

JAMES GILLILAN

REVOLUTIONARY WAR FILE # R.4029

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HEADER PAGE

Service	Name	Number
VA	Gillilan, James	R. 4029

SLIP

James Gillilan
29.295
Please reply
c/o D. W. Sleeth
agent
Lewisburg, VA

STATEMENT OF SERVICE LETTER – 12/17/1833 & 12/18/1833

State of Virginia
Greenbrier County SS.

On the 17th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the peace in and for said county and state aforesaid James Gillilan a resident of said county and State aforesaid aged 85 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following desertation in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he was among the first settlers of western Virginia that he came to the county of Botetourt now Greenbrier so early as the year 1769 and endured all the hardships of the Indian warfare that at the commencement of the Revolutionary war has had acquired such a knowledge of the County that he was compelled at Renick Fort to aid in guarding the frontier settlements and in the year 1777 he was chosen as Sergeant under Cpt. Hamilton but primarily to call out Indian spys that during this season he was frequently called out along the Greenbrier River to watch the Indian paths but that the inhabitants along Greenbrier settlements was much panicked that year but in this year 1778 so early as in May while he was stationed in Renicks Fort he received intelligence that upwards of three hundred Indians was on their way to Greenbrier Settlement and as Donleys Fort on their route he was requested to he was requested to repair to the defence that and that he immediately marched to the Fort but before he reached it the Indians had attacked it and with the timely aid of the arrival of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Stewart from a fort where Lewisburg now stands with about 60 men the Indians was repulsed without doing much damage to the Fort. He arrived at the Fort soon after and there had been three men killed Pritchert, Ocheltree and Benes before the action commenced and that only one was killed in the Fort James Graham and he was killed by a ball passing through the porthole and ? and struck him. Sixteen or seventeen Indians lay dead in the yard. Co. Lewis with a party of men pursued them but he found they had parted and dispersed in every direction. He then with others went out in scouting parties to watch the path fearing they would lurk about the frontier settlement and the repeated irruptions of the Indians and the frequent murders and the greate devastation committed by them on the Greenbrier inhabitants during the Springs and Summers of 1778-79-80-81 & 82 rendered it indispensably necessary that a continual watch should be kept out. he witnessed a party of about twenty Indians who ranged about the border settlement frequently dividing and lurking in small parties at one time they were to be found on Mudy and Peters Creek killing these inhabitants at other times in the neighborhood of the Little Levels where fall to their prey at different periods Henry Baker, W. C. Keever, Prior Smith, Drinners and famileys and in the summer 1782 he was elected Ensign in Capt. Renicks Company in which capacity he acted three months in that year although owing to same cause his commition did not issue until the Spring after that. Early the Spring 1783 he and others was called to range along the frontier country to watch the paths oft traveled by the Indians and that when not spying he was stationed to guard Renicks Fort in the capacity of Ensign. He continued to spy and guard the fort from the first of April until the first of Sept a period of five months. He during all the revolutionary war witnessed the murder and bloodshed of the inhabitants of western Virginia and in all these suffering seems he was one of the actors. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an amenity except the present and he declared that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state only on that of the agency in the state of Virginia. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

James Gillilan

And I George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace do hereby declare my opinion that the above named applicant was an Indian spy and served as he states.

G. R. Gillilan, JP

We A. Campbell a clergyman residing in the county of Greenbrier and R. B. Wallace residing in the same hereby certify that we are well acquainted with James Gillilan who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 85 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been an Indian spy of the Revolutionary and that we concur in that opinion.

Arch'd Campbell
Robert B. Wallace

I George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace do hereby declare my opinion after the investigation of the mother and after putting the interrogations provided by the war department that the above named applicant was an Indian spy and served as he stated and he further certifies that it appears that Arch'd Campbell who has signed the proceeding certificate is a clergymen and a resident and that R. B. Wallace who has also signed the same is a resident in the county and State aforesaid and is a credible person and that their statement is entitled to credit.

