

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Jones Gill S10185

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } S.S

County of Amherst }

On this 19th day of June 1834 personally appeared in open court, before the court of amherst county now sitting Jones Gill a resident of the county of Nelson and State aforesaid aged 70 years, who being sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: That some time in the year 1780 having attained to the age of 16 years he was placed upon the muster roll in the county of Charles City Virginia, that being the county of his nativity and shortly thereafter was drafted into the service for a tour of six months under the command of Capt Seth Stubblefield and was stationed and served at differant points, at one time at Fort Hood on James River [in Prince George County] at another at Sandy Point but the greater part of the time at Morven Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] where he was discharged after serving out his tour of six months as aforesaid – That after returning home to Charles City and remaining there but a short time, he was again drafted into the service under the same company officers for a tour of three months, and was stationed and performed duty pretty much in the same places as he did the first, during this second tour, like the first nothing of note occurred, but marches, counter marches, alarms and watching except upon one occasion whilst he was stationed at Charles City Court House the emenys forces led by Col Tarlton at the head of some cavalry [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion; but see endnote] and routed us killing four of our men viz McKinney, Dean, Mosher, Ballard, one of our party was drowned in a mill pond in attempting to escape, and the centinal who was surprised by them was taken prisoner, this tour was performed as well as the first in the character of a private soldier and continued three months That after this period and some time in the year 1781 he was again drafted into the sevice from the same county as a private soldier and placed under the same company officers, when he was marched from point to point to watch the movements of the enemy who were in our watters and it was the purpose of our forces to prevent their marauding excursions into the country, that the forces to which he was attached was thus employed in the James and York Rivers until the enemy retired to York Town [1 Aug 1781] and that part was invested by the combined american & french army, when he was discharged the service after serving five months and before the surrender of that part [surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] – That he served in the whole three Tours aforesaid fourteen months in the character of a private soldier and to the best of his recollection Major Hardiman [sic: Henry Hardman] & Col Munford [William Green Munford R16697] during all the tours his field officers and Genl Thomas Nelson his general officer, some time Genl Lafayette and at York Town whilst he was there Genl Washington – That he recollects seeing many officers both french and american at York Town, but he does not now recollect names. That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no living person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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

Interrogarorys propounded by the Court

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

answer I was born in the county of Charles City Va as I was informed by my parents and was sixteen years of age some time in the year 1780, but do not know the year in which I was born.

2^d. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

answer I have no record of my age, but have understood that my age was recorded in Charles City County Clerks office and accidentally destroyed by fire with the office after the close of the war

of the Revolution

3^d. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

answer I was living in the county of Charles City when called into service, have lived in the countys of Charles City Buckingham, Nelson and Amherst since the close of the Revolution, and do now reside in the county of Nelson adjoining to Amherst and near the county line & a part of the tract of land upon which I reside lies in amherst

4th. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

answer I was drafted each Tour.

5th. State the names of some of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where you served; such continental and militia Regts as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

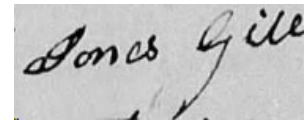
Answer I recollect seeing Genl [Anthony] Wayne and other regular officers at York Town but cannot recollect names or corps and refer to my declaration for the general circumstances of my service.

6th. Did you ever receive a written discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

answer I never did receive a written discharge from service to the best of my recollection nor do I believe it was usual in those days to give such to Militia – if I ever did receive such they are lost

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your seivces as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer There is no clergyman residing immediately in my neighborhood, but I refer to William M Waller Esqr and Capt Jeremiah Yager who I expect will so testify in my behalf

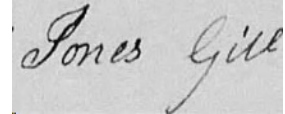
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jones Gill". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

Amherst County to wit

The affidavit of Jones Gill of lawful age taken before me a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid. The affiant being first duly sworn according to law saith, that he is informed by letters from the office of the Commissioner of Pensions that his claim to a pension under his declaration made in the county aforesaid and transmitted to that office during the last year the said declaration being under the act of Congress of the 7 June 1832, has been rejected or suspended at the said office, because in his said declaration, he declared for two tours of service each beyond the term of six [sic: three] months that is one tour for six months & the other for five besides another tour included in the said declaration, that in explanation of the said two first named tours objected to at the Pension office, (because as he understands it is said, that it was unusual in those days except on extraordinary occasions to draft the militia of this state for a longer period than three months at a time,) he states that at the time he performed the said service as declared for in his declaration aforesaid, it was the custom to draft for but three months at a time, but that in his case arising from the invasion of the state, in his immediate neighborhood he was detained the time as stated by him, that is six months at one time & five months at another, he was informed that he would be credited for a tour for each three months, he was in service. That he has recently been informed by John Thompson Jr of this county that in the correspondence of the late Thomas Jefferson published since his death, that he gives an account of the descent of Col Tarlton with a corps of cavalry upon a party of our Troops in the year 1781 stationed at Charles City Court House, is mentioned by Mr Jefferson [see endnote], and is also mentioned by this affiant in his said declaration, in which he the affiant gives the names of the killed on our side on that occasion, this affiant states that until recently informed of this by the said Thompson during the last winter, say some time in

January last, that he did not know that there any where existed any corroborative testimony to establish the truth of his said claim, and that not being a reading man (although not unletterd) he had never seen nor heard of, nor to this day has not seen the book styled the memor & correspondence of Thomas Jefferson, in which the said evidence is said to be found. That being poor and needy if the department will not pay him for his full services, he is willing to take what by the rules of the office they may award him.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 13 March 1835

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jones Gill".

NOTES:

A letter by John Thompson, Jr. in the file indicates that the following is the passage referring to the attack thought to be by Tarleton: "One of the evenings during their encampment at Westover & Berkeley their Light horse surprized a party of about 100 or 150 Militia at Charles City Courthouse killed & wounded 4. & took as has been generally said about 7 or 8." (Gov. Jefferson of Virginia to the Delegates of the State, Richmond, 18 Jan 1781.) Since Tarleton did not arrive in Virginia until April 1781, his legion could not have been the ones referred to in the letter as "their Light horse." In fact, Jefferson's letter refers to an attack on the night of 8 Jan 1781 by Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe and 40 mounted rangers under the command of Gen. Benedict Arnold.

Gill was pensioned for only nine months service.