

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Edmund Graves S37955

f33NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/15/07 rev'd 9/26/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Shelby County: SS

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834 personally appeared before me James C. Burnett a Justice of the peace in and for Shelby County and one of the Judges of the County Court for said County of Shelby Edmund Graves aged 72 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

This declarant States that he was residing in Surry County State of North Carolina when he entered the service of the United States and served as hereinafter stated – that in the month of March in the year 1779 – a draft was ordered in said County of Surry for the term of six months when he the said Graves was drafted into the service of the United States for the above stated. And Rendezvoused at Surry Courthouse on the first day of April 1779 – and marched from said Courthouse under the command of Captain Scott [Arthur Scott] and was attached to Colonel Cleaveland's [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] Regiment and by order of General Ash [sic, John Ashe] was marched to Joined General Lincon [sic, Benjamin Lincoln] in South Carolina which Junction they formed near Savannah their march was then by order of General Lincoln directed towards Charlestown and near to Charleston the Army under the command of General Lincoln had a small engagement with the British in which engagement he states he was actively engaged, he states that they then we went on to Charleston and after remaining there a short time General Lincoln ordered a march through the Country towards Savannah where he remained until after the Battle at said place in October [Siege of Savannah, September 16-October 18, 1779] when his six months being expired he was discharged by his said Captain Scott in October and then returned home where he remained until after General Lincoln Surrendered Savannah [sic, Charleston?] to the British – he further States that in the month of June 1780 – a draft was ordered in said County of Surry for a tour of three months when he the said declarant was drafted for that period and was marched from said County of Surry under his former Captain Scott and under the command of Colonel Gregory [Isaac Gregory] they marched near the line between North and South Carolina and Joined General Gates [Horatio Gates], after Joining General Gates they were marched towards Camden in South Carolina where he states that he had a hard fought battle [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]<sup>1</sup> but were compelled to retreat as far as Salisbury and thence to Hillsboro – where he states he was discharged by his Captain Scott in the month of September 1780. He further states that at the time of his receiving his discharge that it was reported that General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was to take command of the Southern Army – and it was Stated that there would be a change in the times in the South if he the said Greene could get Soldiers – accordingly one Captain Williams proposed raising a company of volunteers, when the said Edmund Graves did volunteer under said Captain Williams for three months this tour he states commenced in October 1780, he states that as soon as Captain Williams' Company was organized they were ordered to

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

Charlotte and after remaining at Charlotte some time but how long he does not remember they were then marched to Cheraw, at which place his time of service expired when he was discharged by said Captain Williams early in the month of January 1781. He further states in the month of January 1781 he again volunteered for a tour of three months under Captain Jamerson [sic, William Jamieson] -- and was attached to General Davidson's [William Lee Davidson's] Brigade – he states he was in the action at McCowan's ford [sic, Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781]<sup>2</sup> – on the Catawba River in which engagement General Davidson was Killed the balance of the Brigade that escaped was marched and Joined General Magan [sic, Daniel Morgan], and shortly after Joining General Morgan they united with General Greene at Guilford Court house in North Carolina, thence they proceeded across Dan River into the State of Virginia and that shortly after, they were again marched back into North Carolina and was marched to Guilford Court house where the Battle [March 15, 1781]<sup>3</sup> was fought he states that he was in said Battle a part of the time he states that after a retreat was ordered the Militia squandered [sic, scattered?] in various directions, but that they Joined the Army again at Speedwell's Iron Works he states that remaining there some time that General Greene marched his Army towards Cawpans [sic, Cowpens?] and Stationed his men in a few miles of that place and during their stay at this encampment he states his said three months expired where he was discharged in writing by his said Captain Jamison about the 20<sup>th</sup> of April and returned home. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his Service and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove said service, he states that from old age and bodily infirmity that he cannot appear in open Court to make his declaration. 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.

S/ Edmund Graves, X his mark

Sworn and Subscribed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834.

S/ Ja. C. Burnett, JP

Ques [questions] Put by Justice

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Surry County State of North Carolina in the year 1762.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Ans: I have no as taken from my Fathers family record

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: I was living in Surry County North Carolina when I entered the service where I remained until the year 1785 – I've then moved to Kentucky – Shelby County where I now live.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Ans: I was drafted twice and volunteered twice.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I knew of the Regulars General Ashe, General Lincoln, General Huger, Gates, Morgan and Greene of the Militia that were where I served General Pickens and General Davidson who was killed on the Catawba – of the Colonels there were Cleveland and Shelby.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Ans: I received discharges for all my tours of service they were given to me by my Captains – but I do not recollect whether they were signed by my Captains or not – these discharges I have lost many years past.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cowans\\_ford.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans: I will name John Holland Clergyman and Samuel Greathouse.

[Holland and Greathouse gave the standard certificate of veracity, age and service.]

[p 24: William Ferguson made oath that Graves was insane and incompetent when he filed for his pension; that Graves was then 'under the care of a committee appointed by the Shelby Circuit Court to take charge of his person and of his property. This document appears to be dated Oct. 8, 1834 or 1839 or 1837—date is very difficult to decipher.]

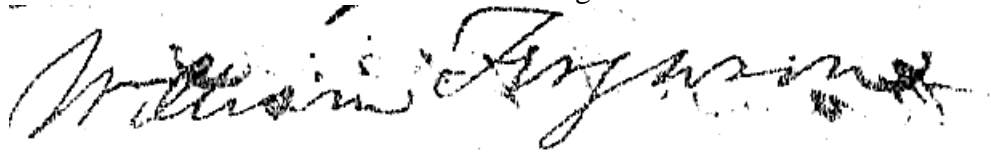
[p 26]

Shelbyville, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1834

Sir,

I have reason to believe that a Fraud is about to be practiced upon the Government and I choose to communicate these facts to you. Edmund Graves of this County has made his Declaration under the Pension Act of June 1832 which perhaps before this has reached the Department over which you are Chief. To my Certain knowledge he was not in a competent state of mind at the time he made his Declaration to detail any connected series of events or facts and I do not believe without the mercenary aid of the persons who are acting as his agents in this matter that it would have been possible for him to have made a Declaration upon which you could have awarded him a pension. If you think proper to inquire, I venture to say my suggestions can be established as the facts. I married to the daughter of Edmund Graves and knew him well.

