

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jeremiah Gurley S13231

f63NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

09/06/06 rev'd 11/25/15

[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' 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.]

Alabama, In the Circuit Court of Madison County held at Huntsville on the 30th day of October, 1832, the Hon. William J. Adair, Judge thereof presiding

Personally appeared in open court Jeremiah Gurley, resident near Brownsboro, in said County, being in his 73rd year, who being first duly 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 7, 1832:

That the original manuscript entry made by John Gurley, affiant's father, of the births of his children, is shown to the court and herewith sent. Affiant was born on the 29th December, 1759; and by family tradition, his birth occurred in Johnston County, North Carolina. About February 1781 there was a draft in that County to reinforce the American army in North Carolina, which it was expected would shortly engage the British in a battle. Affiant's brother being drafted for three months, he determined to go with him, and enlisted as a substitute for one whose name is forgotten, and with his brother, William, was put under Captain Hardy Bryan & marched to join Major General Greene [Nathanael Greene], then stated to be in Guilford County. They united with General Butler [John Butler] on Haw River, who conducted them to Greene's army. General Greene put most of the militia under regular officers; and affiant and his company were placed under Colonel Eaton [Pinkerton Eaton, also spelled Pinketham Eaton]. General Greene moved with his forces toward the waste fields near Guilford Courthouse and entered them from the east on the morning of 15th March [1781]. Earl Cornwallis' army at the same time appeared on the western part of the space & opened a cannonade. Affiant and his company were near the center of Greene's line, which opened at the center, & the artillery passed through, formed in front & returned the cannonade. The action then became general and lasted several hours. Affiant's brother was killed at his side, but he, himself was not wounded. General Greene, at the close of the battle, retired to Troublesome Iron works where his army reached about nightfall, and the next day or shortly after, advanced to Ramsey's Mills, where it was expected to engage a detachment of the enemy; but on getting there, they had retired precipitately, leaving their fires burning & some of their baggage & provisions; having thrown a hasty bridge over a shallow of Deep River by rails and logs. General Greene selected his best troops and moved toward Camden to attack Lord Rawdon. Captain Bryan had left the army to act as a member of the colonial legislature, leaving his brother, Asa [Asa Bryan], the lieutenant to succeed him, with whom this affiant went in this expedition after Rawdon. Greene encamped about three miles from Camden; the next day ordered most of the militia with him to countermarch as if retreating but to return the next day. He, on their return, proceeded rapidly with the van toward the town,

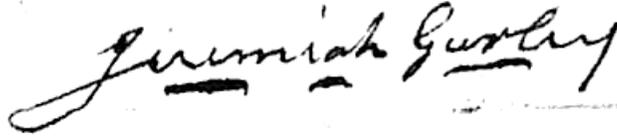
but was met by the enemy & thrown into apparent & under real disorder [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781]. But the militia and artillery coming up to his assistance, the enemy were checked & engaged for some hours, when he left the field in order, leaving the enemy too much injured to pursue. In this affair, affiant was under Col. Read [James Read]. Affiant becoming too ill to proceed in said service was ordered to a hospital but upon reaching the hospital, he declined entering it, but found a hospitable reception with a family on Lynch's Creek. The rest of his company were shortly after discharged, and coming where the affiant was, the Captain gave him the discharge of the 13th day of May, 1781, which is herewith sent. Affiant returned with them to Johnston County and immediately volunteered in his brother['s] Lewis Gurley's company of light Horse, raised to defend the county from the Tories. It was raised for three months but found little else to do but move from point to point & arrest the stragglers of that worst of all enemies; & were dismissed before that term expired. Samuel Smith, the colonel of the county, gave affiant a discharge from this service which is also annexed. Presently after, affiant served under Col. Benjamin Exum in an expedition of the militia raised to attack the British in their passage at Spring Bank, but they passed farther below. Affiant, being best satisfied by being on the field, offered himself & horse as a substitute for anyone who should wish to leave it, & took the place of one whose name he cared not to remember, in a troop of horse and finished his term, about 15 or 20 days. Eighteen months' men were then called for by Congress to be raised by volunteering or by draft. Classes were formed & numbered. Affiant took a number & got the men required to fill it, & when that number was called they stepped forth. Col. Robert Rayford [Robert Raiford], a regular officer, was present, and having heard of affiant's services, urged him to be of his mess, stating that he would put him on extra duties and in general exempt him from the ordinary drafts and fatigues. He consented; was allowed to ride his own horse, and appear in a garb suitable for the colonel's mess and staff. He proceeded with him to Charleston, and until the close of the Revolution, acted immediately or mediately [sic] under his orders. Affiant's whole service exceeded six months and was near twelve of active, continued duty. Affiant, in order to avail of the corroborating memory of James Cotton of this county, will mention two incidents which are also remembered by him. On their march from Troublesome Iron works to Ramsey's Mills, affiant remembered to have seen a man hanging to a tree with a paper on his breast. Affiant went to him, turned his head and read the inscription which mentioned his desertion to the Tories as the cause of the example made of him. The other circumstance occurred at Ramsey's Mills. The troops were marched out upon an alarm and formed around a tree where two men were hung; the two thus hung, affiant understood, were Tories and had come to the Whig camp, pretending themselves to be Whigs and giving a false alarm about the enemy's approach.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State without exception.

