" to the paper hereunto attached, and that he has no hesitation in saying that the same, in his opinion in which he feels certain, is in handwriting of said Robert Gillam Junior, the husband of Elizabeth Gillam above mentioned, both deceased. That this deponent is now, heretofore & forever disinterested in giving this testimony. Sworn to and Subscribed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April AD 1854

S/ William Burgess

[p 13]

State of South Carolina, Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me Colonel Zak S. Brooks, who being first qualified saith upon oath that he was personally acquainted with Robert Gillam during the revolutionary war. That the said Robert Gillam was a zealous and active Whig. That he was attached to the same company with himself for the space of six months under the command of Captain John Wallace of Newberry District who was under the command of Colonel Andrew Pickens. That the said Robert Gillam was generally present in all the active service performed by the said Corps, although they were not in a general engagement while in the same company together.

This deponent is [sic] further states that the said Gillam performed other services in the revolution, which from the great lapse of time and from his own age and infirmities he cannot accurately date. But from the commencement of the difficulties in the year 1776 to the close of the war in 1783 this section of Country was in a perpetual state of warfare first from the Cherokee Indians then from the Tories and the British in which a great body of the citizens were engaged. That the said Robert Gillam was more than a year in continuous active service a private in the Militia--

He further states that the said Robert Gillam was married to Elizabeth Caldwell previous to the year 1794. That although this deponent was not present at the marriage, he was intimate with the parties and knows from the date of his own marriage & the age of his own children and that of the said parties that their marriage must have taken place previous to the time stated, and that the said marriage was the common repute of the Country – and that the said parties were always highly respectable in character – and that they raised their children who arrived at a mature age who were also respectable. That the families of the Gillams and Cadwells were all

active Whigs in the revolution & great sufferers for the depredations of the Tories, and especially from the rapacity of Captain William Cunningham and the party under his command.

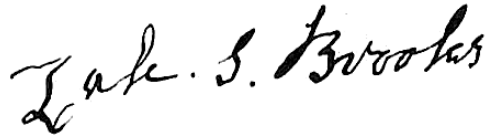
This deponent further states that the said Robert Gillam has been dead for many years, that his said a widow still survives without ever having been married to another husband.

He further states that in the application of the said widow Elizabeth Gillam for a pension that he believes that there is no fraud directly or indirectly but that on the contrary her claim is just & meritorious.

This deponent further states that he believes that the said Elizabeth Gillam was attached to the Presbyterian Church at Little River.

Sworn to and subscribed on me September 15, 1845

S/ Zak. S. Brooks



S/ A. L. Nicholson, Magst.

[p 16]

State of South Carolina, Newberry District}

Hugh Oneal personally came before me and solemnly and conscientiously affirmed, That he was personally acquainted with Robert Gillam and Elizabeth his wife, in the Revolution – both before & after their marriage. That he believes that they were married in the year 1784, which circumstance he connects in his mind with other incidents of his own family. That they lived in wedlock till the death of the said Robert Gillam. He further states that he has examined the annexed affidavit of Col. Zak S. Brooks and dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1845 and believes that the facts and allegations therein contained are true.

Affirmed and subscribed before me, one of the Judges of the State of South Carolina September 16, 1845.

S/ Hugh O'Neill



S/ John Belton O'Neill

[p 39]

Comptroller General's Office, Columbia South Carolina March 4, 1854

No. 470 Issued the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1785 to Robert Gillam for 16 pounds eight  
Lib. W. shillings & seven pence for duty as Major & for property lost in 1779, '80  
& '81 per account passed by the Commissioners Principal £16:8:7

Annual Interest £1:3:0. No. 47

W470 No. 47 22 August 85 Mr. Robert Gillam his account of militia duty as Major before the reduction of Charleston, also of the property lost & provisions supplied the continentals and militia in 1779, 1780 & 1781 the whole amounting to Currency

	£683:11:7
Stg.	£97.13.1

State of South Carolina to Robert Gillam Dr. Duty as performed provisions supplied & property lost per Col. Anderson's return Curry: £683:11: 7  
£97:13: 1

Ninety Six District a pay bill for Services done the public by Major Robert Gillam from the ninth of February to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1780 both days included on an expedition to Georgia 55 days at £4:10 per day 247: 10. Attested the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1783 before me Robert Anderson, JP I do certify that the within mentioned Duty of Fifty five days was performed by Major Robert Gilliam 11 June 1786.

