

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Gray S17987

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia }
Goochland County } ss

On this 19th day of Aug't. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the court of the county aforesaid now sitting James Gray a resident of the said county and state, aged sixty nine years and 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 1833.

That he was born on the 13th of March 1764 and being desirous to become a soldier he put a false register [of his age] in the way of his teacher, who caused him to be enrolled in the summer after he was fifteen. That in the fall of the same year he was drafted, and marched as a private in the company of Goochland Militia under Capt [George] Hatcher and Lieut. [David] Rutherford to Richmond thence to Hoods ferry where he crossed James River – thence to Cabin point [in Surry County]. Served two months and was discharged. Mathews [probably Sampson Mathews] was Colo and there was no other regiment. Saw no regular troops except some eighteen months men who joined a few days before he was discharged – and was in no battle.

That he was again drafted in the year of Arnolds invasion [Benedict Arnold, Dec 1780 and Jan 1781] and marched as private in the militia of the same County under Capt Toles [sic: Stockley Towles] to Richmond – thence by Charles City Ct House, where he saw a dead body and a musket cut in two, as was said by the enemies horse – thence to Williamsburg and there got in to the company of Capt Woodson – marched several times to Jamestown and to York – was present when the magazine ship was blown up at Osborne's [probably 27 Apr 1781], and fired eleven rounds at one of the enemies vessels run aground, and the man next him was shot through the thigh was generally at William'sburg and was there discharged having served two months. Morris [Nathaniel Garsden Morris] was Colo. and [Thomas] Nelson Gen'l. Saw a small company of regulars and recollects Colos. Nicholas Mathews and Pleasants of the Militia. That in the summer of the year in which Cornwallis was captured [19 Oct 1781] he was drafted and was a private in the Goochland Militia under Capt Britt. marched to Richmond and thence to Mobbing Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] where his company with several others was detached to the Gloucester side [sic: Gloucester side ofr York River]. Crossed below West Point and served the remainder of the tour about Hubbard's and Sowell's [Seawell's] old fields. Served two months and two weeks and was discharged. Major Campbell commanded untill they were detached and then Col Taylor – saw regular troops in Gloucester but does not recollect particulars – was in no battle

That he never had a writen discharge and has no documentary evidence. That he can prove some part of his service and to the rest can procure no testimony and that he refers to Rev'd. L Chaudoin and [blank] for his character and the reputation of his having been a soldier. 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 or Teritory.

To Question 1st he replies. I was born in Amelia County 13 March 1764.

To Question 2^d. I have seen a family Register, in which my age is set down

To Question 3^d. When called in service I lived in this County I have since lived in Henrico County & now live in this County

To Question 4th. I was always drafted

To Question 5th. Answered satisfactorily

To Question 6th I never had a written discharge.

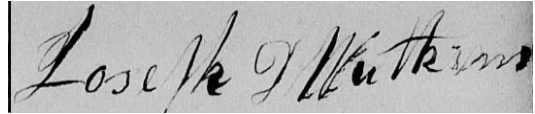
To Question 7th. Rev'd Lewis Chaudoin & William Ford Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

James hisXmark Gray

State of Virginia }
Goochland County } SS [15 Jul 1833]

Personally appeared before me Jos. S Watkins a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Joseph D Watkins a resident of the said County aged 71 years and as appears to me a credible person, and being duly sworn deposeth, that he has known James Gray of the s'd County since his infancy that s'd Gray served several tours in the Militia in the time of Revolution, and that on one occasion he served a part of a tour with s'd Gray when they marched from Goochland under Geo Hatcher, but were seperated at the Mobbing Hills, and that he verily believes said Gray served out that and his other tours faithfully.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Joseph D Watkins".

NOTE: On 6 Oct 1879 Richard Gray, of Henrico County, son and administrator of James Gray, who died in February 1854, assigned power of attorney to obtain bounty land. On 13 April 1880 Richard Gray stated that he was 71, and that his father was a widower when he died and never remarried. He gave his post office address as Glen Allen.