George R. Gillilan JP

*Indian spy from 1777
Untill 1783 total 2 years 11 month
Rank of the claimant
Sergeant from the Spring
of 1777 until the summer
of 1782 – Total 2 years 1 month Total sergeant & Ensign 2 y 10 m
Ensign from the year summer of
1782 until Sept 1783 – 9 month
8 month of which time he noted before his commition issued*

*Interrogations answered
1st Augusta County Virginia in the year 1748
2nd I have my name recorded in a Bible
3rd I lived in Botetourt now Greenbrier County, VA where I have lived ever since and do yet live
4th I volunteered
5th Co. Donley until the summer of 1780 or spr then Col. Lewis
6th my commition was signed by Benj. Harrison and is here in my possession.*

State of Virginia
Greenbrier County SS

This 18th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the peace for sd County, John Patton age 86 years who being personally sworn according to law doth on his oath state that he is and was well acquainted with James Gilliland that he knew him pursuant to the Revolutionary War—and knew him during the revolutionary War to be spying and guarding the Fort for many years and is yet recognized as an ole Indian soldier

Given under my hand this day and hear above written.

George R. Gillilan JP

I George R. Gillilan do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with John Patton and believe him to be 83 years of age and that he is a credible person and that his statement is entitled to credit.

And I do further certify that to my knowledge James Gilliland who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration is not able to attend court owing to age and infirmities. Given under my hand this day and year aforesaid.

George R. Gillilan JP

Virginia

Greenbrier County To wit

I John Mathews Clerk of the Court of Greenbrier County do hereby certify that George R. Gillilan is a magistrate as stated in the within declaration of affidavits duly come – sufficient & qualified as such and that the signatures purporting to be his as genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my seal of office & subscribed my name this 19th day of December 1833 in the 58th years of the Comwth

John Mathews, CGC

LETTER FROM J. L. EDWARD -- 1/29/1833

War Department
Pension Office
January 29 1833

Sir

The declaration of James Gillilan has been examined and is herewith returned.

The application must distinctly set forth the number of tours and their duration which he performed – the period when and the place where the service was performed; the officers under whom he served in each tour, and by which authority he was enlisted.

His services under his commission of Ensign will be also distinctly stated.

Simply holding a commission in the militia, or having performed from time to time irregular service will not entitle him to a pension – but he must show that he was legally called out and bound to serve for a given period and State the nature of the service.

As nothing is said upon his commission to show that he was to take rank anterior to its date – no allowance can be made for services under it previous to that time.

I am Respectfully
Your ? Servant –
J. L. Edward

D. W. Sleeth Esq.
Lewisburg
VA

4/15/1783

The Commonwealth of Virginia

To *James Gillilan Ens*

Greeting,

Know you that from the fpecial truft and confidence which is repofed in your fidelity, courage, activity, and good conduct, our Governor, with the advice of the Council of State, and on the recommendation of the worshopful court of the county of *Greenbrier* doth appoint you the faid *James Gillilan Ensign* in the militia of the faid county of *Greenbrier* IN teftimony whereof, thefe our letters are made patent. WITNESS, *Benjamin Harrison* Efquire, our faid Governor, at *Richmond* this *15th* day of *April* 1783.

William Davies

Benj Harrison

SLIP

1936 – March 26-list to Mrs. D. J. Dumser

4029		
P. O.		

REJECTED

<i>James Gillilan</i>
Service:
Enlisted:
Discharged:
Application Filed:
<i>Alleges: The printed list of 1832 gives cause of rejection</i>
<i>Re-enlisted: as: "A frontiers-man, not drafted enlisted, officered or paid."</i>
Attorney:
P. O.

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES GILLILAN - 2/12/1834

State of Virginia
Greenbrier County SS

On this 12th day of February 1834 personally appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace in and for said county James Gillilan of said county aged 85 years.

And after being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath state in addition to the foregoing declaration which this is an appendix.

That he entered the service as an India spy in the county of Botetourt now Greenbrier in Western Virginia about the first of May 1777 under the command of Capt. Hamilton.

