

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Gracey S8635

f19NC/SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/22/08 rev'd 9/20/15 & 8/6/20

[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 North Carolina, Iredell County

On this 1st day of May 1833 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Iredell County Robert Gracey aged Sixty-nine years who being first duly sworn in due form of law doth upon his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. That by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear precisely to the length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below:

That in the month of April 1780 he entered as a volunteer in the militia in the foot Service as a private in Captain Purviance's [James Purviance's] Company. The company met in Mecklenburg County and were joined to the division under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]; upon an express reaching the General we were ordered to march into Lincoln County to support the cause of the country against the Tories: He arrived on the evening after the Battle at Ramsour's Mill being 20th June 1780 at the battle ground:¹ He returned and immediately pursued to the forks of the Yadkin after the Tory Colonel Bryant [Samuel Bryant], and returned home: At Ramsour's Battle he obtained a horse and his first tour ended about this time.

Before the defeat of General Gates [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] he again entered the service as a volunteer in the horse under Captain William Stewart and was for three months or more stationed in Mecklenburg County making occasional excursions into South Carolina. Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie] and General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] were the commanding officers: After the defeat of Gates the division in which he was retreated before the victorious army of Cornwallis passing through Mecklenburg and Rowan counties and so on to Guilford County from whence he returned home, during this retreat near Salisbury he was in a skirmish with a detachment of the British Army at Second Creek.² This whole service was not less than 6 months.

His next tour of duty was performed as a volunteer in a company of horse enlisting in the State Troops under Captain John Reid in the Regiment commanded by Major Rutherford [James Rutherford] and Colonel Wade Hampton. He joined his Corps sometime in the spring or summer of 1781: and marched from what was then Rowan but is now Iredell County to Friday's Ferry on the Congaree in South Carolina where he joined the Corps under General Sumter [Thomas

¹ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

² This skirmish appears to have occurred during what is called the "Race to the Dan" in which forces under Cornwallis were pursuing forces under Daniel Morgan and Nathanael Greene following the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781. I have not yet found a description of this skirmish but it is mentioned by several veterans (use the Search feature and search 'second creek.'

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_race_to_the_dan_river_1781.html and <https://www.topozone.com/north-carolina/rowan-nc/stream/second-creek-69/>

Sumter]. This rendezvous was about four miles from where the British had a Fort at Granby which the Americans often reconnoitered. The Corps in which he served was engaged in reducing the enemies Stations at Motts house [Fort Motte, May 7, 1781]³ and Orangeburg [May 11, 1781].⁴ Having been joined by Washington [William Washington] and Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] of the horse we proceeded on and joined General Greene [Nathanael Greene] in the neighborhood of Ninety Six⁵ from which Greene was then retreating after his unsuccessful attack thereon with whom we retreated forming the rear guard of his Army until we came to Broad River the British pursuing as far as Enoree River from thence marched in small parties through the Country to Congaree and collected again at Middleton's Corn houses in the forks of Congaree and Wateree from thence to Orangeburg and thence to Buck Island here spent several weeks at Orangeburg in quest of Tories, and that Section, from thence crossing the Savannah into Georgia proceeded through that State as far as the Altamaha, this last Service was performed partly under Major Moore and afterwards under Major Habersham [John Habersham⁶], under whom the service expired having served ten months, making altogether nineteen months and for such Service I claim a pension.

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.
[Answers to the Questions required by the War Department]⁷

He was born in the year 1763 at or near the place where he now lives in the County of Rowan now Iredell.

He has a record of his age in a Bible in his possession.

He was living in what was then Rowan and is now Iredell County at the time he was called into the service and lived there now.

He was always a volunteer.

He has seen Generals Marion [Francis Marion], Wayne [Anthony Wayne] and Greene.

He thinks he had a discharge but has lost it supposing it to be useless.

He refers to Reverend Stephen Frontis, Andrew Carson and Abraham Hill.

S/ Robert Gracey

³ None of the SC State Troops of Sumter's Brigade are thought to have been at the taking of Fort Motte. Francis Marion commanded the troops there.

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fort_motte.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁵ Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁶ of the GA troops

⁷ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

5th 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.

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

7th 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.

Robert Gracey

Sworn to in open Court this 21st day of May 1833.

[Stephen Frontis, a clergyman, and Andrew Carson gave the standard supporting affidavit; “and Abraham Hill⁸ says that he entered the ten months Service with Robert Gracey and served with him the whole tour and they were discharged together.”

Abraham Hill]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$76.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Infantry & cavalry in the North Carolina and South Carolina service.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁹ relating to Robert Gracey AA5
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 3020A
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/6/20

[p 2]

The State of South Carolina

to Robert Gracey

Dr.

1782

10 Feby

To the value of 1 likely grown Negro being
the pay Promised to each Soldier on his enlistment
in the late State Brigade Commanded by Brigadier
General Sumter [Thomas Sumter]

£

State of South Carolina Camden District} Personally appeared Robert Gracey a Soldier in
Colonel Wade Hampton’s Regiment in the late Brigade of State Troops who being duly Sworn
Maketh Oath that the above Claim against the State of South Carolina is Just & true, he having
never Conveyed his said Claim to any other person whatever or Received any satisfaction
(heretofore) therefor

Sworn the 16th July 1784

S/ Wm Murrell, JP

S/ Robert Gracey

Robert Gracey

[p 3]

Received 16th of July 1784 of General Thomas Sumter full Satisfaction for the within Claim, and
do hereby Authorize the said Sumter to Receive the within Negro or other pay in lieu thereof

⁸ [Abraham Hill S7015](#)

⁹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name. The “SC” file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

Accordingly
Witness
S/ Wm Murrell

S/ Robert Gracey