

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Charles Gatliff R3949

Rachel Gatliff

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky

Whitley County Sct

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1833 personally appeared before the Whitley County Court Charles Gatliff a resident of Whitley County in the State of Kentucky aged Eighty five years the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May last who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following decleration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

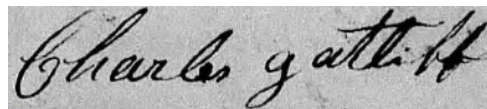
That on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1778 he commenced as an Indian Spy under the appointment of John Henderson Commander of Cooks fourt Bottetort County Virginia, [sic: Cook's Fort on Indian Creek in Botetourt County, below present Greenville in Monroe County WV] that he was in actual service under said appointment five months and thirteen days

1<sup>st</sup> one Tour of ten days with James Fitzpatrick 2<sup>d</sup> one Tour of ten days with Joseph Ellis & William Mcguire 3<sup>rd</sup> One Tour of four months and 23 day with Matthew Creed the service ending the 15<sup>th</sup> of November of the same year. In June 1780 He was appointed an Indian Spy by Colo Benjemen Logan [sic: Benjamin Logan] on [George Rogers] Clark's expedition in which capacity he served three months He was appointed a Spy by said Colo. Logan to repair to Limestone [now Maysville, Mason County KY] to ascertain as well the movement of the Indians as British in which he served twenty days the two last from Kentucky making in all nine months and 23 he was in actual service as an Indian Spy Previous to the last two Tours and in the year 1779 he served two campains as a Volunteer privet under command of Capt Riddle [sic: Isaac Ruddle] in which campain they erected Riddles Station [Ruddle's Station near present Lair KY] he was in actual service one month In the Spring of 1780 [probably 1779] He Volunteered under Capt Haggon and served in the expedition commanded by Colo Boman [sic: John Bowman] against the Shawnees on the little Miamia [sic: Little Miami River] one month making in all two months that I served as a privet

In the summer or fall of 1780 [probably 1779] he was elected Capt of Martins Station [John Martin's Station on Stoner Creek 3 mi N of Paris KY] by its inhabitants and continued in actual service three month and untill the station was taken by the British & Indians [in early May] In the fall of the same year and imediately after Martins fort was taken as above he received orders from Colo Boman to take command of Bryants Station [Bryan's Station at Lexington on North Fork Elkhorn Creek] which was likely to brake up He seved under said appointment two months makeing in all five months of actual service as Capt.

There is no living evidence that he knows of by which he can prove the foregoing decleration and the only document in his possession is herewith filed dated August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1780 signed John Boman

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pention or an anuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pention roll of any agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid



The following questions were propounded by the court

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born

Ans'r. In the County of Philadelphia & State of Pensiylvania and in the 1748 agreeable to the record of my age

Question 2<sup>nd</sup> Where were you living when called into service

Ans'r. at Cooks fort on Greenbrier (formerly Botetort) County Virginia

Question 3<sup>rd</sup> Where have you lived sence the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live

Ans'r Principally in Garrard County Kentucky except the last thirty odd years which is in Whitley County Kentucky on Cumberland River where I now live

Question 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service

Ans'r. I was living in Cooks fourt and was called into service by an appointment as an Indian Spy by Capt John Henderson

Question 5<sup>th</sup> State the name of some of the regular officers with the troops

Ans'r there was none at Cooks fourt but in Kentucky and in the year 1779 Colo John Boman, in 1780 Gen'l Clark and in 1781 Colo Benjemin Logan

Question 6<sup>th</sup> State the circumstances of your service

Ans'r I was a Spy in 1774 for Fowlers fourt Culbertsons bottom [sic: Culbertson's Bottom in Giles County VA] on New River the length of service not recollected In 1775 was peace 1776-7 we had war with both british and Indians but I was not called on in either year In 1778 in the month of June I commenced as an Indian Spy the 1<sup>st</sup> Tours with different mates I served upwards of five months I assisted in erecting Riddles fourt in Kentucky in 1779 I volunteered in Capt Haggons Company and was on Bomans Campain had a battle at Chilecotha [sic: Chillicothe] with the Shawnees we got but one scalp but lossed 10 or 12 men After our return I engaged to hunt for game to Supply Riddles fourt to prevent it braking up Dorchester there hunter being killed and his mate refusing to serve longer In hunting I frequently took with me Thos Emry [Thomas Emory?] who was killed near the fourt I continued until I concluded to build another fourt called sence Martins fourt I hunted for Martins fort some time Isaac Read my hunting mate being killed I took such others as I could get to serve When I was absent the fourt was taken by the British and Indians and its inhabitants taken prisoners amongst whom was my wife and four children I then joined Colo Logan at Bryants Springs and was appointed a Spy and pilot for the army which marched to Mad River at Pickeway [Piqua] had a battle [8 Aug 1780] and lossed 18 or 20 men On our return I Received orders from Colo Boman to take possession and command of Bryants fourt (or station) which I kept untill some time in November I then took a Tour as a Spy to Limestone to asscertain the movement of the enemy a Tour of 20 days and after returning I resigned all business of the kind and in the spring 1781 I went in company with Daniel Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] & Benjemin Logan members elected to the Virginia Legislature to Virginia I returned (I think) in July of the same year In the fall following I started through the wilderness to join the Southern Army but hearing that Corn Wallace was taken at York [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] I changed my course and went to Virginia Greenbrier County In 1783 I met my family below Staunton (who had been taken prisoners from Martins Station in Ky and with them returned to Kentucky in the month of May Clarks expedition failing I remained at ease untill in 1786 I seved in all the campains ever Raised in Kentucky except Clarks in 1782 at the blue licks I was a Spy & pilot in 1786, under Logan in 1790 I was a Spy and pilot in Harmers Campain [sic: Josiah Harmar's Campaign] I headed the Pioneers about one & a half month and after my arival at home I quit the service I was in four General engagements previous to this time I served as a Spy with 7 others by twos untill all were discharged but myself the longest Tour Eight months lacking 8 day but this Tour since 1780 the differens skirmishes I was in previous I cannot recollect but I know I served as I have stated first in my Decleration to wit  
as an Indian Spy nine months & 13 days