That the nature of his services, their duration and by what authority he was called out ? as followeth

That owing to the depredations committed by the Indians on the Fronteer inhabitants of Western Virginia during the Revolutionary War government ordered or permitted a regular embodied corps to be stationed in garrison along the new settlements for their defence against the Indians. That the garrison was also was furnished with ammunition from government.

That he volunteered under Capt. Hamilton about the first of May 1777 to serve until the first of October which time was usual for the Indians to leave the country.

The he received the appointment of orderly sergeant when he first entered the service. That he was stationed in Renick's Garrison at the forks of Spring Creek a branch of Greenbrier River then in Botetourt County now Greenbrier.

That he regularly entered the service as an Indian spy and served from the first of May until the first of October during the revolutionary war. That is to say five months in each year 1777-78-79-80-81-82-& 83. of the nature of his service and the particular events is briefly detailed in the accompanying (former) declaration.

The place where the officers under whom he served and his grade as followeth:

That he rendered all his service in Renicks Garrison or in spying the country up and down the Greenbrier River.

That he acted in the capacity of orderly sergeant from the commencement of his service until about the first of June 1782 under the command of Capt. Hamilton whose company was divided in part stationed in Meclanaburg Garrison on Calversons Creek a distance of five or six miles from Renicks Garrison where himself and a balance of the company was stationed.

That in this capacity he was engaged in keeping regulatory roles accationally detailing certain men to go on spying parties, etc.

That in the spring or summer of 1782 there was a call for a certain number of men to be drafted out of the several companies then in Garrison along the Greenbrier and New Rivers to go a six months tour against the Indians down the Big Kannahowa or to the state of Kentucky. When Capt Hamilton was promoted to Mager and William Renick appointed Captain to succeed him and himself chosen Ensign under Capt. Renicks in which capacity while in garrison. That summer he took rank of which he has no documenting evidence therefore do not now claim the rank.

That he took rank as Ensign soon as he went to Garrison in the Spring of 1783 which was the first of May and served in that capacity until the first of October.

That he served from the first of May until the first of October either in Garrison (or on spying parties) with embodied corps five month in each year above named during which time he followed no civil pursuit.

That he can further support his declaration by the evidence of Joseph McClintick and Henry Hederick both of this county who served with him

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Before me

James Gillilan

George R. Gillilan JP

State of Virginia

Greenbrier County SS

On this 12th day of February 1834 personally appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace in and for said county Joseph McClintick and after being duly sworn according to law –

Doth on his oath state that he was well acquainted with Captain James Gillilan who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration – that he knew him anterior to the Revolutionary War and that he will recollect that he was stationed in Renicks Garrison every summer during the War

That he recollected of him acting as sergeant having the care of the Amunition etc. entrusted to him in the absence of the Captain. That he recollected of him at one time preparing the role when a certain number was to be drafted to go against the Indians that he drew under him.

That he has ever since the Revolutionary War lived a neighbor to him.

That he was ever considered as a brave Indian Warriar and is yet frequently spoken of in the neighborhood as having been such.

Given under my hand the days and year aforesaid

George R. Gillilan J.P.

And I George R. Gillilan a justice of the peace do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Joseph McClintick and believe him to be 82 years of age and that he is a credible person and his statement is entitled to credit.

George R. Gillilan J. P.

Virginia

Greenbrier County To wit

I John Mathews Clerk of the Court of Greenbrier County do hereby certify that George R. Gillilan is a magistrate as above stated and that the signatures purporting to be his are genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed the seal of my office and subscribed my name this 14th day of February 1834 and in the 58 year of the Commonwealth.

John Mathews CGC

SLIP – 4/3/1784

Dlbsluth

VA

Claims of

Jno Patton

Jno McFerrea

J W. Gilliland & David Williams for

same or Indian spys in Renick VA

submitted & the special examination of the Commission of Pensions April 3 1784

D. W. Sleeth

?, VA

LETTER FROM DAVID W. SLEETH – 2/14/1834

Lewisburg Va – 14th February 1834

Sir

The declaration of Capt James Gillilan is herewith returned with an adition annexed in which you will see – that he served in garrison with an embodied corps.

