

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Gray S31079

f79NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/26/08 rev'd 10/6/15

[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, Christian County

On this 3rd day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Christian County Court now sitting William Gray of said County and State – aged Seventy Eight years past 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 the United States Congress passed the 7th June 1832 --

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he was born in the year 1754 – That he resided previous to his entering the Service in Wilkes County & State of North Carolina. That he entered the Militia Service as a private – in Wilkes County State of North Carolina he believes in the year 1775 as a Volunteer in a Regiment of North Carolina troops Commanded by Martin Armstrong – Benjamin Cleveland Captain Jesse Walton Lieutenant and under the Command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. He first marched to Salisbury – and remained there this tour for which he volunteered of three months expired – he did not receive any written discharges.

He next entered the Service at the same place soon after the Battle of Cross Creek by Governor Chaswell [sic, Richard Caswell] – under the command of Ben Cleveland Captain in the same Regiment – he marched then to Cross Creek – where he remained guarding prisoners until the three months tour expired – General Rutherford was Commander in Chief – he received no written discharge --

The next tour of three months as Lieutenant under the command of General Rutherford in Colonel M. Armstrong's [Martin Armstrong's] Regiment against the Cherokee Indians – we Rendezvoused on the Catawba River and from thence marched to the Indian Nation – the Battle with the Indians was fought by the South Carolina troops before we got up – we but [?] them and then returned home.

The next tour I again served as Lieutenant in the same Regiment under Captain Cleveland [probably John Cleveland] and marched to the old field on the Watauga and our company was stationed there to keep the Tories & in subjection – we then marched from the old field to Long Island on Holston. We remained there until Colonel Christian or Christy [William Christian] made the treaty with the Indians – and then we marched again to the old field and remained there some time before we were discharged & suffered to go home.

The next tour again as Lieutenant I entered the Service in the same County under the command of Captain Cleveland – just before the Battle of Kings Mountain, we first marched from thence to Cryder's old Fort [also spelled Crider's old fort] we got there the 15th of September 1780 and remained there a short time and from thence to the Cowpens where we joined headquarters under the Command of I. Shelby [Isaac Shelby] – Colonel & Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] & Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] – we remained there but a short time I was in the foot and the Horse men went on and

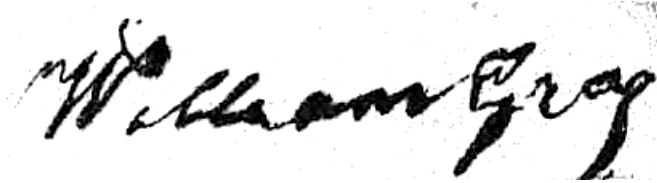
fought the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]¹ we marched on toward Kings Mountain and met Colonel Shelby & Campbell returning with the prisoners this was in October 1780 – we held a Court Martial & hung nine of the prisoners – eleven were condemned – we then heard that Colonel Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] was close by and marched from thence to Catawba River from thence to near Moravian Town – we then were suffered to return home.

The next tour I received a letter from Colonel Martin Armstrong to hold an election for Captain in my company. I done so and was elected Captain in my own County Wilkes – I then received orders from Colonel Armstrong and in pursuance thereof marched in a few days in pursuit of Colonel Roberts [John Roberts] a Tory – we marched to Ramsour's or Ransel's Mills – where we arrived a few days after the Battle with said Colonel Roberts & he was beaten & his men dispersed – we then marched home, -- that he has resided in Christian County for about 25 years. He also states that he rendered other Service which he has not rated as tours – that in all he served fully two years – six months of which only was as a private – the balance of the time as Lieutenant & Captain. He never was properly commissioned – in writing --

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 Gray



but

[John Bobbitt, a clergyman, and Jonathan Clark gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

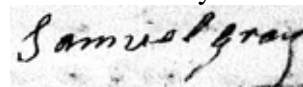
[p 7]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County

This day Samuel Gray² a citizen of said County of Bedford (aged 81 Years and upwards) Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County, and after being duly Sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he was a Soldier and Served in the War of the Revolution and now draws a pension under the Act of June the 7th 1832. That his Brother William Gray now a citizen of Christian County and State of Kentucky, Entered the Service of the United States, as a private Soldier in Wilkes County and State of North Carolina, sometime in the year 1775 the precise month he said Deponent cannot now recollect, in a company of Volunteers, under the command of Captain Benjamin Cleveland, who was under General Rutherford, and that said William Gray Served as such for the term of six months, and that after the said William Gray was Elected a Lieutenant and Entered the service again. Deponent does not recollect what Captain but thinks General Rutherford was the General But how long said William Served as such Deponent cannot State. Deponent further says that after that – sometime he thinks in the year 1778 said William Gray was Elected Captain at Wilkes Court house North Carolina, and entered the Service of the United States again, in the Militia of the last mentioned State, but how long he served Deponent cannot say, Sworn to and Subscribed this 18th day of September 1833.

