

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Gray S3410

f27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County: Circuit Court of said County October Term 1832

On this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James C. Mitchel Judge thereof, now sitting, William Gray a resident citizen of the said County & State, aged about Seventy-five 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the year 1776 or 1777 I volunteered for a three months tour, & entered into a Militia Company commanded by Captain George Taylor, & the Regiment was commanded by Colonel William Graham, the names of the other regimental officers not now remembered. We started from the upper part of Tryon County in the State of North Carolina. We marched from thence to the Cross Roads near Salisbury where we joined the Main Army under the command of General Martin. We then marched to Cross Creek, to a place where the Scotch Tories had been a few days before defeated.<sup>1</sup> We guarded the prisoners for some days. We then left General Martin & were marched under our Colonel Graham across the Catawba [River] & took some Tories prisoners & after continuing for some time in this kind of service, our time expired & we marched home & [were] discharged but I do not now remember whether I received any written discharge or not, but if a written discharge was received it is lost.

The next fall I enlisted for three months & received \$5 or \$10 in the depreciated currency of the Country, worth nothing, under the command of Captain Joseph Harden, our Lieutenants were named James Miller & James Holland. I got the appointment of Sergeant, & obtained money & enlisted several others, & I yet remember the names of Dougherty & Morgan as two of my recruits. Our Company then marched from Tryon into South Carolina where we joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Lock [sic, Francis Locke], & Sharp was a Major, a few miles below Camden, where we remained in winter quarters till out time was out. After we reached the said regiment I received & occupied the Station of Ensign. I received a written discharge but the same is lost. I served three months.

In the next June, I volunteered as a Ranger or spy under Captain George Parish [George Paris]. The Indians were then troublesome, & General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] went out on an expedition against them & burnt their towns, & drove them before him & destroyed their Country. We were ordered in the meantime to guard the Country. We were compelled to guard the people when they cut their grain or engaged in any other agricultural pursuits that took them out of the forts. Two of our Company were killed out of our Fort during this time one was named [illegible name interlined, looks

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<sup>1</sup> Veteran appears to be referring to the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776.

like “Batiles” or “Natlles”]. We were engaged in a great many scouts but had no serious difficulties. We were principally employed on this engagement in the County of Tryon (now Rutherford). We served on this engagement three months or more, & were regularly discharged but not in writing.

I then moved my residence from North Carolina to Washington County Virginia. And the next spring I was drafted from Captain Shelby's Company & was sent to Captain Blackamore's Fort [Blackmore's Fort or Station], on Clinch River to guard the Fort & the frontier so that the people could make corn &c without being molested by the Indians. I was engaged in this service two or three months, & was discharged & returned home. Got no written discharge.

And about two years after that time I volunteered in a horse Company commanded by David McNabb Captain, & I was elected Lieutenant. I then resided in Washington County North Carolina. We went into the service in a Regiment Commanded by Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] (who was afterwards Governor of Tennessee) Charles Robinson [Charles Robertson] was Lieutenant Colonel & John McNabb was Major. Our Regiment in company with one Commanded by Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] (who was afterwards Governor of Kentucky) marched to South Carolina, & passed through General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Camp a few days after the battle of the Eutaw Springs [Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781], where we drew ammunition, & marched on to the Santee River where we joined General Marion's [Francis Marion's] Army near the British lines. We were then divided into scouting parties. Captain McNabb & myself commanded the scouting parties of our Company by turns. I went with General Marion, & Colonel Sevier & Shelby below the British lines to the vicinity of the ten mile house, where we found a party of the enemy in number about 95, stationed in a large brick house enclosed by trees with the tops out, & sharpened. We surrounded the house & they surrendered. We marched back immediately with our prisoners to the Camp, & sent them on to Camden. Sometime after this we were discharged & went home. We received no written discharge. I got home a few days before Christmas. We went out on this tour about the first of September. This was in the year 1781. I served near four months, this engagement.

