

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Jacob Gray S31709

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Transcribed by Will Graves

8/25/08

United States of America, Territory of Arkansas: Superior Court

On this the 30th day of January A.D. 1834, personally appeared in open Court before the Superior Court for said Territory of Arkansas now sitting in Little Rock in the County of Pulaski, Jacob Gray, a resident in said County and Territory, age 71 years, 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 during the year 1780 and about two months of 1781, he was engaged in the State of North Carolina as a private in two companies of Rangers commanded by Captain John Foster and Robert Davis, serving alternately some time in one company and then in the other; -- these companies were organized for the purpose of making his against the Tories in said State. That soon after he left the service, in the month of march or April the year 1781, he enlisted in again under Captain John Foster above mentioned, in North Carolina, in the Regiment of Colonel Henry Hampton commissioned by General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] to raise troops for the service in South Carolina; -- these were called the State Troops of South Carolina -- soon after his enlistment in these State troops, they marched into South Carolina and joined General Sumter's troops at Headquarters on the Congaree River; where the Regiment was organized and the enlistments not being sufficient for two regiments, Colonel Wade Hampton having also been appointed to raise a Regiment, this applicant was transferred to Captain Jacob Barnett's Company in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment, and Colonel Henry Hampton and Captain Foster retired from the service. Soon after we marched to Thompson's Fort on the Santee River, in possession of the British and Tories, and found there a party of State Troops operating against the Fort; -- at this place we remained a few days, but before the Fort was captured, a detachment of State Troops, among whom was this applicant, with a brass field piece was ordered to Orangeburg to take a post there in possession of the British & Tories, as soon as the detachment arrived there, the commander sent in a Flag and demanded a surrender; but instead of surrendering they commenced firing on the State Troops -- when three rounds fired through their Fort, (a large brick house) from the brass field peace, silenced their fire, and compelled an immediate surrender. During the Summer, the troops to whom this applicant belonged was principally engaged in suppressing and keeping down the Tories. He was in the Battle at the Eutaw Springs; at this engagement, General Greene commanded the Americans; and Colonels Lee and Washington were there with their troops of horse; In this Battle, Colonel Wade Hampton had his horse killed under him, while in the act of charging upon a party of the British, about 200 in number, (who from their appearance were Scotch, being dressed principally in Scotch bonnet's) who fell upon the Americans in their rear -- Hampton mounted a soldier's horse, and soon compelled this party to surrender as prisoners. During the battle, Colonel Washington with about 100 horsemen, made a charge down the road upon the British Cannon, but did not succeed -- the road was strewn with his dead and wounded men and horses, and Washington's own horse was killed under him and himself captured by the British and carried to Charleston -- next morning there was but 13 men of Washington's troops left fit for duty. After the Battle of the Eutaw Springs, the troops to which this applicant belonged were engaged about Orangeburg & through that part of South Carolina in watching and suppressing the Tories, without being in any other battle of note. This applicant had at first volunteered and enlisted in the State Troops for 10 months; but before the expiration of his Term, a detachment, under Captain Barnett, in which this applicant was, on the application of an Officer from the State of Georgia, was sent through that State into the wilderness towards the Altamaha River; the object of which was, as this applicant believes, to overtake and bring back a Captain Daniel McGirt who, it was said, had unlawfully seized about 100 Negroes and other property, belonging to other persons, and was carrying them off to Saint Augustine. The Officer of this detachment, when it had

penetrated within a few miles of the Altamaha, learned from some Indians and Traders that McGirt had crossed the River, when the detachment immediately returned. After the return of this detachment, the troops composing it were disbanded and returned to their homes, there Term of Service having previously expired, the balance of the State Troops had been disbanded before their return; this applicant left the service, and arrived at home about the same time in the Spring of 1782, that he had enlisted in the Spring of 1781, having served about 12 months: From this service he never received a written discharge.

Soon after his return home, in the spring of 1782, into the State of North Carolina, his brother Shared Gray,¹ who lived in the State of South Carolina, was drafted to perform a three months tour in the Militia of that State (South Carolina) as a private soldier, and his affairs being so that he could not leave home conveniently, this applicant took his place and served a tour of three months in the South Carolina Militia, as a substitute for his brother. He joined his company, commanded by Captain Benjamin Hale, in what is called Kershaw District, and marched to Dorchester under Hale, then joined a large body of troops at that place (1000 or 1500 men perhaps). The Militia to which he belonged lay encamped at Dorchester until the expiration of their term, when they were disbanded & this applicant returned home – but does not recollect whether he received a written discharge or not; and if he did, that it is lost and cannot now be produced. That he lived in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina, at the time he entered each of the respective the services above mentioned. He was born in Granville County, North Carolina, and the 21st day of August in the year 1762, according to the account of his parents, and has no other record or evidence of his age; -- He was carried to Mecklenburg County aforesaid by his parents, when he was about two years of age. Since the Revolutionary War, he has resided in Kershaw and Lancaster District in South Carolina; in Williamson County, Tennessee; and now resides and has for the last 13 years in Pulaski County, Arkansas Territory. He refers to Honorable Benjamin Johnson, Colonel Samuel M. Rutherford, Honorable Ambrose H. Sevier, now at Washington City, who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. He also refers to General Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, with whom he was acquainted in Tennessee, and at New Orleans.

He has no documentary evidence of his aforesaid services, nor does he know of any person in Arkansas whose testimony he can procure to testify to his said services, except his brother Shared Gray, who now lives in this County.

And the said Jacob Gray 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 or Territory.

Sworn to, and subscribed this 30th day of January A.D. 1834, in open Court.

S/ Wm Field, Clk

S/ Jacob Gray

[Samuel M. Rutherford, and John K. Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Shared Gray brother of Jacob Gray, the applicant in the foregoing declaration, hereby certify that I believe all the statements therein contained to be true; and that I know that the said Jacob Gray preformed the 10 months tour of duty mentioned by him in his declaration; also I know that he performed a three months tour therein mentioned, in the militia of South Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the date last aforesaid.

S/ Wm Field, Clk

S/ Shared Gray