S/ W. Galbreath, JP

S/ Samuel Gray



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¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

² [Samuel Gray W7574](#)

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, Christian County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County aforesaid William Gray who being duly Sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades --

That he served as a private for two tours under the Command of Captain B. Cleveland – three months each – That he served as a Lieutenant under the Command of Captain B. Hearn a tour of three months.

That he served two tours of three months each as Lieutenant under the command of Captain B. Cleveland.

And his last tour for three months he served as Captain in Colonel M. Armstrong's Regiment – making in all eighteen months in Regular tours – that were he to count the time he served over in different tours it would make fully two years & six months as Stated in his Declaration of the 3rd September 1832 to which this is an amendment --

He would herein state that he had entirely neglected to state in his former Declaration one tour of three months which he served as Lieutenant under the Command of Captain Jebez [could be Jobe] Jarvis-- which is considered and the two years & six months – which will make his regular tours amounted to twenty-one months – which in Brief make his terms of service stand thus

Six months as a private

Twelve months as Lieutenant --

Three months as a Captain for which he claims a pension.

He would State that they were troublesome times in which he served and that he was regularly Elected as Lieutenant and afterwards as Captain but never was commissioned, that he knows of no person by whom he can prove that he actually served as Lieutenant and Captain – nor has he any nor can he procure any documentary evidence of his Service --

He has a record of his age in a Bible of his own now at home, He would name Colonel F.P. Pennington, Henry Myers, J. Clark, L. Dulin, Capt. J. Thompson of his near neighbors who can testify to his Character for veracity and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution -- that he would also name the Honorable B. Shackelford, Honorable C. Lyon with whom he is well acquainted who can also testify as to his character for veracity – Given under my hand this 27th April 1833.

Sworn to and Subscribed by the said Deponent before me this 27th April 1833.

S/ D. S. Hays, JP

S/ William Gray

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The Commonwealth of Kentucky Hopkins County to wit

This day personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County William Davis and made oath that he saw William Gray in the Militia service at or near Kings Mountain, also I saw him after Colonel Bryant [Samuel Bryan] the Tory down hunting Creek and then marched there the Irish [Irish] settlement and back to the Adkin River [Yadkin River] at up said River home, he states he was under Colonel Clevling [Cleveland] he served two Towers [tours] both with him. Sworn to before us this 2nd day of September 1833

S/ S Robertson, JP

S/ Meredith Myers, JP

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The Commonwealth of Kentucky, Christian County

This day personally appeared Absalom Nixen³ aged seventy-one years the 25th on the next and upon being duly Sworn deposed & saith that he was well acquainted with Lieutenant William Gray in Captain Cleveland's company in the tour at the Catawba old field – and in Colonel M. Armstrong's Regiment and that after the Battle of Kings Mountain he was with him – and he then acted as Lieutenant in said company – under Colonel Cleveland he well recollects too of the said Lieutenant Gray's being officer of the guard one-day when the Prisoners were carried from there to Moravian Town -- & crossed the Adkin [sic, Yadkin] River at the Shallow Ford – That he does not know positively that said Gray was duly Commissioned as Lieutenant – but he would state positively that he acted and was at all times respected as a Lieutenant – Given under my hand this 12th day of December 1833.

S/ Absalom Nixen, X his mark

Sworn to by the law A Nixen before me this 12th day of December 1833

S/ D. S. Hays, JP

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State of Kentucky, Hopkins County

This day William Davis⁴ a citizen of said County of Hopkins aged seventy three years next June personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace will said County and after being duly sworn according to law deposed and saith that he was a soldier and served in the war of the Revolution and now draws a pension under the act of June the 7th 1832 that he saw William Gray in the Service on the way to Kings Mountain – and also he was with him another Tour after Colonel Bryant a Tory he Gray was under the Command of Colonel Cleveland on the Yadkin River we then marched down Hunting Creek and then marched through the Irish Settlement and back to the Yadkin River and up said River home the Deponent can't state in what capacity said Gray served in as Deponent was in the horse & said Gray was in the foot.

