

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Grayson BLWt1366-500
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } I Robert H. Grayson do upon oath testify and declare that I am a
Jefferson County } son and one of the Heirs at Law of Col William Grayson Deceased
late a Colonel of the Virginia line of the army of the Revolution. Also I do further testify and
declare that I have never received a warrant from the United States for the Bounty land due me
in right of said deceased Neither do I believe that he ever received it or transfered his right to it
in any manner whatever.

[The rest is power of attorney to pursue the claim. Dated 15 Nov 1826]

War Office, May 24th 1783

It appears by a certificate in this Office under the hand of His Excellency General
Washington, who was authorised by Congress [on 27 Dec 1776] to Officer the Sixteen Additional
Battalions as they were then called, that William Grayson, Esq was on the first day of January
1777, appointed to the command of one of those Battalions, which rank he continued to hold
until he was deranged on the first day of January 1781, by virtue of the Resolution of Congress
of the 3^d day of October 1780, during which period Colo. Grayson was on the 7th day of
December 1779 appointed a member of the Board of War, and continued in that Office 'till after
he was deranged. B. Lincoln

Council Chambers June 23, 183 [sic: 1783]. A true Copy Thos. Meriwether

[The following document appears to be a memorandum outlining the argument for denying the
claim of Robert H. Grayson because William Grayson did not serve to the end of the war.
Commas have been inserted on the first page between last name, first name. See endnote for full
names.]

R'd. C. Anderson -	Lt. Col Infy	Geo Baylor	Col
B. Ball -	D[itt]o D'o	Abm Buford	Inf
S. J. Cabell -	D'o 7 th D'o	Wm Davies	D'o 1 D'o
Jonath'n. Clark -	D'o 8 D'o	C. Febiger	D'o 2 ^d
Edw'd. Carrington -	D'o. Artil'y	Gist, Nathl	D'o
Wm Darke -	D'o 1 Infy	Gibson, Jno	D'o
Gaskins, Thos -	D'o	Green, Jno	D'o
Hopkins, Saml	D'o	Harrison, Ch.	D'o
Hawes, Saml	D'o.	Heth, Wm	D'o
Joynes, Levin	D'o. Supernumerary	Matthews, Geo	D'o
Jameison, Jno	D'o D'o	Neville, Jno	D'o
Lee, Henry	legion	Russell, Wm	D'o
Posey, Thos	D'o Infy	Wood, James	D'o
Taylor, Rich'd	D'o	<u>White, Anty W</u>	<u>Drs</u>
Towles, Oliver	D'o	Is it reasonable to suppose that the vacancy	
Temple Benj	Dr[agoon]s	occasioned in the Regt in which Col G[rayson].	
Washington, Wm.	Drs	served was still kept open during the time that he	
Wallace, Gust. B.	Infy	was attached to the board of War? If it was not what	

Lieut. Colos - 18
Regt did he join afterwards - and what Colo was
displaced to make room for him. - If he still kept his rank in the army - when in the board of war
- why was it not so stated as was in the case of Genls [Thomas] Mifflin - [Horatio] Gates & Heth -
in what service was he even engaged after he left the board of War - which was about a month
before the Capture of Cornwallis - was he in that engagement? - No where was he? - was he
supernumerary? - if so why is his name not found with those of Cols Joynes & Jameison - There
were 14 Colos. of Infy 16 Lieut Colos of D'o - of which two were sup'r. leaving a Col. & Lt. Col for
each Regt. - In that case what Regt did Colo. G belong to - was he Colo. & Lt Colo. both of a Regt
of the 15th? - Did he ever receive commutation - & why if he did did he not get his land from the

U. S at the same time - also why did he not receive land from the State in that proportion allowed to those who served to the close of the war - and not what he did receive viz - that allowed to the for 3 years service

Vol 2. Journals of the old Congress

page 317. Gen. Mifflin, Colos [Timothy] Pickering & Harrison [possibly Robert Hanson Harrison] app. members of the board of war

Vol. 2. 342. Colo. Pickering's acceptance

" 352. Gen. Gates app'd a member & still to retain his rank in the army

Vol. 3 150. Colo. Grayson app'd. a member of ditto

" 164 declines accepting

" 320 Genl Heth app'd a member & to retain his rank

" 336. five years commutation

" 409. Colo. Wm. Grayson (again) app'd a member of the board of war without any offer for him to retain his rank

" 666 resigns his app't a few weeks before the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and as his name is not again found on the rolls of the army it is but fair to suppose that when he accepted said app't it was by himself & others thought to be a virtual relinquishment of his comm'd in the Army.

Vo 3 p 705 Colo Grayson at this time was not in service and if he had have been this resolve would not apply to him as he would have belonged to a line - Viz - Virginia — this resolve only applying to those who belonged to no line — he resigned in 1781 & if the 2nd resolve which requires the Sec'y of War to make returns of all officers necessary to be retained in service why was not the name of Col G - if he was considered to be then in service - not ret'd

It appears that the 3^d resolve could not have applied to him as he was not then in service and having left the B'd of War his name is not returned & he settled with by Mr. Dunscomb who was app'd comm. to settle with all who served to the close of the war - which does not appear to have been his case as there is no such settlement to its termination - and further the State of Va. gave the same quantity of land for 3 years service as she did for during the War except indeed for every year (or part of a year) she gave for any term beyond 6 years and add'l 76 [? acres?] - therefore, if the Colo. was considered to have been in service more than three years for which period Mr. Dunscomb has settled with him, why did he only receive from the State the quantity of land promised to a three years man

Vol 3 page 713 Colo. Grayson is represented to have been an aid to the Comm'r. in Chief - if such was the fact why is his name not included in the list to which [several illegible words] Department of W[ar?] Bounty Land Office Aug's 16th 1827 [signed] S. Amstruart[?]

There were hundreds of Officers of the Va. line who at the end of 3 years re-entered again for the same period or left the service entirely and received the same quantity of land as those did who entered for and served to the close of the war —

[The attorney for Robert H. Grayson replied that the records were incomplete, some having been burned in an accidental fire at the War Department in 1800.]

NOTES:

Full names of Lieutenant Colonels listed in the left hand column on p.1 are as follows: Richard C. Anderson, Burgess Ball, Samuel J. Cabell, Jonathan Clark, Edward Carrington, William Darke, Thomas Gaskins, Samuel Hawes, Samuel Hopkins, John Jameson, Levin Joynes, Henry Lee, Thomas Posey, Richard Taylor, Benjamin Temple, Oliver Towles, Gustavus B. Wallace, William Washington. The Colonels are George Baylor, Abraham Buford, William Davies, Christian Febiger, John Gibson, Nathaniel Gist, John Green, Charles Harrison, William Heth, George Mathews, John Neville, William Russell, Anthony W. White, James Wood.

The following record of Grayson's services is found in Heitman, F. B. *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution*:

Assistant Secretary to General Washington, 21 June 1776; Lieutenant-Colonel and Aide-de-Camp

to General Washington, 24 Aug 1776; Colonel of one of the Sixteen Additional Continental Regiments, 11 Jan 1777; Commissioner of the Board of War, 7 Dec 1779; resigned 10 Sep 1781. (Died 12 Mar 1790.)