

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Gray R56.5¹

fn59VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/11/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: the cover sheet on this file has the following note—I'm not sure what it means: "Va. Half Pay See Acc. No. 837—Virginia State Navy James Gray, Y S File Va. Half Pay."]

Preceding of a board of Officers, late of the State line & Navy that sat in Richmond in consequence of a requisition of the Supreme Executive on Thursday the 13th May 1784

Present:

Commodore Barron²

Colonel Meriwether [probably Thomas Meriwether] &

Colonel Muter [George Muter]

Capt. Lilly [probably Thomas Lilly]

The board examined all the list of officers of the Navy which is subjoined & find from the best evidence they can procure that it is agreeable to the arrangement of the officers of the Navy next preceding the fall session of Assembly in 1781 and that their officers that are now alive, whose names are included in the said list have always behaved themselves in such a manner as to be justly entitled to all the emoluments given by law to the officers of the State Navy. The board however are informed that Lieutenant Gray in his lifetime & while he commanded the *Cormorant* behaved much amiss in making away with stores entrusted to his care. This happened in the year 1782. The foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings of a board of Officers all of which is now on file in this office &

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond this 4th of February 1847

S/ Jas. E. Heath, 1st Auditor

Executive Department Richmond March 24th 1834

The Heirs of James Gray are allowed Land Bounty for his services as a Lieutenant in the State Navy from February 27, 1776 to the close of the War. The Register will issue a Warrant accordingly, if not heretofore drawn.

Attest

S/ John Floyd

S/ John B Richardson

On the 16th day of September 1834, a Warrant No. 40264 4677 acres issued to Elizabeth Dammerell, Thomas Topping and William Topping heirs of James Gray.

A copy from the record of the Virginia Land Office

Test: S/ S. H. Parker, Reg. L. Office

¹ Will Graves has assigned this odd number to this file because the War Department assigned the file number R56 to at least two different men and since C. Leon Harris has already transcribed [James Adkins R56](#), a unique number was needed for this file on the database.

² Three men bore this rank, James Barron, Richard Barron and Samuel Barron

Thursday 11th September 1777

James Gray is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the Honorable the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant in the Naval Department.

The above is truly copied from the Naval Journal, page 284.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 10th day of November 1846

S/ A. W. Morton 1st Clerk

acting in the absence of the Auditor

[fn p. 7]

At a Court held for Warwick County at the Court House of said County, on Thursday the 12th day of December 1833 in the 58th year of the Commonwealth

It appears, to the Court, from satisfactory evidence this day adduced that James Gray, an officer in the State Navy, died intestate, leaving as his heir at law William Gray, his brother, who left as his heirs at law, Elizabeth Dammarel, wife of William Dammarel, Thomas Topping, William Topping and Mary Ann Topping, so that the said Elizabeth Dammarel, Thomas Topping, William Topping and Mary Ann Topping are the only heirs at law of the said James Gray.

At a Court continued by the act of Assembly, from Thursday last, and held for Maury County, at the Court House thereof, on Saturday the 14th day of November, 1846, in the 71st year of the Commonwealth.

It appears to the Court, by satisfactory evidence, that James Gray was a Lieutenant of the Virginia State Navy in the War of the Revolution, & that the said James Gray died in the County of Warwick and State of Virginia in the month of December in the year 1783.

I, William Robertson, Clerk, of the County Court of Warwick County, in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true transcripts from the records of the said Court.

In testimony whereof, I hereto set my hand & affixed the seal of the said Court, this 14th day of November, in the year 1846.

S/ Wm Robertson, C. W. C.

[fn p. 11]

Pension Office January 29th, 1847

I certify that I have examined the claim of the heirs of the late James Gray, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy, and who served to the end of the revolutionary war; and that the case is provided for by the act of July 5, 1832. It is my opinion therefore that the claim should be allowed at the rate of \$182.50 from the 22nd of April 1783, when the war closed, to the first of December 1783, at which month he died; and that the amount is payable to Francis A Dickins, attorney of George W Mallicote of Warwick County, Virginia, administrator of said James Gray, deceased.

S/ Commissioner of Pensions

Approved

Secretary of War

"Entered this on the Register, act 5 July '32 Va. case

[fn p. 50: evidence that James Gray was acting as captain of the *Gloucester* in July 1780 when he signed for provisions for 30 days for 21 men; in August he drew bacon and flour for use of the *Gloucester* for 12 men, 30 days; September 1780, order for "Mr. Anderson [to] furnish Capt. Gray of the *Gloucester* **prison ship**, with one hundred ten penny nails, and one hundred double

tens, also tow ladles, two flesh forks and two dozen pair handcuffs.

"Ordered that Messrs Eaton & Browne issue to Capt. Gray, ten barrels of pork and ten ditto of flour for the use of the *Gloster* [sic] **prison ship**."

[fn p. 51]

"Richmond Monday the 9th of October 1780

Ordered that a warrant issued to Captain James Gray 4th 200 pounds on account, to defray the expenses of the *Gloucester* **prison ship**."

"Richmond Tuesday November 28, 1780

Ordered that Captain Gray of the *Gloucester* prison ship then Captain Reeves such blocks and reading as he may want, from those belonging to the brig *Industry* for the use of the Flag going to Charleston."

"Ordered that the Commissary of stores deliver Captain Gray, one box of candles and one barrel of rum, for the use of the *Gloucester* **prison ship**."

"Richmond, Monday December 18th 1780

Ordered that Captain, supply Captain Gray with 20 fathom of seine line, for the use of the *Gloucester* **prison ship**."

[fn p. 52]

"Tuesday the 15th of day of February 1780

Ordered that a warrant issued to Captain James Gray commander of the **prison ship**, for three thousand two hundred forty pounds on account of the purpose of recruiting twelve men for the Naval Department.

Ordered – that the Board be adjourned till Monday morning 10 o'clock.

Signed S/ James Innis
 S/ George Syne"

[Note from Will Graves: I highlighted the term "prison ship" above. This is the first time I've ever seen evidence that the US used prison ships to house prisoners of war. The British used such ships extensively in NY, SC and GA. If anyone has any information about the US using prison ships in the Revolutionary War, I would appreciate hearing from them. See the home page of this website for my email address.]