Sworn to and subscribed this 1st day of November 1833

S/ L. Robertson, JP

S/ Wm Davis {Seal}



[p 72]

State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

Personally appeared before me James Martin one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County John Sparks,⁵ aged eighty-two years past who being duly sworn according to law, deposed, and saith, that he was well acquainted with William Gray of Surry North Carolina in the time of the Revolutionary War who now as he understands lives in Christian County Kentucky – and that he and said Gray entered the service of the United States under Captain Jesse Walton in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Martin Armstrong in November 1776, and was marched to Salisbury North Carolina remained there some time, then returned to Surry County, and then was marched to Fayetteville North Carolina after the Scotch Tories, remained in that section several months, and then was marched home in Surry County making, in all a tour of not less than six months, that he and said Gray served as privates. This deponent further states that he and William Gray entered the service of the United States again in June 1777. Gray was a Lieutenant and this deponent Ensign in Captain

3 [Absalom Nixon \(Nixson\) W3033](#)

4 [William Davis W8657](#)

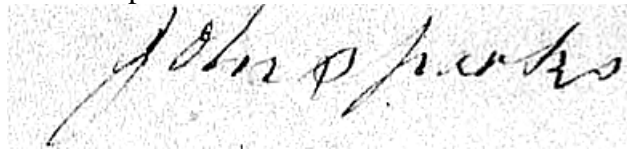
5 [John Sparks S7580](#)

Benjamin Cleveland's Company and Major Jesse Walton who had been promoted and was marched against the Cherokee Indians and was in the Battle at the Valley Towns after defeating the Indians and burning their Towns, they returned home, making a tour of not less than four months that said Gray served as Lieutenant. This Deponent also states that he and William Gray entered the service again in February 1781. Said Gray was Captain and he served under Gray as Lieutenant and was Commanded by Colonel Benjamin Herndon, and was marched to Haw River North Carolina and into the State of Virginia and joined General Greene, then returned [to] Haw River, and then was marched home in Surry County this tour was after Cornwallis making a tour that said Gray served as Captain of not less than three months, -- and further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 15th day of October 1834

S/ James Martin, JP

S/ John Sparks

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

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State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

Personally appeared before me James Martin one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County, Sterling Rose⁶ aged seventy-seven, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, he was well acquainted with William Gray of Surry County North Carolina, in the time of the Revolutionary War, who now as he understands lives in Christian County, Kentucky and that he and said Gray entered the service of the United States under Captain Jesse Walton in Colonel Martin Armstrong's Regiment, in November 1776, and was marched to Salisbury in North Carolina remained there some time then returned to Surry, and then was marched to Fayetteville North Carolina after the Scotch Tories, remained in that Section several months, and then was marched home in Surry, making in all a tour of not less than six months, that said Gray served as a private – This Deponent further states that he and William Gray entered the service again in June 1777. Gray was Lieutenant and he was a Sergeant under him in Captain Benjamin Cleveland's Company and under Major Jesse Walton – who had been promoted, and was marched against the Cherokee Indians, and was in the Battle at the Valley Towns, After defeating the Indians and burning their Towns, returned home, making a tour of not less than four months said Gray served at that time as Lieutenant, -- And that Lieutenant Gray entered the service again in Captain Samuel Johnson's Company of infantry in April 1778, this Deponent was in Captain John Cleveland's Company of horse men, and Major Hargroves in Colonel Benjamin Cleveland's Regiment, and was marched to Deep River, North Carolina, then to Alamance after the Tories commanded by Colonel Fanning, after remaining there a short time returned home, making a tour of not less than three months that said Gray served at that time as Lieutenant. -- He and Lieutenant William Gray entered the service again in May 1779 in Captain Benjamin Herndon's Company of horsemen and was marched to trading Ford on the Yadkin River after Colonel Bryant who commanded the Tories, remained in that Section a while and then returned home and continued in service until the the said Gray had performed a tour of not less than two months as Lieutenant at that time. -- He and Lieutenant William Gray entered the service again in Wilkes County North Carolina (Wilkes was taken off of Surry) in August 1780 in Captain Benjamin Herndon's Company in Colonel Benjamin Cleveland's Regiment, and was marched to Cryder's old Fort near the Catawba River, then to the head of Broad River, then to the Cowpens in South Carolina, then towards King's Mountain, but before we got there the Battle had been fought and we met the Army returning, and was made a part of the guard that guarded the prisoners back to Wilkes County, and then to Salem in Stokes County North