That he served and ranked as he states will not be doubted by any who knows him his credibility for varacity is surpassed by but few.

He is frequently spoken of in the neighborhood where he resides as having been a very active and brave Indian warrior

And am Respectfully

Yours

David W. Sleeth

J. L. Edwards
Comr of Pension
War Dept.
Washington City
DC

LETTER FROM DAVID SLEETH -- 2/14/1834

Lewisburg, VA 14th February 1834

Sir The declaration of Joseph McMillion is herewith returned without an alteration—the six weeks in his declaration and refered to in yours of the 29th also you will perceive is only explaining where and how he was employed in his first three months tour.

The two tours of three months each is all that he claims which claim you state to be correct.

The declaration of David Williams is returned made out anew of the declarations of John Patton and John McFerson? is also returned with an appendise attached—in which they have endeavored to bring their claims within the rules of the Dept. if they have not I shall consider that it is for the want of knowledge on my part not being fully able to represent their case as they merit—I am fully persuaded if any of the old Indian soldiers or spies in the government is entitled to a pension. It is them – they are all men of respectability and no doubt have served as they have stated in the most perilous kind of ware faire.

For condure and varacity on my part if a statement from an individual would give want to their claims – for information on that subject I would refer you to the Honorable John J. Allen a representative in Congress – who has long been acquainted with me.

Yours Respectfully –

David W. Sleuth

J. L. Edwards Comr
of Pension

Washington City –
DC

SLIP

James Gillilan, applic

Greenbrier County

Asst. ?

Entered a Index

JAMES GILLILAN AFFIDAVIT – 1/24/1835

James Gillilan, Applicant

I the undersigned James Gillilan, being called by W. G. Singleton for a statement of my service in the war of the Revolution & age give the following to wit—I shall be 86 years old the 16th of March next – was born in Augusta County Virginia and lived where I now live during this ware of the Revolution – on land which I now own and acquired by “settlement rights” from the year 1776 to 1783. Myself and family during the summer season were forted at Renick Fort, two miles from my house, in the winter season we left the fort and returned to our cabin – all the people in my settlement lived in Renick Fort for the time above mentioned – in the summer season kept up a garrison – and worked our little crops as well as we could – would all turn out in a body and work each others places by turns – whilst some were working, others would be watching and guarding to give alarms of the approach of Indian. I was sergeant of the Garrison, Hamilton was Captain ? and after him Renick was Captain. When on an occasion required I went out from this Fort in pursuit of Indians but don’t recollect of being that way but once, then only for a few days. This was when this attack was made on Donleys Fort some ten miles distant from the Fort at which I lived. I think I was in this service four days. There was no attack made on the Fort in which I lived. In corn husking season, more or less of us were quickly engaged in working corn, potatoes, etc. “after our corn was laid by we remained in the fort” until corn gathering time. Then we would turn out all together and get our corn in. I was employed all through this war in the manner above stated. I acted as ensign being elected this before the ware closed but was not commissioned until after it did close. Jany 24, 1835.

Witness

Wm. R. Woods

James Gillilan

? W. ?

Note: This declaration he has an was written by Geroge Gillilan this latter ? time of the application [can’t really read the rest]...

SLIP – 3/16/1835

James Gillilan

Virginia

--Rejected--

Sec. Wm. Luigleton’s ?

Enclosed--

at 16 Mar 35 Co. Clerk

4029

SLIP

James Gillilan

Act 1832

VA

AFFIDAVIT OF GEORGE R. GILLILAN - 9/13/1853

State of *Missouri*

County of *Lafayette*

Be it Known, that on the *thirteenth* day of *September* A. D. 1853 before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared *George R. Gillilan* resident *near Renick Hill P.O.* in said County, and made oath, according to law that *he is the son and legal heir of James Gillilan* who was a Soldier in the war of the Revolution, and who has heretofore made application for the benefit of the Pension Act of _____ that *he is* directly interested as a claimant in said pension and make this affidavit to be filed with such additional evidence or arguments as my Agent may use in presenting said claim.

