

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Ralph Graves R14569

VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Know all men by these presents that we John M. Gregory, William R. Gregory, William W. Ware and Latitia P. Ware (who was Latitia P. Gregory) wife of the said William W. Ware have this day made ordained constituted and appointed and by these presents do constitute and appoint Thomas Green of the City of Richmond and State of Virginia our true and lawful attorney, for us and in our names, but to our use, to ask, demand and receive of the Secretary of the Treasury department at Washington City whatever money we may be entitled to as the only heirs and representatives of Ralph Graves deceased (who was a cornet of Cavalry in the Virginia State line in the revolutionary war), under an act of congress passed the fifth day of July one thousand eight hundred & thirty two, providing for the half pay of certain officers &c of the said war. [Rest of this power of attorney not transcribed.]

Richm'd Feby 8th 1783

This may certify that Cornet Graves has been in the service of this State from Aug't. 1779 to the date hereof.

(Signed) Cha Dabney Lt Col [Charles Dabney]

Executive Department/ Richmond Va. 5 July 1833

The above is a copy of a paper filed with the Land Bounty Vouchers in this department, and upon which it is believed Land Bounty was granted to William Graves 8 February 1783.

Given under my hand the date above/ Wm H Richardson Sec'y Com'r

I do hereby certify that Ralph Graves was appointed an Officer in the Corps of State Cavalry, under my command, in the year 177 (the next figure illegible) & served in the same 'til a little time before the Siege of Yorktown, in 1781 [28 Sep - 19 Oct]

Given under my hand this 22^d day of February 1822

(signed) J Nelson [John Nelson, pension application W5414] late
Commandant S't Cavalry

I certify it appears from a list of such of the names of the Officers of the Virginia State line as received certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeably to the Act of Assembly passed November Session of 1781 that a certificate issued on the 11th day of November 1783 in the name of Cornet Ralph Graves for £162.1.7

Js Heath Aud./ Aud. Off. 5 March 1822

The above are copies of the papers upon which Land Bounty was granted to the Heirs of Ralph Graves as a Cornet of the Va State Line 3 May 1822. In the certificate of Major Nelson I cannot ascertain from the original whether the date of Cornet Graves' appointment was 1776 or 1779.

Given under my hand the date above/ Wm H Richardson Secy Com[?]

Examination of the Case of Ralph Graves

The Name of Ralph Graves does not appear on any of the Lists received from auditor [James E.] Heath. But on the manuscript List received from him the name of ___ Graves a Cornet in the State Cavalry commanded by Major John Nelson appears at £48 p Annum, and that \$2500 or Commutation was paid p Act of Feb'y 1829 – It appears p Page 62 of the Report of the Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States of 16 January 1832 on the Claim of Virginia, that \$2500 Commutation was paid to William Graves on Act of 10th February 1829.

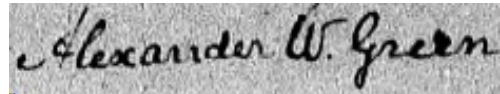
By the documents herewith it appears that Ralph Graves was an Officer of Cavalry in the Revolutionary War, and that he died in the month of February 1795. That his only heirs are John M Gregory, William R Gregory, William P War & Latitia P Ware his Wife, who was Latitia P Gregory, (said John M Gregory, William R Gregory, & Latitia P Gregory being the Grand Children of said Ralph Graves) who have given a Power of Attorney dated [blank] day of [blank] 1832 to Thomas Green of

Richmond City to Receive the money. The said Power of Attorney appears to have been acknowledged before a Justice of the Peace on the 3 October 1832. Auditor's Office 20 October 1832

Wm. Parker

James City County Sct

I Alexander W Green of the County aforesaid do hereby certify that I was intimately acquainted with Ralph Graves formerly of York County, and I know that the said Ralph Graves was a cornet in Major John Nelsons Corps of Cavalry in the revolutionary war. I remember this perfectly well from my having seen him frequently while in service, and saw him on duty at the time the Marquis de la Fayette was in this part of the State [May - Oct 1781]
[26 Oct 1832]



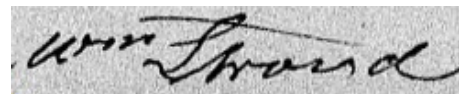
Virginia:

At a Court held for James City County, at the Courthouse thereof in the State of Virginia aforesaid, on the eighth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two.

The Court upon satisfactory evidence doth certify that Ralph Graves formerly of York County (deceased) was an officer of Cavalry in the Revolutionary War, that the said Graves died about the month of February 1795 and at the time of his death left one daughter only Leatitia P. Graves who married John M. Gregory that both the said John M. Gregory and Leatitia P. his wife are dead, that the said Leatitia P. Gregory died before her husband John M. Gregory and during coverture [while under her husband's protection and authority], and that John M. Gregory, William R. Gregory, William W. Ware and Leatitia P. Ware his wife who was Leatitia P. Gregory, children of the said John M. Gregory and Leatitia P. his wife are the only heirs and representatives of the said Ralph Graves deceased.

Virginia City of Williamsburg Sct.

I William Stroud [S6166] of the City aforesaid do certify that I was well acquainted with Ralph Graves formerly of York County and can say with certainty that the said Graves was a Cornet in major John Nelsons corps of Cavalry. I remember this well from having seen him while in service and bearing the Colours. I was well acquainted with Major John Nelson. I know that when Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] was in this part of the Country that he made frequent efforts to ketch Ralph Graves, who was said to be the best horseman in this part of the world and would ride in sight of the British troops when he pleased. I remember that he took an excellent horse that ran very fast and was called Black and all Black. Given under my hand this 6th day of November 1832



NOTES:

In a long letter summarizing the evidence, dated 8 July 1833, the heirs' attorney stated that "Ralph Graves was a Citizen of York County, not more than ten or twelve miles distant I believe from York Town."

The [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) contains papers apparently for this Ralph Graves, but the online images are illegible. They are probably originals of documents copied in the federal file.

The heirs' claim for half pay was denied, probably for insufficient proof that Graves served to the end of the war. On 26 May 1834 John M. Gregory appealed the decision, apparently unsuccessfully.