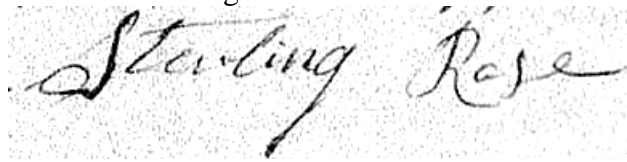
6 [Sterling Rose S4132](#)

Carolina and was there discharged making a tour of not less than three months said Gray served at that time as Lieutenant, -- making in all the tours said Gray served as Lieutenant a term of not less than twelve months, this Deponent further states that he and said William Gray entered the service again in February 1781, he believes Gray was appointed a Captain at this time he served under Gray in Colonel Benjamin Herndon's Regiment and was marched to Haw River in North Carolina, then into the State of Virginia, and joined General Greene, then returned to Haw River & then returned home in Wilkes County and was discharged by order of Colonel Benjamin Herndon, making a tour of not less than three months, that he believes said Gray served at that time as Captain, -- and further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this fifteenth day of October, 1834.

S/ James Martin, JP

S/ Sterling Rose

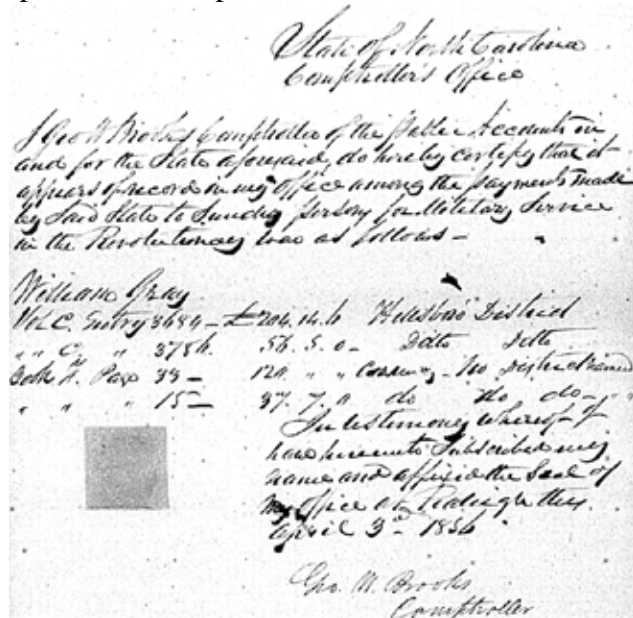


[p 9]

On this 19th day of February 1856 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Washington, District of Columbia, Charles W. Mills a resident of Christian County Kentucky, who after being duly sworn doth on his oath make the following Statement That William Gray was a revolutionary pensioner of the United States at the rate of sixty dollars per annum and a resident of Christian County Kentucky died on the 8th day of January 1841, leaving the following named children James Gray, Stephen Gray, Miles Gray, Rebecca Gray, Sarah Gray, Margaret Gray, Elizabeth Fruets and none other, and that since the death of said William Gray, his sons Stephen Gray and Miles Gray have departed this life leaving James Gray, Rebecca Gray, Sarah Gray, Margaret Gray, and Elizabeth Fruets as the only surviving children of said William Gray and that they are now the only surviving children of said William Gray – Rebecca Gray, Sarah Gray, Margaret Gray were never married.

S/ C. W. Mills

[p 33: NC Comptroller General's certificate]



State of North Carolina
Comptroller's Office

I Geo. M. Brooks Comptroller of the Public Accounts in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that it appears on records in my office among the payments made by said State to sundry soldiers for military service in the Revolutionary war as follows -

William Gray				
N.C. Entry 3689 -	£204.14.6	Walden District		
" " " 3756 -	58.5.0	do	do	
Col. P. Pay 33 -	120. " "	do	do	
" " " 15 -	37.7.0	do	do	

The testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of my office at Raleigh this 3rd day of April 1856.

Geo. M. Brooks
Comptroller

[p 63: copy of the veteran's last will and testament]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the North Carolina militia. After his death, upon application of his heirs, the pension was increased to \$116.64 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina militia. The pension terminated January 8, 1841 when the veteran died.]