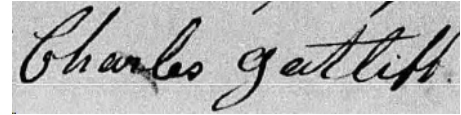
as a privet two months

as Capt Five months

Question 7<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge

Ans'r I never did nor did I ever apply for the nature of my service was different from most others as I always stood ready when called on and a discharg (If I thought of it) was a small consideration with me at that time Nor do I recollect any time that it would have been proper for me to apply except once or twice when leaving Kenducky, but intending to return I never thought it necessary In fact I never thought any thing about it, consequencly I never applied

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid



Cain Run August 22<sup>d</sup> 1780

Sir, you are hear by Required to Demand and from the Several Captains on the North Side of Kentucky to make up a Scouting Party of Men about 30 in Number wil[page torn] answer the present Purpose untill I can Reain for you from [illegible word] for 100 Men to March as soon as possible to joyn you and to Remain with you untill farther Orders, When the Men joyns you you are to Endeavour to Save the Crops of Corn at these Places whare they have been Planted and Left Desolate, and to Indavour to Make Deligent sarch after the Enemy that they may not Penitrate so far in to our Country as to Distress the Inhabitants thereof with out being Discovered, and such Discovery if any you are to let Me know Immediately, for ~~Provision~~ Beef you must Depend on the Woods for, Bread I hope their is a plenty by this time at the aforesaid Places. What Ever Place you are at whear their is corn have an Acre Misured and valued when that is made use of another in the same manner, that the owner my be Innabled to Receive Sattisfaction for his property but at any Rate not to Suffer the Corn to be pulled any Whear through the fields Salt I will Indavour to send with the men when the come, in the mean time Indavour to Borrow as much as will do for the Present  
I am Sir your Hum'l. Servt [John Bowman]  
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NOTES:

Charles Gatliff was pensioned at \$53.66 per year for serving as a private for 16 months and three days.

The file includes the following letter by the noted historian Lyman C. Draper:  
Madison, Wisconsin/ Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Hon. Jos. H. Banett, Com'r. of Pensions.

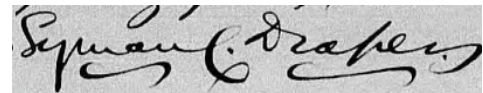
My Dear Sir:/ I have been many years engaged in collecting facts for a series of border biographies – in the final preparation of which, the well-known historian, Benson J. Lossing, will aid me – to includ Col. D'l. Boone, Gen. Geo. R. Clarke, Gen. Simon Kenton, Capt. Sam'l. Brady [Samuel Brady], & the Wetzel brothers.

In the Kenton work, I shall have occasion to speak of Ch's. Gatliffe, an early Kentucky pioneer companion of Kentons, & should be glad to obtain a copy of his pension papers – which I wish solely for biographical purposes. I am not certain that Capt. Gatliffe was a pensioner, but I know very well he served in Kentucky in 1780 & survived till the year 1838, & could have been a pensioner had he desired it. I presume he made the application – & the application & certificates will, I doubt not, furnish facts suitable for me to use in my work.

I have several times – chiefly through members of Congress known to me – obtained copies of pension papers from y'r. Office; & hope you will try & oblige me in this instance.

Capt. Gatliffe lived & died in Whitley Co., Kentucky.

Very truly yours,



Also in the file is a copy of a circular dated 1 May 1857 reporting on Draper's progress in writing the biographies, to be entitled *Lives of the Pioneers*. Draper did not complete the biographies mentioned in the letter, but he did publish 10 volumes of historical notes, including the Simon Kenton Papers that may include references to Charles Gatliff.

The file contains an instrument dated 23 Feb 1853 and purportedly signed by Rachel Gatliff with

her mark, granting power of attorney to William M. Smith of Rockcastle County KY and Charles C Tucker of Washington to obtain benefits for the services of her husband as well as her father, John Cummins. On 22 March 1853 she applied for a pension stating that she married Charles Gatliff “at his hous in Knox Countey Ky now Whitley Countey” and that her husband died “at his haus on the 30 June 1838.”

The file includes a copy of the record of the marriage of Charles Gatliff and Rachiel Cummins on 19 June 1809, officiated by James Sullivan. In October 1827 Charles and Rachel Gatliff were divorced, as shown by a copy of the decree in the pension file.

On 14 April 1853 Rachel Gatliff, 86, again applied for a pension, adding that James Sullivan was a Methodist preacher. Appended to the application was a request that the pension certificate be forwarded to J. Newcum of Mt Vernon KY.

The file contains another power of attorney dated 10 Oct 1853 in which Rachel Gatliff purportedly denied having previously granted a power of attorney, and appointing Jonathan Newcum her attorney to obtain benefits for the services of Charles Gatliff. Smith subsequently informed the Pension Commissioner of the divorce, resulting in denial of her claim. Smith also charged that Newcum was an “unprincipaled scundral” and “is now holding the office of circuit court clerk threw fraud and corruption.” Newcum responded by stating that Rachel Gatliff had told him that although she had sued her husband for divorce, none was granted. Newcum also stated that Smith’s power of attorney had been forged, and that Smith was “trying to swindle me out of the claim.”