

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Major Groom S31073

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/5/11 rev'd 6/4/14

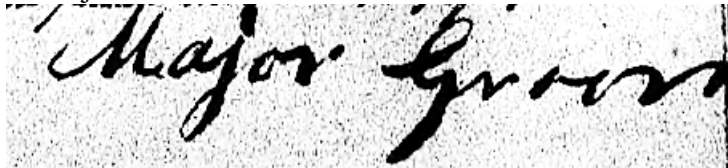
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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 Kentucky, Caldwell County

On the 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before James C. Weller, Morton A. Rucker, & William Lander, Esqrs., justices in the said County court of said County & state now sitting Major Groom, a resident of said County & state aged 69 [? written over and difficult to decipher] years who being first duly sworn does under oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following commissioned officers & served as herein stated to wit: That at about the age of seventeen, & in the year 1780 he now believes in the County of Orange, State of Virginia, he was drafted in the militia of that state for the purpose of guarding the prisoners taken at the capture of Burgoyne who were confined at the Barracks in Albemarle County, Virginia that while in the service, which was the term of six weeks he was under Captain Buckner [William Buckner] -- that two companies of regulars were in the same service, one of which was Commanded by Capt. Burley [Garland Burnley], & several militia Companies—that these prisoners were confined in the interior to keep them out of reach & to prevent a recapture. That a short time afterward he was again drafted from the same County & for the same purpose & again stood his tour of six weeks & was again discharged, as he was relieved by other drafts. That not long after this time, he was again drafted from the same County under Colonel Dark [William Darke] & Lieutenant Gab'l Poindexter [Gabriel Poindexter] (his captain's name is not remembered) that they joined the Regt. at Richmond & proceeded to Cabbin Point [sic, Cabin Point]; thence to Petersburg, thence to Richmond again, which marching & countermarching was to prevent the movements of the British then in the country, & a further object was to guard James River & to prevent the enemy's vessels coming up that river. The expedition was for two months, after which he was again discharged. That in short time he was again called out under Col. Matthews [probably George Mathews] to guard York River & the lower part of that country - that they marched first to Williamsburg & to several other points, that were thought to be in danger - then an engagement at Jamestown was confidently expected at that time, but the enemy retired for the time & did not appear - that he was in this tour for two months, & was again discharged. That not long afterward sometime in 1781 as well as he remembers he was again drafted to go to York—that two Companies were drafted from his County, and rendezvoused at Williamsburg, and from there marched to Yorktown and there joined Gen'l Washington, who was besieging Cornwallis at that place. The enemy had built a battery on a small creek a small distance from the town & annoyed, much annoyed our men digging entrenchments-- this creek ran into the river below the town -- battery was aboned [sic, abandoned?] in a short time as rifle men approached under cover within gun shot & compelled them to retreat. The American Army was posted on both sides of river, & the French fleet was below the town, so that the town was completely surrounded. Washington's plan was to entrench himself & so advance by degrees to protect his men from the enemy's fire & in about ten days our batteries were raised & we returned the fire -- the first battery was raised below the town & the firing continued

without intermission until Cornwallis surrendered under both the posts of Yorktown & Gloucester Point, which was about the 18th of Oct. 1787 -- that he served in the expedition two months & was discharged, making in all eight months of his service as a soldier in the revolution. In this siege, Governor Nelson [Thomas Nelson] commanded the Virginia Militia, as well as he remembers. He knows of no person now living who served with him in either the campaigns -- they may be in Virginia, but there is no one in this County that he knows of. He states that he was born in Orange County Virginia, but the precise time he does not know. According to the custom of the country, when an infant, he was christened at Church & his age & name registered - that his parents failed to get this Register before the war, & then it was impossible & the record was lost. That from his best information he was about the age of seventeen when he was first drafted into service -- that he received discharges from his services, but they are worn out & lost ~~that he supposed belonged in the Virginia State Troops & that his name is on the rolls in the War Department~~ that he lived in Virginia for many years after the war & moved to this County where he has lived for the last 13 years. He hereby relinquished his every claim to whatever pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency or any other state.

S/ Major Groom

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Major Groom". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[Timothy McMan, a clergyman, Lawson Robertson and Buford Lewis gave the standard supporting affidavits.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 24 days in the Virginia militia.]