[Transcriber's Note: the balance of the application is in handwriting different from the foregoing portion of the application.]

Shortly after the Revolution, the affiant removed into Georgetown District of South Carolina, remained there about ten years, removed back into Johnson County, North Carolina where he remained with his family about ten years, then removed into Maury County, Tennessee, where he resided until 1817, when he came with his family into the County of Madison aforesaid, where he since & still does reside.

S/ Jeremiah Gurley



Sworn to & subscribed in open court this 30th October, 1832.
Test: S/ L. Mead, Clerk

[p 7]

James Cotton,¹ of said County, aged 67, in open court on oath declares, that he has conversed with Jeremiah Gurley concerning what occurred at the battle of Guilford, in the march to Ramsey's Mills, & at that place, and from the minute circumstances related by him, which could alone have been observed by one in General Greene's Army, he, affiant is fully convinced that said Gurley was in the same army with himself. It would be too tedious to relate the coincidences of their recollection; & he will only designate the incidents of the Tory hanging by the way on the marched to the Mills – & the hanging of two others upon a false alarm at the Mills.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 30th October 1832

S/ James Cotten



[James Martin, a clergyman, and William Veitch gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[pp 9-11: family record:

[p 11]

Robert Gurley Son of John Gurley & Elizabeth his Wife was Born the 6th day of March in the year of our Lord 1744/5

Deceased November ye 28, 1760

Joel Gurley Son of the aforesaid was born May the 30th 1747

William Gurley Son of the Aforesaid Was Born October the 16th, 1749

Edwards Gurley Son of the aforesaid was Born August ye 13th 1752

¹ [James Cotten \(Cotton\) W6942](#)

Robert Gurley Son of
 John Gurley & Elizabeth
 his wife was Born the
 6th day of March in the
 year of ~~1744~~ 1744/5
~~December 28th 1760~~
 Joel Gurley Son of the afore
 said was Born May the 30th
 1747
 William Gurley Son of the
 afore said was Born October
 the 16th 1749.
 Edwards Gurley Son of
 the afore said was Born
 August y^e 13th 1752

[p 9]

Lewis Gurley Son of the aforesaid Was Born March Ye 6th, 1755
 Lazarus Gurley Son of the aforesaid was Born December the 4th 1757
 Jeremiah Gurley Son of the aforesaid was Born December the 29th 1759
 George Gurley Son of the aforesaid was Born July the 29th 1762
 John Gurle [sic] Son of the aforesaid was Born September the 14, 1771
 died August ye 27, 1769 [could be 1764]

