## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Willis Gray W19554 Elizabeth fn98NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/26/08

State of North Carolina, Johnston County

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 1843 personally appeared before the Subscriber one of the Justices of the peace in and for the said County Elisabeth Gray resident of Johnston County aged eighty-four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth upon her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Section of the act of Congress passed 4<sup>th</sup> July 1836. That she is the widow of Willis Gray Deceased who was a Soldier of the war of the revolution that her husband the aforesaid Willis Gray enlisted in the Army of the revolution in the year 1780 and served eighteen months under Captain Griffith McRee that he left home and the Spring of that year and was absent the time above mentioned as some of her neighbors who are now living and well recollect and testify and that he was in the Army and served as he stated she has no doubt whatever. She further declares that she was legally married in Johnston County to her husband the said Willis Gray deceased in month of April 1774 by the Reverend Reuben Hays who was a Minister of the gospel, that her maiden name was Elizabeth Odom and that she resided at that time and has ever since in Johnston County. That she has no record of her marriage nor the ages of her children nor does she believe any was ever made, that her husband the aforesaid Willis Gray died in Johnston County on the 4th day of October 1830 aged 89 years – and that she has remained a widow ever since as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto appended.

S/ Elizabeth Gray

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before me.

S/ J. G. Gulley, JP

[On February 1, 1853, Josiah Gray, 49, executed a power of attorney in Johnston County stating that he is the son of Willis and Elizabeth Gray; that his mother died February 13, 1849; and that she died leaving benefits due her as the widow of a Revolutionary soldier undrawn.]

Other documents disclose the following assertions:

Elizabeth died survived by the following named children: William, Charity, Winney, Ruth, Josiah, Willis, Jr., and Betsey

Reuben Hays was a Baptist minister.]

State of North Carolina, Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify, that it appears from the Book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Willis Gray a Soldier in said line was allowed the sum of 40 pounds ten shillings and four pence (£40.10.4) for his services in said line, by a Board of Commissioners which sat at Halifax and 1784 & five.

Given under my hand this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1844. S/Wm Hill, Secretary of State

State of North Carolina, Johnston County

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1843 Personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County Richard Pilkinton<sup>1</sup> a pensioner as a Soldier of the revolutionary war aged ninety years who being duly sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following Affidavit --

This affiant testifies and says that he was well acquainted with Willis Gray deceased late a Soldier of the revolutionary war that he served with him that he was married to Elizabeth Odom in the

<sup>1</sup> FPA S3701 Richard Pilkenton

month of April 1774 and lived together as man and wife up to the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 1830 when Willis Gray died and she has lived a widow ever since.

This Affiant has a perfect recollection of the aforesaid Willis Gray and of his service and of his marriage and death as set forth by his widow.

Given under my hand the day and year above written.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above.

S/ Richard Pilkinton, P his mark

[Samuel Crocker, 89, gave an affidavit in support of the widow's statements of her marriage]