

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Grinstead S15867

f37VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/4/14

[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 Virginia Goochland County

On this 21st day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices, the court of Goochland County, now sitting, William Grinstead a resident of the County of Goochland & State of Virginia, aged as near as he can make out Seventy-one years, having no register of his age, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That [he] entered the service as a volunteer in the light infantry under the command of Captain John Williamson in Henrico County, the date he has no recollection of, being born & raised in the County of Henrico being young between the age he now supposes of sixteen & seventeen years. Rendezvoused at Williamsburg, which was about the time Arnold [Benedict Arnold] first attempted to come to Richmond. At Williamsburg, Major Kilpatrick had the command of the troops when Captain Quarles took the command of all the light infantry then at Williamsburg and I was under his immediate command. From Williamsburg we went through York down to Hampton, where he was stationed three months & received a discharge & returned home: his discharge he has lost. – In about four months thereafter as well as he can now recollect he was again called into service, & was under the command of Captain Miles Seldon who marched down to Morban Hills [Malvern Hills] and were stationed there and on guard up and down the River all the time the British were at Manchester & after the British left Manchester we went down to Sandy Point, & being there some time & the British having retreated we were all discharged & returned home, & has no sort of recollection how long he was in service in that tour. – In about four months after returning home I was again called into service for a six months tour, to go to the South, when I hired a man by the name of Kemp who was received as my substitute. Not long before Lord Cornwallis was taken at York I was again called out under the command of Captain John Williamson & marched up to the neighborhood of Charlottesville for a three months tour, which I served out and received my discharge, upon the troops returning to the Brooke Bridge, my time was out and there I received my discharge which is lost. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person now living, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services. He continued to reside in the County of Henrico till about the year 1795 or 1796 & has resided in the County of Goochland ever since (except two years in Hanover County). He never received any pay whatever, gave thirty pounds for his substitute, when called out for a six months tour to the South: is now very poor, needy & infirm.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Grinstead

State of Virginia Goochland County

On this 15th day of July 1833 personally appeared in open court before the court of the County aforesaid now sitting William Grinstead a resident of said County and state aged seventy-one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That his memory is very confused about the events of the Revolution, and since his former Declaration he has recollected other events than those then mentioned hand in a different order; and that now, he cannot arranged the services he rendered in his mind. That in his first tour as he now thinks he was drafted from them militia of the County of Henrico and was a private in the company of Captain Tom Cooper. Guarded ammunition at Richmond for some time and when that was removed to Westham he followed and continued to serve as guard – served three months and was discharged. Cannot recollect the period of the war when he served, nor does he recollect the enemy then in Virginia – remembers the names of Leslie [Alexander Leslie], Phillips [William Phillips] & Arnold and supposes it was the invasion of one of them – there was no other troops in service with him – and does not recollect any event except killing a deer driven across the River by the hunters at Westham. That in his next tour he was drafted again from the same County and marched as private in the Company of Captain John Williamson to Williamsburg – soon after getting there, volunteered as private in the company of light infantry under Captain Quarles. Under Quarles marched through York to Hampton – served at that place in guarding the coast – the enemies fleet was in the road – when they sailed they encountered and American ship, and there was much firing and at the same time the enemy were fired on by the Militia at York. Served three months and was discharged and not recollect the name of the General of the enemy or the period of the war at which this tour of duty was performed. Quarles commanded Hampton and Major Kilpatrick was the Major – and there was no regulars. That sometime after he thinks the invasion of Arnold, in the winter season, he was again drafted and marched as private under Captain Miles Selden to the neighborhood of the Mobbing Hills [Malvern Hills] – Served at that place and in the country adjacent three months and was discharged. Was at the River when the enemy attempted to seize a ship of ammunition and was ordered down with a party to fire on them as they advanced – fired five or six rounds in the enemy laid down in the boat, and drifted down the River. The vessel was afterwards blown up. Cannot recollect the officers' names – saw no regular troops. That in the former statement of his last tour he was mistaken both in the officers names and the history of the tour – that he was drafted in the time of Cornwallis' invasion and was under Captain Selden again as private marched with the Army up to Duplin Creek [?]¹ and was there detached with a Sergeant to apprehend deserters – took three and in the meantime the enemy had intercepted their return to the Army. The deserters were rescued by Tories – Joined the Army on its return at the Brook Bridge again in Henrico and marched under the same Captain so low as Sandy Point – remained there some time and was discharged. And that in this tour he served at least two months. Cannot

¹ Duplin Creek

remember the other officers under whom he served nor does he recollects seeing the Army or the General officers – was in no battle and recollects no event of note. That he received two written discharges, but has lost them and has no documentary evidence. That since his former Declaration he has discovered a witness by whom he can prove some part of his service and that he knows of no other witness and that he refers to Reverend M W Webber and Joseph S Watkins for his character and the reputation of the neighborhood as to his service. 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 Territory.

To the 1st Question he replies In Henrico County 1761

To the 2nd I have no record of my age

To the 3rd I lived in Henrico until 1780 since then in Goochland

To the 4th – I was drafted in the service and afterwards volunteered to join the Light Infantry

To the 5th This question is answered to the satisfaction of the court –

To the 6th I received discharges from Captain Selden in Captain Quarles but I have lost them –

To the 7th – The Reverend Matthew W Webber & Colonel Joseph S Watkins

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Grinstead, X his mark

[Matthew Webber, a clergyman and Joseph S Watkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

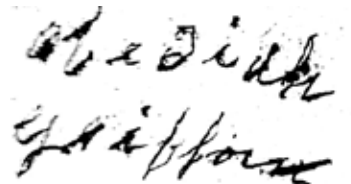
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Commonwealth of Virginia City of Richmond: to wit:

Personally appeared before me Joseph Tate Mayor of the said city Obadiah Griffin,² who appears to me to be a person respectable and credible; – and being by me duly sworn deposeth, that he is a citizen of the said Commonwealth, and a resident of the County of Henrico – and in the eightieth year of his age. That he is well acquainted with William Grinstead, and hath been so acquainted ever since the boyhood of said William Grinstead, who was born in the County of Henrico – but removed to the County of Goochland about thirty years ago – in which County said William Grinstead now, as this deponent believes – resides. That he, this deponent, was well acquainted with said William Grinstead, during the War of the Revolution. That said William Grinstead and this Deponent served three Tours together – during that war – under the command of Captain Thomas Prosser and then Captain John Williamson. That these Tours were three months each. That he, the deponent, hath no distinct recollections of said William Grinstead, serving at other times – but that from the age of said Grinstead – he verily believes said Grinstead did serve often times besides, during said War. That said William Grinstead is, and always has been considered a man of good character – and his connections in the County of Henrico are very respectable.

Given under my hand this 19th day of July 1833.

S/ Obadiah Griffin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Obadiah Griffin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

[Facts in file: the veteran died August 13, 1843, place not stated; the file contains no family data.]

² FPA S8614

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the Virginia militia.]