Lewis Gurley Son of the
 above S. A. was born March 4
 1755
 Lazarus Gurley Son of
 the above S. A. was born
 December the 4th 1757
 Jeremiah Gurley Son of
 the above S. A. was born
 December the 29th 1759
 George Gurley Son of the
 above S. A. was born July
 the 29th 1762
 John Gurle Son of the
 above S. A. was born
 September 19th 1764
 1764

[p 21]

State of South Carolina Camp Lin[?] Creek May 13th 1781

Jeremiah Gurley of the North Carolina Militia having Served his Tour of Duty Agreeable to law is therefore Discharged by General Orders

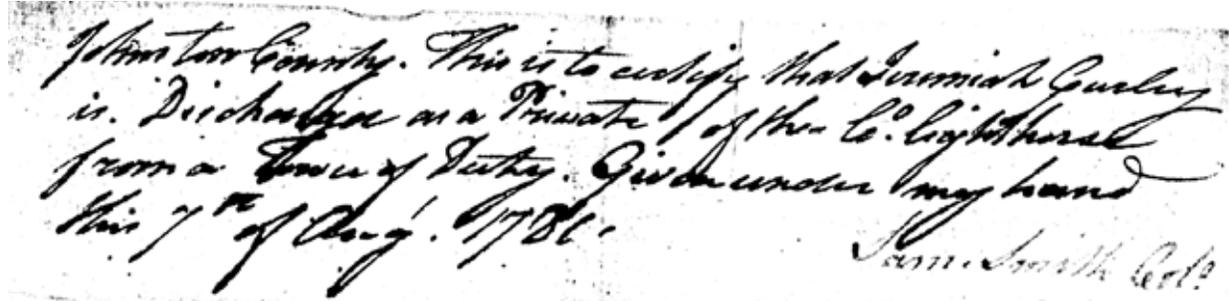
S/ Asa Bryan, Capt.

State South Carolina Camp Lin
 Jeremiah Gurley of the North Carolina
 Militia having Served his Tour of Duty Agreeable to
 law is therefore Discharged
 by General Orders
 Asa Bryan Capt.

[p 23]

Johnston County. This is to certify that Jeremiah Gurley is Discharged as a Private of the Co. [Company] [of] lighthorse from a Tower [tour] of Duty. Given under my hand this 7th of Aug. 1781

S/ Sam. Smith Colo.



Johnston County. This is to certify that Jeremiah Gurley is Discharged as a Private of the Co. lighthorse from a Tower of Duty. Given under my hand this 7th of Aug. 1781.

Sam. Smith Colo.

[p 34]

State of Alabama

In the County Court of Madison County held at Huntsville before the Honorable Samuel Chapman, Judge thereof, on the 20th day of August 1833

Jeremiah Gurley appeared in court & produced his original declaration for a Pension made before the Circuit Court of said County on the 30th October 1832 the affidavits of James Cotton & of James Martin & William Veitch therewith & the certificate of the Honorable William J Adair the judge of said Circuit Court & the attestation & seal of the clerk thereof, all of the same date, being contained on one sheet of foolscap paper & a half sheet sealed thereto; the concluding part of the declaration being on one side of said sealed leaf & the clerk's attestation & seal on the other – all of which are annexed hereto & intended to be attached by a ribbon or string passing through the same & the seal of the clerk of this court to be annexed to this supplemental declaration –