S/ William Ferguson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Ferguson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized and slanted.

[p 27]

Dear Sir

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of September 1834

I trust you will afford me an apology for addressing to you the following communication, which I do for the purpose of counteracting if possible an impression made on your mind by a wicked, malicious and nefarious letter which I learned of Saturday last had been sent to you over the Signature of William Ferguson in relation to a pension Claim made out by me for Edmund Graves of Shelby County Kentucky in relation to said Claim. I beg leave to State that during the Spring term of the Shelby Circuit Court Said Ferguson (a son-in-law of Edmund Graves) applied to William J. Graves a lawyer in Newcastle Assembly, who was then in attendance at the Shelby bar either to make out the Claim or for some information how they should proceed – in order to obtain a pension for his Father-in-law. Mr. William J. Graves referred to him to me Stating to Ferguson that I was engaged in preparing Claims accordingly before Court adjourned. I went to Shelbyville and W. J. Graves informed me that Ferguson had Spoken to him respecting the Claims of his Father-in-law and that he had recommended me and requested me to ride out and make out said Claim accordingly I rode out to the old Mr. Graves', I found the old man in a very low state of health confined entirely to his chamber. I told him my business and asked him if he wished me to make out his Claim. He said he did. I was then presented with a declaration that had been prepared for him about 18 months or two years previous, which declaration had been sent to the department and rejected. I readily discovered the objection, which was the age of the applicant not being stated, and the declaration being on different sheets of paper was not conformed with [several illegible words] as the regulations of the department

require every thing else in the declaration was right and admitted by the department. I then drew a copy of the old declaration avoiding the two objections above named and sent for James C. Barnett a Magistrate in that neighborhood before whom the first declaration was made. When he came he asked the old man some Questions and was pertinently and rationally answered by him after examining the two declarations he then took the one I had drawn up, went in the room where the old man was. I was at that time engaged in writing and did not go in with the magistrate, he returned with the declaration having the mark of the applicant representing his Signature, got the traditionary evidence and then certified the paper according to law. I can say with respect to Mr. Barnett although I had never seen him before that morning that he is in my opinion an intelligent gentleman and one who I think understands his duty as a Justice of peace as well as any Magistrate before whom I have ever done business as his subsequent Services have proven to my satisfaction, it is strange that during all this time that I never heard of any derangement in the old man's mental powers nor did I ever entertain the most distant Idea of his insanity until last Saturday – when I met with Jas C. Barnett, Esq. who informed me of the malicious communication from William Ferguson to you, but Sir the situation in which Mr. Ferguson is placed with respect to the family of old man Mr. Graves readily accounts for the sensitive discovery which he has made respecting the derangement of his father-in-law Mr. Graves had twice been married and by his first wife had a daughter the wife of Ferguson and after their marriage from the unexampled worthlessness of Ferguson, he Ferguson, has spent nearly or quite all of his property, and to add to this the second wife of Mr. Graves (now the widow) not being the mother of Mrs. Ferguson has not used her influence to contribute to the wishes of Ferguson in consequence of which there is 'breach' in the family not easily healed. I never heard of any objection made by Ferguson until he ascertained by inquiry that the pension after the death of the old man belonged by law to the widow, he then stated to Jas C. Burnett that the widow had gone about \$60 in debt upon the faith of the pensions but he would disappoint her and I suppose resorted to this miserable trick to keep his words good. If there be any honesty or fairness about the man why did he call upon W. J. Graves a few days previous to my preparing the case to give him information how to procure the pension? If he believed the old man deranged why did he not tell me so? I saw him a few days after I had prepared the case, but Sir not a word of this satisfaction did I hear until he ascertained that the widow was the lawful heir to the pension and then as he told Jas C. Burnett he would disappoint her. Now if he was activated by a wholesome and patriotic motive, if he thought the treasury was about to be defrauded out of its money, if he thought the government was cheated I would then Join in and give him credit for what he had done. But on the other hand if he was gratifying an envious and malicious hatred which he has towards the widow whom the law has made the heir in such cases then he very justly deserves the contempt of every high minded and honorable man in the Commonwealth. In addition to his ability to make the communication to you he has as I understood called in the assistance of some Whiggish pettifogger whose [several illegible words] to me as well as to every other Supporter of the administration consequently I do not think that a fair and impartial communication was intended to be made, all that is asked is a pension upon a fair and honorable claim, no other is wanted and I do assure you no other would be received. If there be any evidence required, taken before any Court in this Commonwealth, I hope you will inform me of what kind of evidence is necessary and before what court it shall be taken and I will attend to the matter. I am Sir very Respectfully

Your obedient Servant,  
S/ John Field

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina militia.]

[NOTE: I have transcribed these letters to the Commissioner of Pension regarding the mental state of the veteran only to show how involved the granting or denying of applications could become when

family members were fighting over pension proceeds.]

[Facts in file: The following summary of additional information appears in this file:

"It is stated that Edmund Graves married twice (names of his wives not given) and William Ferguson married a daughter by the 1<sup>st</sup> marriage (her name not given). The soldiers 2<sup>nd</sup> wife was living in 1834. Reference was made to one William I or J Graves, a resident of New Castle, Henry County, Kentucky, and 1834, but it is not stated that he was related to the soldier."]