

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Graves R14570

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following copy was entered as evidence in a petition by James Quarles (pension application R17254). The issue was whether officers who had been discharged before the end of the war because they were supernumerary (lacked enough soldiers for a command) were entitled to the provision of a law granting half pay for life or full pay for five years (commutation). The court found in Graves's favor, but apparently he did not collect his pay.]

Virginia towit:

Pleas at the Capitol in the city of Richmond on friday the first day of April in the year of our Lord 1791, Before the Judges duly allotted to the District court directed by law to be holden for the District composed of the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Chesterfield, Goochland and Powhatan.

Be it remembered that at this same term towit: On monday the eleventh day of April in the year aforesaid Wiliam Graves by his attorney presented to the said court his petition and appeal from a decision of the Auditor of Public accounts in the words following towit:

To the honorable the Judges of the District Court now sitting. The petition of William Graves, Cornet and Q master of the Cavalry of Col. Charles Dabney's legion, humbly sheweth. That your petitioner engaged in the service of his country, among the State troops in the year 1779 and continued therein untill the ninth of February 1783, at which time he was a cornet & QM in actual service, and was then by an order of the executive discharged on half pay, that by the laws of this Commonwealth he is entitled as he conceives to half pay or to five years full pay in commutation thereof. Yet the Auditor of public accounts has refused to issue to your petitioner certificates or warrants therefor; from which decision of the Auditor your petitioner prays an appeal to this honble. court, and prays that the said judgment of the auditor may be reversed, and that he may be directed to issue to your petitioner such certificates or warrants, as he is by law entitled to and your petitioner will ever pray &c. &c.

I admit notice of the above petition

Audrs office 9<sup>th</sup> April 1791.

J. Pendleton.

To the Honorable the Senate and the House of Delegates.

Your Petitioner Euphan Graves is the Relict of Wm Graves and lately administered on the estate of her said husband who died in 1799 very poor leaving your petitioner and two children William A Graves & James Graves your other petitioners who here beg leave to state that William Graves the husband and father of your petitioners very early entered into the service during the Revolutionary War and was a cornet in the cavalry under Captain William Armistead troop of Horse Major John Nelson was the major Commandant ["corrected" to "Commandment"] - that in the year 1782 by their arrangement he was transferred to Colo Dabneys [Charles Dabney's] Legion was it is said appointed Quarter master in the said Legion - that this House has paid Major Nelson his commutation and the Heirs of Captain Armistead - that the said intestate continued in the service until the end of the war that the Executive who had the power declared that your petitioners said father should retire on half pay with others of the said Legion -

Your petitioners appeal to the justice and magnanimity of this House to allow your petitioners the commutation of half pay for the life of your petitioners said husband & of your other petitioners said father or five years commutation in lieu thereof - Your petitioners believe the Board of Public officers reported that the said William Graves the elder was entitled to half pay for life - that they believe that Judge John Marshall [Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, pension application S5731] Colo George Muter & Colo Charles Dabney [R13624] were appointed to make out the discrimination under the act of 1781 & that two of them are still alive and can give to this House any further information if required so to do -

Euphan Graves                      William A Graves                      James Graves

by William DuVal their Friend & agent

[Certified at Norfolk Borough Court, 1 Sep 1826. James Barron, pension application W12264,

certified that he became acquainted with William Graves "at Hampton VA shortly after the siege of York and am inclined to think that he continued in the service, until the close of the war, when he received some civil appointment at Norfolk."]

NOTE: The file contains many documents regarding the amount owed the heirs of Graves, and it appears that they were eventually granted \$17,166.78.