

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Gray W7576

Ann

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Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Ohio, Preble County

On this 21st day of September in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Preble and State of Ohio now sitting William Gray a resident of Dickson Township Preble County and State of Ohio aged 76 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 7th 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States in the North Carolina Militia in the latter part of the summer or fall of 1778 in the County of Randolph in the State of North Carolina (where he then resided) as Captain of a Company of mounted men (or Horse) and that he continued in the service and held and exercised the rank and command of Captain of said Company or troop of Horse for about three years and until the close of the Revolutionary War, & that during said time he found & furnished his own horse and equipage. And that said company was regularly organized and subject to the same rules, laws & regulations of the militia of said State, and was attached to and composed a part of the Randolph Regiment of North Carolina Militia which Regiment was then commanded by Colonel John Colyer [sic, John Collier] and after him by Col. James Duggans [sic, James Dugan]. And that General Butler [John Butler] commanded the division of Militia to which he was attached. That the military operations of their Regiment during his Service was mostly confined to the State of North Carolina, that they were attached to no body of Regular troops but were always kept in motion marching rapidly from one point to another protecting the Inhabitants from the British soldiers and the Tories, had some severe fighting was in what was called the Needam [sic, Needham?] action¹ near Deep River on the 8th of June he thinks in 1781 Colonels Lofton & Colyer was in the action. That previous to his entering the service he was legally elected Captain of the company which he afterwards commanded, that after assure was disappointing your Davis and boys that the Rolla written very hard for my date roll back memories of wonderful memories of how exciting it was the first on the River made it in file for the Owsleyhis election he received a Brevet commission as Captain signed by General Butler who commanded the Division of Militia to which he belonged, on which he was sworn into office, he does not recollect the date of said Brevet, and has by accident long since lost it. But he continued to serve under it as aforesaid until shortly before he left the service, when he received a commission regularly made out and signed by Alexander Martin then Governor of North Carolina and I. Glasgow Secretary dated 25th of January 1782 which commission he now has & exhibits it to the court, about the time or shortly after he entered the Service Governor Burk [sic, Thomas Burke] then Governor of that State was taken prisoner by the British and was [indecipherable word, looks like "clained" could it be "chained?"] for some time and after his release he resigned. This circumstance he assigns as the most probable cause why a regular commission was not sooner made out for him. But he avers & declares that he did serve as aforesaid and that during the time he remained in the Service he held and exercised the rank and command of Captain of said company in the Militia of North Carolina – he cannot state the precise time he left the Service but is certain and positive that he remained in the Service until the close of the War – and his Country no longer needed his Services, he has no hesitation in saying that he Served in the Capacity aforesaid something upwards of three years and that he found & furnished his own horse & equipage during said time he further states that he has no documentary evidence of his said service except his said commission. He 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, he further states that he has no record of his age, But believes he was Born in September 1756 in the County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania and that he lived in Randolph County and State of

1 O'Kelley refers to this action as the "Cox Mill" action. See: <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/coxsmill.htm>

North Carolina when called into Service and Served in the militia of that State and since the Revolutionary war he resided in Blount County in the State of Tennessee and from that place he came to Preble County in the State of Ohio where he now resides and has resided for 16years last past. And that he is known to and acquainted with Robert Rhea, John Truax and others in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his Services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. C. Hawkins, Clerk

S/ William Gray

[Josiah Conger, a clergyman, and Jehu S. Rhea gave the standard supporting affidavit]

State of Ohio, Preble County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Preble, William Gray who has Subscribed and Sworn to the foregoing declaration and being by me duly Sworn according to law deposeeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot Swear positively as to the precise length of his Service but according to the best of his recollection, his served in the capacity of Captain of a volunteer company of Horse and the Randolph Regiment of North Carolina militia as stated in the foregoing declaration not less than three years and six months which Service was rendered during the War of the Revolution and for such Service he now claims a pension.

Sworn to and Subscribed the 23 March 1833.

S/ Isaac Stephens

S/ Wm Gray

[fn, p. 21 is Gray's commission dated January 25, 1782, signed by Alex. Martin, Governor and issued at Salem, NC.]

State of Ohio, Preble County: 1st Judicial Circuit of the Court of Common Pleas and the State of Ohio
March Term 1833

On this 23rd day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting John Duggins [sic, John Dougan]² aged 70 years who being duly sworn according to law Deposeeth and Saith that he is now and has been personally acquainted with William Gray now of Preble County Ohio for near 60 years and that some time in the latter part of the summer of 1778 he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in a company of volunteer mounted man or Horse in Randolph County in the State of North Carolina in the Randolph Regiment of North Carolina Militia that he continued in the service until the Spring of 1782 and that the said William Gray entered said service at the same time and place and held and exercised the rank and command of Captain of said company and that when this Deponent left the Service he left said Gray in the Service and this Deponent further states that he knows from his own personal knowledge that the said William Gray did Serve as Captain of said Company for at least three years and that this Deponent served as a private in said Company under said Gray and that said Great as well as the other members of said company furnished his own horse that he knows said Gray personally and has known him ever since they were small boys and he knows said Gray to be the same person who has signed & sworn to a declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 – dated 21 September 1832.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. C. Hawkins, Clerk

S/ John Dougan

And also at the same time and place came personally John Runyon³ aged 70 years who being duly Sworn according to law deposeeth and saith that in the summer of 1781 he was in the Service of the

² FPA W9836

³ [John Runyon S4799](#)

United States in the Randolph Regiment of North Carolina, that he was then and now is personally acquainted with William Gray now of Preble County of Ohio and that he then seen said William Gray in the service and that said Gray had had the command of a company of Mounted men or Horse, and said Gray and this deponent were both in the Needham Battle at Deep River which was fought the 8th of June 1781, he this Deponent salt said Gray in the action and knows that he was Captain of a company of Horse men. Deponent does not know how long said Great was in the service and knows he remained in the service till the end of the War & held the command of Captain as aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court,

S/ J. C. Hawkins, Clerk

S/ John Runyon

[On May 24, 1851 in Preble County Ann Gray aged 86 filed for a widow's pension stating, among of things, that she was the widow of William Gray, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$300 per annum which terminated on March 8, 1849. On the same date and at the same place, John Gray, aged 54, gave an affidavit stating that he was the son of William and and Gray, that his parents were married in 1786, that he is his parents fifth child and was born on June 15, 1797, that he has two brothers and two sisters older than himself, Robert, Sarah, Thomas and Jane, that his brother Thomas his mother's third child served two tours in the War of 1812, that his father William Gray died March 8, 1849 and that his mother is still living and still a widow.]