

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Gray S2253  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

PA VA

State of Kentucky and }  
County of Montgomery } Sgt.

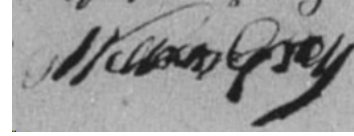
On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before Levi Y. Millspaugh, Joseph Bondurant and Robt. Trimble Justices composing the court of and for Montgomery County being a court of record, now sitting, William Gray, a resident of the county of Montgomery and state of Kentucky, aged seventy-seven 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 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. Was drafted for a tour of two months in Chester County and State of Pennsylvania, and entered the service of the United States, under the said draft, on the fourth of July 1776 under the command of Capt. Nathaniel Porter – Maj. Thomas Bull and Col. William Gibbons – and marched immediately to Philadelphia – from thence we were marched to Trenton in the State of New Jersey; and from that point we were marched to Fort Lee, about 30 miles, he thinks, above New York [sic: about 7 mi], where he remained until the expiration of said two months service, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1776. But from his immediately reentering the service, as will appear below, he received no written discharge as he recollects.

About the time his said two months tour was to expire, an order was issued for a certain number of men to be drafted from each company, he remain at Fort Lee, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, he thinks, of September 1776, he was again drafted, at Fort Lee, in the State of New York [sic: NJ], for a tour of six months, under the command of Capt. John Miller, and Col. Thomas Bull, who had been promoted, remained some time at Fort Lee, in fact, until Gen. Arnold [sic: Col. Robert Magaw, 16 Nov 1776] surrendered Fort Washington to the British. Our army then retreated from Fort Lee to Trenton, where a battle was fought between the american forces and the Hessians, he thinks, on the 26th day of December 1776, in which he participated; but, before the American army left Trenton, this applicant, from extreme exposure and fatigue, was taken sick, and was sent, with others, to the Hospital at Philadelphia where he remained until after his said six months service had expired; indeed, he did not recover sufficiently to leave the Hospital until the last of March 1777. And not being with the army at the expiration of said service, he has no recollection of having received any written discharge, but thinks it probable he received none.

He then moved from Pennsylvania to the State of Virginia; And in about the last of April [sic] 1781, he was again drafted for a tour of two months, in Rockbridge County, Virginia; and entered the service on, he believes, the first of March 1781, under the command of Capt. David Cloyd, and Col. Samuel McDowel [Samuel McDowell]. Marched immediately, on a force-march, to the neighbourhood of Guilford Court-house North Carolina, and joined the American army under the command of Gen. [Nathanael] Greene; and he thinks on the 15th March 1781, we engaged the british forces commanded by Lord Cornwallis, at Guilford, where we had a severe and bloody battle – the Virginia malitia commanded by Gen. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] – the continental troops under the command of Gen [Isaac] Huger and Col. [Otho Holland] Williams: The americans retreated and met the next the next day at a neighbouring Iron-works [Speedwell's Ironworks on Troublesome Creek] about 12 or 13 miles from Guilford. A few days after Cornwallis moved off in a direction toward Wilmington and was persued by Gen. Greene. We continued the persuit for some time; and then left Cornwallis and returned into South Carolina. This applicant now having completed the service for which he entered on this last mentioned tour, was regularly discharged and received a written certificate of his service; but that certificate has been lost, and he cannot, at this time, say certainly by whom it was signed. This applicant represents that he knows of no living witness by whom he can establish his several services in the United State [several illegible words] with the services of this applicant, has recently, as this applicant is informed, died in the

state of Indiana. 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 whatever.

A rectangular inset showing a close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "William Gray".

To the several interrogatories required to be put by the War department; and which is here propounded by the Court, the said William Gray replies as follows:

1st That he was born in the state of Maryland, August 23rd 1755.

2nd There was a record of his age in the old bible of his father, which fell into the hands of his brother Thos. Gray who died in the State of Indiana.

3rd Living in Chester County Pennsylvania when first called into service. The last in Virginia; lived in Virginia, since the revolutionary war, until 1812, when he moved to Montgomery County Kentucky where he now lives.

4th I was drafted in each service.

5th For the names of Officers, regiments, and general circumstances of services he refers the Court to his declaration.

6th The two first terms of service he received no discharge that he recollects. the last term of service he received a discharge which is lost, nor can he say by whom signed.

7th He refers to George Cooper, Jas. Means Esq'r, Robt. Gay Esq'r, Rev. John Hon, Geo. Howard, Samuel D. Everett, John Coons, Hon. Henry Daniel and Aquilla Young.

#### NOTES:

On 17 Dec 1842 William Gray applied to have his pension payable in Ohio, having moved to Warren County "for the purpose that my son takeing care of me in my old age, where I am now living with him in the County of Warren and State of Ohio." He signed this document with his mark.

A document in the file states that William Gray died in 1845.