S/ Levi Casey, Col.

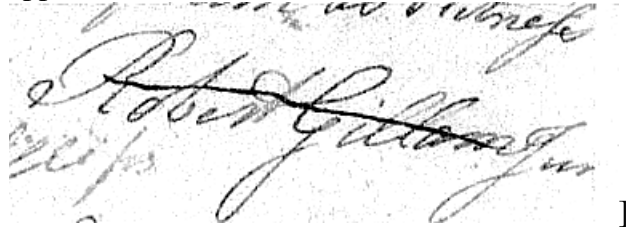
South Carolina, Ninety Six District: The Public of South Carolina to Robt. Gilliam, Dr. to Seventy five Dollars paid for Pork on our March to Headquarters at Augusta February 12<sup>th</sup> 1780 £121:17:6.

Sworn to the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1783 before me.

S/ Robt. Gilliam [Received]

S/ Robert Anderson, JP

[p 20: there is a document dated January 9, in 1796 signed by the veteran whose signature appears as follows

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Gilliam". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There is a small bracket to the right of the signature.

[p 23]

£352.1.1 ½

State of South Carolina Ninety Six District

I do hereby authorize and Impower Robert Gillam Esquire to draw and receive the Indents that may be due to Lake Mayson, Deceased for his services in the Regiment of Continental Troops in this State and the Interest due thereon.

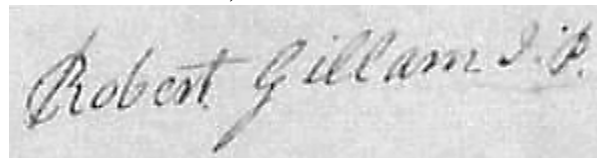
Given under my hand this 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1786

S/ James Mayson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Mayson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

I do Certify that James Mayson did sign and acknowledged the above before me and that Lieutenant Luke Mason was a youth and son of ye said James Mayson\

S/ Robert Gillam, JP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Gillam, JP". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 82: On April 26, 1855 in Abbeville District South Carolina, James Gillam gave testimony that the following is a true copy of an entry in his family record of the death of his mother Elizabeth Gillam widow of Sergeant & Captain John Gillam: "Elizabeth Gillam widdow of John Gillam died on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1851".



[Facts in file: The widow died December 29, 1851 in Abbeville District, South Carolina at the home of her son James Gillam (referred to as General James Gillam) and survived by 2 children, James and William; there is evidence in the file that the veteran and his wife had 3 children to reach maturity but the name of the 3<sup>rd</sup> child is not in the file.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$127.41 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836 and ending December 29, 1851 when she died. She was pensioned for her husband service as a Sergeant and Captain in the South Carolina militia.]

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South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>8</sup> relating to Robert Gillam, Jr. pp20  
Audited Account No. 3838  
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/12/21

[p 2]

[No.] 497 [Book] S No. 46

Mr. Robert Gillem [sic] his account of Militia duty as Sergeant & Captain, before and since the reduction of Charlestown [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] amounting to

[old South Carolina] Currency	<u>£236.17.6</u>
Sterling	£33.16.9 ¼

Ex<sup>d</sup>. T. W. [Examined by T. W. [identity unknown]]  
J. M<sup>c</sup>. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina	To Robert Gillam	Dr.
Duty per Col. Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] return [not extant]	Currency	<u>£236.17.6</u>
	Sterling	£33.16.9 ¼

Received June 18<sup>th</sup> 1785 the full Amount of the above Account in a Treasury Indent No. 497 Book S by virtue of an order for Robert Gillam  
S/ Thomas Bride

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<sup>8</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

*Thomas Bride*

[p 4]

I Robert Gillam Junior do hereby assign the full Amount of the Principal and Interest now due and which shall be due on the Certificate for my Indent due to me for Services to the Public of the State of South Carolina to Thomas Bride his Heirs and Assigns, having from the said Thomas Bride receive the full value this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 1785

S/ Robert Gillam

*Robert Gillam*

Witness

S/ Robert Gillam, JP

*Robert Gillam JP*

[p 5: Printed form of indent No. 497 Book S]

[pp6 & 7: Reverse and retake of the reverse of the above Indent]