And now the said Jeremiah Gurley on his oath declares that he is informed by A. Hutchison, who prepared the said declaration & affidavits for signature, that the same, when completed were transmitted to the War Department of the United States & have been returned thence to be rendered more specific & better authenticated: that he, affiant, is the identical Jeremiah Gurley who subscribed & verified said declaration & now again declares the truth thereof: that he is now in his 74th year, still referring to the record of his birth & which he wishes annexed to the seal whereby this affidavit may be authenticated: that by reason of his advanced age, the consequent loss of memory as to dates, particularly, though still vivid as to imperfect incidents, he cannot state on his oath in every instance the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection he did serve the United States in the revolution as follows: – his first tour, as stated in his declaration, being that commanded by substitution under Captain Hardy Bryan in Johnson [sic] County, North Carolina, was for full three months, which he served & which ended on May 13, 1781, the date of his first discharge, which he sent with his declaration & which being returned is now annexed as above – in this tour he was a private or foot soldier in the North Carolina troops – whether Captain Bryan or his brother who succeeded him & affiant's company commanded by them successively were mustered into the regular service or as militia only, & whether muster rolls were returned, he does not now know or recollect: he does not still remember the name of him drafted for whom he substituted, but it occurred in said County of Johnson: that he volunteered in his second tour as stated in his

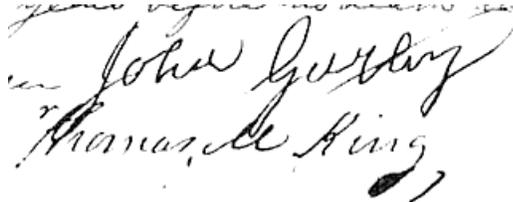
declaration & served until the 7th of August then next, when he received a second discharge, which is annexed as the first – in this he served as a trooper – & he served, as he is confident, between the dates of those discharges two months: his third tour, being that as a volunteer substituted trooper under Colonel Exum as stated in the declaration, was engaged in said County of Johnson, and lasted he thinks twenty days, but is confident half a month: his fourth tour, mentioned in said declaration, was begun in said County, Johnson – he volunteered for eighteen months as a foot soldier, but in fact, & according to orders served on horse as related in said declaration: the tour commenced to the best of his memory in September 1781 & was continued until after the capture of Cornwallis's Army [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], & he is confident when he declares he must have served in it twelve months, & submits whether under the facts stated in his declaration as to this tour he may be considered as a horseman or foot soldier: the whole period certainly contained seventeen and a half months.

Affiant further declares that in his first declaration he was uninformed of the necessity of precision in the above particulars as well as of the importance of showing whether disinterested evidence of the facts of his service &c existed or was known to him: as to the form of his declaration he relied on the skill of him who wrote it: but he could have been explicit had he been interrogated. He now declares that there is no one living & known to him by whom he has any hope of proving the matters in his declaration & his supplement stated in regard to his revolutionary services; & that the circumstantial evidence of Major James Cotton; which accompanies the declaration, is the nearest approach to it he can make. He still resides in Madison County aforesaid. Near twelve months of his 17 ½ he served was in active duty. Sworn & subscribed 20th August 1833

S/ Jeremiah Gurley

[p 30: On March 30, 1837 in Madison County Alabama, the veteran applied for a new pension certificate saying that he had placed his certificate in the hands of Colonel Hutcherson, and attorney-at-law in Huntsville Alabama for purposes of drawing his pension and that the certificate is supposed to have been burnt when the greater part of the attorney's papers were consumed by fire on the night of the 3rd day of October 1835 in the town of Huntsville.]

[p 15: On April 1, 1844, in Madison County Alabama, Joseph Pickens a justice of the peace certified that John Gurley and Thomas M King, after being duly sworn, gave testimony that John Gurley is the only son and Ann King, wife of the said Thomas M King, is the only daughter of Jeremiah Gurley, a pensioner of the United States who is now dead. They also testified that Jeremiah Gurley has lived in Alabama, Madison County for about 25 years before which he had resided in Tennessee.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The first signature is 'John Gurley' and the second is 'Ann King'. The signatures are written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

. The clerk of the court found that Jeremiah Gurley died in Madison County Alabama October 28, 1843 leaving no widow and John Gurley and Ann King his only a children.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$57.08 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months in the Infantry and 2 ½ months in the Cavalry of North Carolina's militia from Johnston County North Carolina.]