

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Grimsley R4333

f26NC

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

State of Tennessee, Henderson County

On this twenty fourth day of April in the year of our Lord 1835 George Grimsley of the County of Henderson in the State of Tennessee personally appeared at his residence in the County and State aforesaid before the subscriber Samuel Wilson one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held in and for the County of Henderson in the State [of] Tennessee aged Eighty years this present month (April) who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendatory declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 – that he entered the service of the United States in the month of December in the year 1777 as a Private volunteer Militia Soldier from the County of Dobbs (now Greene County) in the State of North Carolina in the militia Regiment of the said County and State as aforesaid for the period of six months – commanded by Colonel Abraham Shepherd [Abraham Sheppard] his Major's name was James Edmondson his Captain's name was Abraham Shepherd [Abraham Sheppard, Jr.] and son of his Colonel, his Lieutenant he cannot now recollect his Ensign was William Shepherd [William Sheppard] and son also of his Colonel. The companies of this Regiment met altogether at the town of Kingston [sic, Kinston] in the aforesaid County of Dobbs but at this time Lenoir County. This Regiment was ordered off by Governor Richard Caswell of North Carolina to march on to Neuse River and there to build a Fort one mile below the town of Newbern [sic, New Bern] at the Junction of Neuse and Trent rivers. The object of building the Fort was to protect the State of North Carolina from the invasions of the British and Tories in that section of the State, the completion of this Fort took up and absorbed the entire six months of this tour of service thus entered into in the whole Regiment was at that Fort discharged in the month of June 1778 in the early part of the month after having faithfully served out six months – by Colonel Shepherd each soldier along with himself having received from him a written discharge countersigned by his Captain and which discharge he has long since lost never supposing be of any value to him thus ended the first tour of Service and in which this Regiment was not associated with any of the Regular Continental or militia regiments, consequently he is unable to say any thing of them or of any of the Officers thereunto belonging.

Second Tour of Service: This declarant states that he again entered the Service of the United States in the first part of the month of March 1781 as a private volunteer militia soldier from the County of Dobbs in the State of North Carolina for the period of twelve months in the North Carolina Militia Regiment of Volunteers commanded by Colonel John Heritage [John Herritage] in the Company commanded by Captain William Easler his Major was by the name of John Allen. The names of his Lieutenant and Ensign are not now recollected. This Regiment concentrated at Kinston in the County and State aforesaid and then marched on to Cape Fear River in order to interrupt the Tories of whom there were many straggling parties. There were 200 men of this Regiment before it arrived at Moore's Creek by order of Governor Richard

Caswell who commanded in person detailed off under the command of Colonel John Heritage in order to surprise the enemy (Tories) which we accordingly did by capturing 4 Tories and 50 barrels of flour the same being under the care of a Captain and his company. The remainder of the Regiment marched on to Cape Fear River in order to meet the enemy should they make their appearance in that section of the Country which they accordingly did at Moore's Creek [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776]¹ when an action ensued and in which Battle General McCloud² the Commander of the Tories fell and those of the Tories who did not get wounded made their escape – the next day after this action the detachment as before stated under the command of Colonel Heritage joined the Regiment then under the command of General Richard Caswell the then Governor of North Carolina. This Regiment then marched into the Counties of Dukeland [Duplin] Moore Cumberland and Richmond bordering on the State of South Carolina – the purpose for which this Regiment was called into service by the State Authorities of North Carolina were to protect the State from the marauding parties of British and Tories but most particularly from the latter who in large bodies were harassing and annoying the Whigs hence this Regiment was at no time stationary except for a short time in the County of Richmond which did not exceed three weeks. This Regiment marched and counter-marched through the aforesaid Counties of Dukeland Moore Richmond and Cumberland and up and down the Cape Fear River whilst General Francis Marion with his Corps of mounted man on the opposite side of the River watched and kept in check the movements of the enemy particularly the Tories. This volunteer Regiment was called into service for the sole and only object as before stated of protecting the State from the marauding parties of the Tories who were hanging in large bodies upon the skirts of that State (North Carolina) and that part bordering more immediately upon South Carolina.

This Regiment was not required to leave the State of North Carolina nor did it leave the said State – having served out his twelve months tour of service this Regiment was still retained in service by the unanimous consent of the Officers and privates of the same in order to protect the State from the depredations of the Tories and was discharged in the early part of the month of September 1782 in writing under the sign manual of his Colonel John Heritage at the town of Kinston in the County of Dobbs North Carolina so also was the whole Regiment at the same time making this tour of Volunteer Service eighteen months – and which discharge he long since has lost. This Declarant states that never having served with any of the regular Continental or militia regiments consequently he can make no statement of the same or of the officers thereof his Regiment in this last tour of service of 18 months volunteer service being entirely detached and acting altogether by itself.

This Declarant further states that he knows of no Clergyman (there being none residing in his neighborhood) who can testify as to his belief of his being reputed in his neighborhood to have been a soldier of the revolution but can refer the War department to Oswin H. King Esquire and Hugh W. Wormeley Esquire Counsellor [sic] at law residing in the County of Henderson State of Tennessee who can testify to his character for honesty and veracity and their General belief of his having been a soldier of the Revolution and that he served as he has stated in his Declaration-- he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Questions by the Justice

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in Halifax County North Carolina in the month of April 1755

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

² The Tories at Moore's Creek Bridge were commanded by B.G. Donald McDonald. One element of his command was under the command of Lt. Col. Donald McLeod. It MAY be this officer to whom the veteran is referring.

Answer My age was recorded in the Bible of my Father and by him but which Bible is not in my possession nor do I know what has become of it

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer During my two tours of service I lived in the County of Dobbs afterwards five years in the County of Montgomery in the same State and afterwards in the County of Henderson Tennessee my present place of Residence

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer in both my tours of service as set forth in my Declaration I was a Volunteer --

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. The two regiments in which I belonged as a volunteer the first for six months, the latter for eighteen months being detached off by itself consequently it served with no Regiment in the regular Continental or militia therefore I am unable to say anything on that subject or the Officers of the same except those of the two regiments in which I served and whose names I have stated in the body of this Declaration as also the general circumstances of my Service --

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer from my first tour of service of six months as a private volunteer militia soldier I was discharged by my Colonel Abraham Shepherd and from my second tour of service as a private militia soldier for eighteen months I received my discharge from my Colonel John Heritage

[Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

In relation to my character for veracity and Honesty and in relation to my services in the War of the revolution I refer to Oswin H. King Esquire, Hugh W. Wormeley Esquire, Samuel Wilson Esquire James R. White Esquire and many others if required.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 24th day of April 1835.

S/ Sam Wilson

S/ George Grimsley, X his mark

One of the Justices of the Court Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Henderson County in the State of Tennessee

[Oswyn H. King and Hugh W. Wormeley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: On Nov. 13, 1855, David Miller gave an affidavit in Decatur County Tennessee that he knew George Grimsley and Sarah his wife before their marriage; that Sarah's maiden name was Cambell [sic, Campbell?]; that they were married by one Moses Lock, who was the cashier of the Branch of the Bank of the State of North Carolina at Salisbury North Carolina [who knew that cashiers of banks were empowered to solemnize marriage in NC?]; they were married in Roan [sic, Rowan] County, NC in 1821.]