

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Gay S45842

f33NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/5/08 rev' 8/6/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

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Superior Court of the Counties of Columbia and Alachua in the District of East Florida. December Term 1833, to wit:

On this twenty Seventh day of December in the Year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before the Superior Court of the Eastern District of Florida William Gay a resident of the County of Columbia aforesaid and the said District, aged Seventy-four years five months and Seventeen days, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June seventh, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1782 with a recruiting officer named Armstrong (he thinks) and served in the second Regiment (as well as he can recollect) of the North Carolina line under the following named officers to wit General Greene [Nathanael Greene], Colonel Archibald Lytle, Major McRae (whose first name he believes was Ben) as Field Officers, and Captain Peter Ducot [sic, Bacot], First Lieutenant John Forde, Second Lieutenant Bell, an orderly Sergeant Charles Sturtevant as company officers; that he left the service in the same year of 1782; that he resided in the County of Edgecombe in the said State of North Carolina when he entered the service; that he marched through North Carolina to the State of South Carolina to the head quarters on Ashley River; that while there stationed he was engaged in severe skirmishes while upon reconnoitering expeditions to the British lines, and one of which were ordered to which he was attached lost three men and killed four of the enemy, and in another of which he was engaged against a party of mounted black men, of whom ten were killed and as many were taken prisoners.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any other pension or annuity, except the present – and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

S/ William Gay, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day aforesaid (the deponent being blind and making his mark).

S/ Robert Raymond Reid, Judge

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State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that William Gay a private in Captain Bacot's Company of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment, enlisted in the year 1782 for the term of 18 months and that nothing more is said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 1835.

S/ Wm Hill

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Territory of Florida, Middle District, County of Hamilton: SS

On this third day of June A.D. 1839 personally appeared before the Court of the Middle District of Florida for Hamilton County now sitting William Gay a resident of the said County of Hamilton & the Territory & District aforesaid, aged about Eighty-one or two years, who on being 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 seventh day 1832. That he served in Colonel Litles [sic, Archibald Lytle's] Regiment of which one McCree [sic, probably John Griffin McRee or McRea] was Major & that he was attached to the company of said Regiment commanded by Captain Peter DeCote [Peter Bacot], that he entered the said service sometime about the month of July of 1781 or 1782 & about the middle of that month; (from evident defect of memory he does not seem to recollect which of the years '80 or '82 in which he entered) but is confident of the fact of his having served the term of Thirteen months which term expired with the end of the War & that he continued in the service in the said Regiment in which he began. That the only engagement he was in was with a party of the Negroes armed & equipped by the British in the Town of Charleston in the State of South Carolina, that on this particular expedition, he was, as near as he can now recollect commanded by Captain Benjamin Coleman. That his Regiment was stationed on the Ashley River about 25 miles above Charleston and the State of South Carolina. That he was a resident of the State of North Carolina & County of Edgecombe at the time he entered the service. That he was drafted into the said service. That he marched with his Regiment from the State of North Carolina to the lower part of South Carolina to the place on the Ashley River in said State where the Regiment was stationed as already stated; while in said service, he served in the same service in which regulars were engaged (as he thinks) & were commanded by a Colonel Stewart and a Major Egleston. (He only thinks these were of the regular Army.) That he has no papers within his reach tending to show his services, nor does he know of any one living, whose testimony he can procure, to testify as to his services; That he relinquishes all claim to any other pension except what he expects to obtain by this declaration. That he draws no pension from any State, nor is he on any pension roll of any State or of the United States to his knowledge. That the reason that he has not hitherto obtained a pension is owing to his not having found anyone competent in directing him in the course necessary to doing so; that a Mr. Levy a lawyer of St. Augustine once undertook to procure it for him, but has failed from some cause in doing so; this he undertook about four years ago. That he was then living in Alachua County in this Territory:

Being asked the following questions; gave the answers thereto, severally & successively answered, to wit

1<sup>st</sup> When and in what year were you born? He answers that he was born in the County of Edgecombe in the State of North Carolina about the year 1758, but from defect of memory he cannot say definitely as to time.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? To this he answers, that he had in Georgia a record of his age, but that he came away & forgot it.

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?

Answer. That he was living in Edgecombe County in the State of North Carolina.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom? Answer – in North Carolina, the State of Georgia and in this Territory where he now resides.

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

On being passed can name some of the regular Officers who were with the Troops in the same service with the company, to which he belonged, or any of the officers of the Continental or Militia regiments: if she might have recollection of; he answered that he can state no other names than those of

Colonel Stewart & Major Egleston; that he has forgotten the names of all others, and can state no other circumstances than those above stated.

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? He answers, that he received a discharge from his Captain Peter DeCote, and that he left it in North Carolina at the time he left the State for Georgia, to which latter state, he removed some years after the termination of the war, and that he did not then think his discharge of any importance to him, & that he has never been back to North Carolina since he left for Georgia.

He was then passed to state the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution. He answers that all the inhabitants of the County can speak knowingly of his general character, but names particularly his neighbor the Reverend Joseph Bryant and Daniel S. Whitehurst the latter of whom has known him for about 25 years.

S/ William Gay, X his mark

Sworn & subscribed in open Court

S/ Arch'd McRae, Clk

[pp 17-18: Rev'd Joseph Bryant, a clergyman, and Daniel S. Whitehurst gave supporting affidavits as to the character and reputation of the applicant.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the North Carolina Continental line.]