

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Boston Graves R4213

Sarah Graves

f41NC

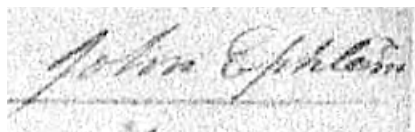
Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/1/08 & 9/26/15

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Knox County: Circuitry Court for Said County at August Session 1832

On the 23rd day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Powell one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts in and for the State of Tennessee, being courts of record, and a court for the County of Knox, now sitting, Boston Graves, a resident of said County and State aged near eighty-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 7th, 1832: that he was born in the state of Pennsylvania on the 1st day of October 1747; from thence he removed to the State of North Carolina, Orange County, where he continued to reside until sometime in the year of 1779, the month and day out recollected at present, he was drafted as a private under Captain William O'Neill's company of militia to perform a tour of duty of five or six months in the Army of the United States. Applicant states that at that time himself and a certain William Graves were engaged in partnership in the blacksmith business equally. The said William Graves being a single man and applicant a man of a family, it was agreed by the parties that said William Graves perform the tour of duty and that applicant continue at their business and divide their profits equally, which was done. Sometime in the year 1779 or 1780, not recollected, this applicant was drafted a second time for a tour of five or six months. Applicants wife's brother John Ephland [Efland or Effland?]¹ whom he raised and who was then living with applicant and being a single man took his place in the Army and served that tour of duty for him. Sometime after that, as well as applicant now recollects, in 1780, he was drafted a third time for a tour of three months. He hired a substitute for that tour. Applicant further states that sometime in the year 1781 that he was drafted a fourth time for the term of three months then in Captain William Rogers' company of militia and attached to a Regiment of militia commanded by Colonel William O'Neil and a part of the brigade commanded by General John Butler. Applicant and Joseph Allbright [Joseph Albright?] were ordered to work out their tour of duty in Orange County, N.C. at the blacksmith business for the Army. They commenced and continued at work for some time when the British Army came into their neighborhood which alarmed the country and put an end to their work. Applicant was then ordered to Hillsboro, North Carolina, Orange County, to guard the town against the Tories. The day after he arrived in Hillsboro, he was taken prisoner by the Tories together with his lieutenant, John Campbell, Colonel Litle [George Lytle] and Governor Burke [Thomas Burke] with a number of others.² They were taken from thence by the Tories to the Raft Swamp where they were delivered up to the British Army; from thence they were marched on to Wilmington and put on



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² Hillsborough fell to the Tories commanded by David Fanning on September 12, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html

board a ship where they were continued about four weeks. They were then put aboard another ship and taken to Charleston, South Carolina where they were put on board of another ship where they continued until they were exchanged. From the time applicant left Hillsboro until he returned home was eleven months and the time he was engaged at work for the Army was something over one month. Applicant has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except the certificate of Mary Gibbs which is filed in this declaration.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Boston Graves, X. his Mark

Sworn to and subscribed day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Will Swan [?], Clk

[Samuel Love, a clergyman, and Elliott Grills, residents of Knox County Tennessee, gave the standard supporting affidavit. This affidavit does not appear until footnote.com page 20.]

[p 21]

State of Tennessee Knox County

Personally appeared before me George Graves an acting Justice of the Peace for said County Alston Graves a citizen of said County, aged eighty-five years who having been sworn doth on his oath make the following amendment to the foregoing declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 -- That the individuals in his neighborhood who can testify as to his veracity and the reputation of the neighborhood in relation to his military services in the revolutionary war are Elliott Grills, Samuel Love, David Gibbs, Joseph Woods and others.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th April 1833.

S/ George Graves, JP

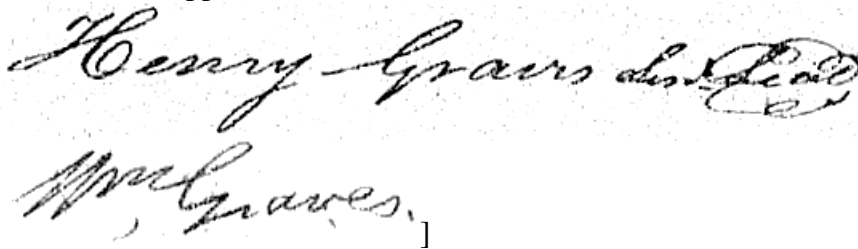
S/ Boston Graves, B his mark

[endorsed by Hugh L. White, Senator in Congress from the State of Tennessee and J. W. Blackwell, Representative to Congress.]

[p 13 is the affidavit of Mary Gibbs as to her knowledge of the services of Boston Graves during the revolution.]

[p 5: On June 11, 1841, in Knox County, Tennessee, Sarah Graves filed a claim as the widow of Boston Graves stating that her husband was a pensioner of the US at the rate of \$40/annum; that he died April 1, 1840. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Henry Graves, Sr., attorney for Boston Graves, and William Graves, preacher of the gospel, each filed affidavits in support of Sarah's claim.



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is "Henry Graves" followed by a circular seal or stamp. The bottom signature is "Wm Graves" followed by a small square mark.

[p 18]

State of Tennessee, Knox County

On this second of March 1844 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace

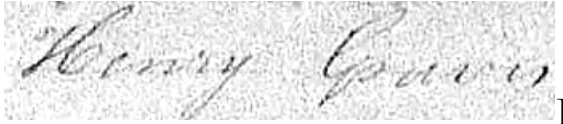
Mr. Henry Graves a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 55 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration That he is the son of Boston Graves who was a pensioner at the rate of \$40 per annum that his Father the aforesaid Boston Graves died on the first day of April 1840 that his mother Sarah Graves presented her application for pension having been married before the commencement of the war of the Revolution but that the Claim was rejected he understood because of some informality -- that his Mother the aforesaid Sarah Graves died on 29 December 1842 leaving the following named children Catherin Sharp, Elizabeth Clapp, John Graves, Peter Graves, George Graves, Henry Graves and David Graves This declaration is made to obtain the pension due the widow at her death under the act of Congress of the 4 July 1836

S/ Henry Graves

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year before written before me...

S/ Isaac Bayless, JP

[p 7: On March 8, 1852, in Roane County, Tennessee, Henry Graves, 63, son of Boston and Sarah Graves filed for the pension due his mother stating that she filed for a widow's pension but her application was suspended because she filed under the wrong Act; that she died December 28, 1843; that his parents were married in 1769; that his mother died leaving the following heirs at law: George Graves and affiant, Henry Graves.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Graves". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the mid-19th century.

[p 9: On December 8, 1841, Phelopeni [could be Phelopene or Phelopeno] Sharp of Anderson County, Tennessee, filed an affidavit stating that she was present at the marriage of Boston Graves and Sarrah [sic] Ephland in the early part of June 1769 in Orange County, NC, that she rode from the house of her father, Peter Ephland, with Boston and Sarah to the house of Michael Holt where they were married.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina militia.]