

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Gray Jones W3690

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected for clarity.]

State of Virginia }
County of Sussex } SS

On this 6th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Sussex now sitting Gray Jones now a resident of Bedford Cty Va but formerly of Sussex Cty Va aged seventy three 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 pass'd June 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, To wit, as well as he recollects, in the Spring of the year 1780, he volunteered as a substitute for his father, who was called out in the Virginia militia from Sussex County where he resided, that he was accepted by the inspecting officer and marched under Capt. Richard Harwell, and joined the army under the command of Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] at Surry old Court House. he does not remember whether the battallion to which he was attached was commanded by Major Duval or Major DeKloman [sic: Charles Deklaman], a French officer, as the one commanded in some of the Tours & the other in others. that from that place he was marched to Smithfield on Pagan creek [sic: Pagan River], and performed a harassing tour of six weeks in marching and reconnoitering in the country bordering on James River & stretches of Suffolk. He returned home, and after a few weeks, the precise time he does not remember, he was himself called out in the militia from this same county, and marched under the same Captain, and joined the army under the same Field officers, and marched to the same counties and was at Smithfield, Pitch Landing, South Quay [possibly on Blackwater River in present Suffolk City], and served at least six weeks, was discharged and returned home. 3rd after a few weeks, he was again called out and marched under Captain Herting Harwell and was commanded a part of the time by Col. Blunt and part by Col. Gee & part by Col. Gray Judkins, but in which of the tours he does not now recollect. that they joined the army somewhere in Prince George, not far below Petersburg under the same Field officers, and served in the same section of Country for six weeks, and was discharged and returned home. 4. That in the Spring of the year 1781, as well as he remembers, he again marched as a private in the company commanded by Capt. John Massenburg and joined the army just below Petersburg, then under the command of Marquis da Lafayette, and immediately marched up to that town. that on the next day he fought in the Battle of Petersburg [25 April 1781], when his captain was wounded when he was within ten feet of him. After the battle he was marched to Chesterfield, thence to Manchester, and crossed over James River to Richmond, & marched thro' the country about the Chickahominy River and was discharged at a place called the ground Squirrel Ledges, after serving a tour of eight weeks. that he recollects tho' from age & long time which has elapsed he cannot be accurate in all particulars connected with his service. that in all his tours, Major DeKlomaun, an experienced officer, was the Inspecting officer. And at Petersburg he remembers that Gen'l. LaFayette directed the firing of the cannon, which was stationed on Baker's Hill. that in the several tours they served a few days more or less than the times named, but how much he does not remember & will not undertake to state. that he served in the whole at least six months and a half. He makes his application to the Court of this County because here he was born and lived until he was an old man, and removed to a distant county in 1816 or 1817, and, of course, cannot exhibit the same testimony in Bedford, where his early life is unknown to his neighbors which he can here. He never rec'd a written discharge and has not documentary evidence, and that he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except Harris G. Winfield, who is now a pensioner under that act of Congress.

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. That he knows of no record of his age, the Church bible being lost.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] Gray Jones

NOTE: In Bedford County on 22 Dec 1852 Elizabeth Jones, 82, applied for a pension stating that as Elizabeth Winfield she married Gray Jones in Sussex County on 13 Sep 1790, and he died 13 June 1849. Her application includes a family record with the names and dates of birth of their seven children. On 26 May 1855 Elizabeth Jones applied for bounty land, giving her age as 83 and the year of marriage as 1791.