

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Duncan Graham R14599

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

To Christopher Clark

By an act of Congress passed on the 10th day of April 1806, making provision for those who are to be placed on the pension List, and in consequence of an application from Duncan Graham of Patrick County to that purpose, I do hereby authorise and appoint you specially, on oath or affirmation to take all the Evidence relating to the Claim of the said Duncan Graham, to be placed on the aforesaid List of pensioners, in conformity with the Law above mentioned; and that you transmit such Claim, accompanied by the Evidence &c, to the secretary at the department for war.

Given under my hand & seal, in the Town of York, the 17th day of March 1808.

Cyrus Griffin, Judge

In obedience to a commission from the Honble Cyrus Griff[in] Judge for the District of Virginia to me annexed bearing date at York the 17 day March 1808 and hereunto annexed have this 28 day of april at my office in the County of Bedford in the District aforesaid commenced the examination of Duncan Graham of Patrick County within the said District for the purpose of being placed on the pension list of the United States

The said Duncan Graham after being duly qualified sets forth and states That on the tenth day of Feby in the year 1776 he entered under Capt Abel Westfall [pension application VAS612] in the County Hampshire State of Virginia for two years as a soldier on Continental establishment and that under the command of the said Capt he marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where he joined Colo Peter Mulenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] Redgiment and under his command marched in to the Southern States when they were invaded by General Clinton and Admiral Parker and fought the enemy on the 28 day of June 1776 at fourt Maurethee [sic: at Fort Sullivan, later named Fort Moultrie; see endnote] and that he continued in the service of the US in the Redgiment aforesaid untill Colo Mulenburg was ordered to the northward when he enlisted into Colo Isaac Hugers Redgiment [5th South Carolina Regiment] under Capt Thomas Jarvey for during the war and in this service he continued untill the first day of March 1782 when a detachment under General Marion [Francis Marion; see endnote] was surprised by the enemy and he received a large wound on the back of the left hand and two on the head and that being disabled and rendered useless from the wound on the hand distroying the use of all the fingers except the thumb and little finger was in the month of November of the same year discharged

The said Duncan Graham further states that he never has been placed on the pension list of any state and that he did in the year of 1783 deliver his papers to a certain Colo James Henderson of Greenbrier [sic: Greenbrier] County State of Virginia for the purpose of obtaining a pension he being about to go to the General assembly where he believed he could and promised to do the business but forgetting as he states his papers in the office of the Clerk they never have been found that he by the directions of the Honble Andrew Man now a Senator of the US travel to Richmond and made application to the Federal Court but was unsuccessful that from Greenbrier he removed into the County of Patrick aforesaid where he now resides and that he is poor and disabled from the wound aforesaid to make a living by manual labor and not possessing the knowledge of any craft or trade

The said Graham further adds that on inquiry he finds that recently after the war his Capt Jarvy removed to New Orleans while under the Government of Spain and has not heard of him since and stating nothing more this examination is closed to which [illegible word] of the said Duncan before me is added the certificate of Doctor Samuel Griffin on oath discribing the conditions of the wounds of the said Duncan which was under oath shown to the said Physician

Given under my hand and seal at the Place first aforesaid this 15 day July 1808

[signed] Christopher Clark {LS}

Bedford county Virginia, April 30th 1808

I have this day examined Duncan Graham respecting sundry wounds which he says he receiv'd in the service of the United States – among many was one in his left hand apparently, and as he affirms, rec'd. from a broad sword, which separated the three first metacarpal bones, near their articulation with the bones of the fingers together with their extensor tendons; this has nearly destroy'd the use of that hand in the common occupations, by which labouring men procure their living. His other wounds, some of which appear to have penetrated into the cavities of the cerebrum and cerebellum, & greatly to have endanger'd his life, have no other inconvenience at present than that of deformity of those parts

[signed] Samuel Griffin

Bedford to Witt

This day Doc'r. Samuel Griffin made oath to the truth of the above Statement respecting Duncan Graham before me Isaac Otey one of the Commonwealths Justices for the County aforesaid. Given under my hand this 14 day of July 1808

[signed] Isaac Otey

[The handwriting of the following is poor, and the paper damaged.]

Bedford County Decr 13 1809

Sir In obedience to the appointment and [illegible word] of the Honble Cyrus Griffin I commenced the examina[tion] of Duncan Graham for the purpose of being placed on the pension list of the US and on oath took his state[ment] and the certificate of a Physician which are now together [with] the commission of appointment enclosed

The death of the unfortunate applicant preventing a progress in this business the papers are sent to your office [illegible word] in obedience to the commission as at the request of Mr Man[?]

I have the honor to be/ Sir/ with high [page damaged]

NOTES:

Instead of being engaged at Fort Sullivan during the Battle of Sullivans Island, Abel Westfall's company was at the other end of the island at the Battle of Breach Inlet.

David Neilan, a Francis Marion authority, informs me that Marion did not report any engagement on 1 March 1782. Graham may have referred to either an engagement at Wambaw Bridge SC on 14 Feb 1782 or one at Tidyman's Plantation SC on 25 Feb 1782.