

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Griggs (Greggs) S3418

f17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 Tennessee, Henderson County: Circuit Court October Term 1832

On this 11th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable John C. Hamilton one of the Circuit Judges in and for the said State and now presiding as Judge of the said Circuit Court now sitting in and for the County of Henderson in the State of Tennessee Robert Griggs aged about seventy-four 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 the 7th 1832.

This Declarant States that he entered the Service of the United States as a Soldier as a militia Private in the year 1781 about one month before the Battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] in the Volunteer Company of Militia Cavalry commanded by Captain John Powers whose family afterwards having been taken sick impelled him to resign the Command of this Company and which command afterwards was transferred to Captain Samuel Crowel or Crowell [Samuel Crowell] of the County of Halifax in the State aforesaid been in this Company this Declarant marched from said County of Halifax and joined the American Army at Lindley's Mills not far from Guilford Court House then under the command of General Nathaniel Green [Nathanael Greene] who had succeeded General Horatio Gates in the Command of the Southern Army. This Declarant states that he was not in the battle of Guilford Court House because he was placed in one of the Guard upon the out posts and so also was the same post assigned to him at the Battle of Lindley's Mill [September 13, 1781]. The Regular officers were General Nathanael Greene Brigadier General Stevens Colonel William Washington of the South Carolina Cavalry Colonel Henry Lee of the Virginia Calvary and Colonel Daniel Morgan of the Virginia Riflemen. His Lieutenant was by the name of William Merrit and was from the County of Halifax and his Major was by the name of Read.

This Declarant has now no recollection to what Regiment or what Brigade he was attached or who were his immediate Field Officers except Major Read.

This Declarant now states that after this tour of Service which lasted about two months had expired he removed to the County of Granville in the same State and in the same year again Volunteered his services to his Country in consequence of a requisition either from the Executive of North Carolina or the Constituted Authorities of the United States as a Militia Cavalry Private for and during the war and served as such in the company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Waller. The Requisition thus spoken of was occasioned by a belief that a Considerable Body of Tories had assembled at the Ridge in North Carolina but upon the turning out of the troops and the promptitude of their march to the spot the Tories Dispersed This was but a short period before the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781].

This Declarant States that after the Capture of Cornwallis he still Continued in the service and in the Command of Captain Nathaniel Waller there being no immediate Field Officer has now recalled by him – the object of this Service was for the purpose of dispersing and putting down the Tories who infested the Country and were plundering and committing many depredations upon the property of the

Whigs.

This Declarant states that he believes as well as he can now recollect that the whole period of his service is about two years and further that he is now a Citizen and resident of the County of Henderson and State aforesaid and that whilst in the Service and during his first Tour he marched through the Counties of Warren, Granville and Orange and thence on to Guilford Court House passing Lindley's Mills.

This Declarant has no Documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose Testimony he can procure who will testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Robt. Grigs, X his mark [sic]

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ E. H. Tarrant, Clerk

[Robert Marshall and Wilson H. McKisick gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions by the Court

Quest 1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Westmoreland County in this State of Virginia in the year 1757 --

Quest 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have none --

Quest 3rd How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer I was a volunteer --

Question 4th Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. In my first tour of Service I lived in the County of Halifax in the State of North Carolina afterwards removed to Granville County in the same State and lived there during the war I afterwards removed to Hancock in the State of Georgia and from thence to Henderson County in this State where I have resided ever since

[Quest 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.]

The names of the Regular Officers were General Greene, General Stevens, Colonel Daniel Morgan of the Rifle Corps Colonel William Washington of the South Carolina Cavalry and Colonel Henry Lee of the Virginia [cavalry?], the Continental Regiments with whom I served were commanded by the above named Colonels.

State of Tennessee, Henderson County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

The Amended Declaration of Robert Griggs

On this 19th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the said Court of pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting Robert Griggs now in his seventy fifth year and 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 7th 1833. To the first objection of the War Department as to the periods of his service he answers and says that it was about one month before the Battle of Guilford Court House and which battle was fought as well as he now recollects in the month of August 1781 [sic, March 15, 1781] and he thinks the 16th day of that month consequently he must have entered the service of the United States on the 17th of July of the same year but as to the exact and positive day He cannot and will not Swear but he believes it to be the same – for further particulars and the Historical facts of this Tour this Declarant refers to his former Declaration now amended and returned and to which this is prayed to be taken as part of the same. This Tour of service was only for

two months.

Second Tour of Service – on the first day of October 1781 this declarant again entered the service of the United States as a private Cavalry Soldier for and during the war or until peace was proclaimed in 1783 and which period of service he faithfully served out under his Captain Nathaniel Waller for further Historical facts this Declarant refers to his former Declaration --

To the second objection this Declarant states that there is no public seal of office to the current Court of Henderson County.

To the third objection of the Department that there is not nor was at the time a Clergyman residing in his neighborhood consequently he could not procure such a certificate but procured the signature of two respectable Citizens. The Second Sixth and Seventh questions is stated by the Department not to have been answered, this Declarant states that he has answered the second question in relation to the record of his age never having had any. To the Sixth Question he states that in both his first and second tours he received a discharge the first was a verbal discharge from his Captain Samuel Crowel or Crowell he being a volunteer, in my second tour of Service I was a volunteer also under Captain Nathaniel Waller and only received a verbal discharge from him.

As to the 7th Question I can refer to Robert Marshall the former Sheriff of Henderson County, Doctor Wilson H. McKisick, William Burton chairman of the County Court of Henderson County, John Cain William Cain and Alexander T. Carruthers who can testify to my character for veracity and so to their belief of my services as a private soldier of the revolution.

S/ Robert Griggs, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the cavalry militia of North Carolina for 6 months.]