Countermanding and revoking all Powers of Attorney, and authority heretofore given, I hereby constitute and appoint Samuel M. Knight, of Washington City, my true and lawful Attorney, to prosecute the claim of *a James Gillilan* for any amount of Revolutionary Pension, or increase of Pension that may be due; and I hereby authorize my said Attorney to examine all papers or documents in relation to said claim on file in the Department at Washington City, or elsewhere, to file additional evidence or arguments, and to resolve for my exclusive benefit, the certificate which may be issued for said claim, which certificate I wish made payable at the Washington City, D. C. Agency; to appoint one or more substitutes under him for the purposes herein expressed and to do all things that I might or could do were I personally present. Hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said Attorney and Agent shall lawfully do in the premises.

G. R. Gillilan

Sworn to, subscribed and acknowledged before me the day and year above written, and I hereby certify that I believe the said *George R. Gillilan* to be directly interested in said claim as set forth and to be the identical party therein alleged.

Henry C. Wallace

Justice of the Peace

State of *Missouri*

County of *Lafayette*

It is hereby certified, that satisfactory evidence has been exhibited before me, Clerk of the Court of *Lafayette County* that *George R. Gillilan* the party who has sworn to, and acknowledged the foregoing Declaration and Power of Attorney *is the child* of the reputed soldier aforesaid. I further certify, that *Henry C. Wallace* Esq. before whom the preceding affidavit and Power of Attorney were made and acknowledged, was at the time of so doing, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, and that the signature purporting to be his, I believe to be genuine.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of Office, there *thirteenth* day of *September* 1853

Edward Stratton, Clerk

LETTER FROM MRS. D. J. DUMSER – 3/4/1936

316 S. State St.
Elgin, IL
March 4th 1936

Commissioner of Pension
War Dept. Revolutionary Div.
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir:

I Will you kindly inform me if James Gillilan of Virginia was a Pensioner of the Revolutionary War or service therein? He was born March 16, 1749 in Augusta Co. Va. and died there Feby 14 1844.

His first wife was Lydia Armstrong 2nd wife Mrs. Jane Edmiston. Any information regarding this matter will be appreciated.

Your truly
Mrs. D. J. Dumser

Recvd' 3/6/1936

LETTER FROM MRS. D. J. DUMSER – 3/20/1936

316 S. State St.
Elgin, IL
March 20 – 36

Dear Sir:

I wrote to you three weeks ago regarding the pension of Rev. War service of James Gillilan born 1749 d. 1844 – wife Lydia Armstrong – have you a record of this matter & ? reply will oblige.

Your truly
Mrs. D. J. Dumser

LETTER TO MRS. D. J. DUMSER – 3/26/1936

March 26, 1936

James Gillilan-R.4029
HA-J/AWF

Mrs. D. J. Dumser
316 S. State Street
Elgin, Illinois

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your request for the Revolutionary War record of James Gillilan, born March 16, 1749 in Augusta County, Virginia, and died there February 14, 1844.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R. 4029, based upon the service of James Gillilan in the Revolutionary War.

James Gillilan was born in the year 1748 in Augusta County, Virginia, or March 16, 1749 in said county; he made both statements. The names of his parents were not given.

He came in 1769 to Botetourt County, that part which was later Greenbrier County, Virginia.

He applied for pension December 17, 1833, then living in Greenbrier County, Virginia. He stated that he, with his family, was stationed at Renick's Fort, during the summers of 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, and 1782, that a part of the time he was sergeant under Captains Hamilton and Renick, who were also stationed in the fort. He was commissioned, April 15, 1783, Ensign of the Greenbrier County, Virginia militia.

The claim was not allowed as proof of six months service in an embodied military corps was not furnished.

George R. Gillilan was Justice of the Peace in 1833 for Greenbrier County, Virginia, and George R. Gillilan of Lafayette County, Missouri in 1853, stated that he was the son and legal heir of the soldier, James Gillilan. The date of death of James Gillilan is not given, nor is the name of his wife shown.

Very truly yours.

G. H. Sweet
Acting Executive Assistant to the Administrator