So I served in all about 15 months in the Revolutionary War.

I was born in Augusta (now Rockbridge) County Virginia in 1757. My father moved when I was about 10 years old to Tryon County North Carolina, where I first entered the service as above stated. I afterwards moved to Washington County Virginia, thence to Washington North Carolina, -- thence to Rutherford North Carolina, -- thence to Sumner County Tennessee, which was afterwards divided & Wilson County formed, & my residence fell in the latter, where I have resided ever since & now reside. I have an extract from my father's family register, which is the only record I have of my age.

I have no documentary evidence of my services, but have the living witnesses & proof herein after set forth, & accompanying this declaration.

I hereby relinquish all & every claim to a pension but the present, & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any State.

S/ William Gray

[very faint signature]

[p 5: Thomas Calhoun, a clergyman, and Robert Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]


State of Tennessee, Wilson County: Circuit Court October Term 1832

This day appeared Hugh Agen, a citizen of said County in open Court & made oath that he has frequently heard his father Barnaby Agen (who is now deceased) say that he was out in the Campaign under Marion, when the prisoners were taken at the Brick-house, near the ten mile house, -- that William Gray who now applies for a pension was his messmate in that tour, -- that he was not long when the prisoners were taken, but that the said Gray was; -- & he was one of the guard that went on with said prisoners to Camden -- that when Marion came to the Camp with the said prisoners said Gray was with him. He further states that ever since his remembrance he has heard his father & said Gray

talk over the circumstances of said tour. He remembers that they said they were out between three & five months. He states that he has a distinct recollection of his father's coming home, it was near Christmas, they did not come home together his father came a little before Gray. He has known the said Gray & his character ever since his infancy, & has no doubt from his own knowledge of the man, & the universal opinion of his neighbors, that he did perform all the services set forth in his declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1832.

S/ Hugh Eagan



S/ Wm Masten [?], Clerk

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State of Tennessee, Wilson County

This day came Samuel Gray into open court & made oath in due form that he is the younger brother of William Gray who subscribed the foregoing declaration to obtain a pension. That when he was a boy about twelve or thirteen years of age as well as he recollects his brother William Gray volunteered in a company of rangers or spies under Captain George Parish for a tour of three months, that he saw him frequently during the service as he was all the time in the Fort with him, & so was all the family & neighbors, the Indians being very troublesome & dangerous. He served out the said Tour of three months & was discharged. He remembers the first time he went into the Army. This was the tour he went to the Cross Creeks. He went with him several miles & returned, & his brother was out some considerable time, but he does not recollect how long, & returned, & it was the understanding that he had served out his time. He remembers that his brother started on another tour, said to be to Camden & recollects of his returning, & always understood he served out his time. He likewise recollects that after his brother was married, he saw him returning home, & it was said he had been on a tour with Marion in South Carolina, & he look like he had been out some time, but he does not know how long.

S/ Sam Gray



Sworn to & subscribed in open Court October 23 1832.

S/ Wm Martin, Clerk

[Thomas Calhoon, a clergyman & Robert Campbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The Amended Declaration of William Gray, a revolutionary Soldier

The first, second & third tours mentioned in his original declaration he states he served three months each, making nine months. The fourth tour he states was at the least two months, he thinks it was three, but to be certain he will say two months. The fifth & last tour he went out 1<sup>st</sup> of September & returned at or a little before Christmas, but to be certain as to the time he will state it as three months & twenty days. He held the office in this last tour specified in his original declaration but is unable to make any other proof upon that subject, & if this be not satisfactory to the department he is willing to let it be a as the service of a private soldier. These tours all added together will make fourteen months & twenty days which he served his country in the revolutionary war. And he states distinctly that he served that length of time.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 26 April 1833.

S/ William Gray

*William Gray*  
*on account of*

S/ William Martin, Clerk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$48.88 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months and 20 days in the North Carolina militia.]