

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Gragg W7570 Nancy Gragg VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions January Sessions 1833.
Burke County. }

On this 28th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of said Court now sitting William Gragg, a resident of said State and County aged about 75 years he states that knows his age to be that from the information of others and from the fact of his having seen his age recorded in his fathers family Bible, which got Bunt by accident who being duly sorn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the U.S. passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the State of Virginia, some time in the month of June or July 1779 or 1780 in the County of Albemarle in said state under Captain Andrew Wallace & Lieutenant Wm. Grisham [William Grisham] and as well as he now remembers his colonels name was Tailor [sic: Francis Taylor], he also knew a Col. of Regulars whose name he thinks was Fountain [William Fontaine, pension application W7319] – he was at this time called out to guard the prisoners taken at the Capture of Gen'l. Burgoyne [at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777, kept at Albemarle Barracks Jan 1779 - Feb 1781], that he remained in service this time one month or more during which time he was not taken without the limits of the said County of Albemarle, that for this service he and his fellow soldiers got no written discharges nor did he this affiant ever recive any compensation for this service he was discharged at Albemarle barracks as they were called

Affiant further states that in the County of Rockbridge and State of Virginia in the month of January 1781 he entered the service a second time, as a substitute for one James Kenneday under Capt. Ben. Harrison [Benjamin Harrison], Lieut. Wm Taylor [William Taylor], in the Regiment Comanded by Col. Jno. Bowyer [John Bowyer], and Maj'r. Jones a part of the time this regiment was with Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] in the State of Virginia, that while with Gen'l. Muhlenburg, near Portsmouth in said state the army was surprised and drawn up in battle array – this was caused by information derived from one of the British picket guards who had been captured by the American Cavalry and brought in to Camp.

After this he was in two skirmishes with the British about twelve miles from Portsmouth where the British were fortified and about three quarters of a mile from the fort. after which they was joined by Gen'l. Gregory [sic: Isaac Gregory of NC], with about 500 men who remained with them a few days only – during this tour of service the troops to which affiant belonged were march into North Carolina and passing round the dismal Swamp returned into Virginia to Suffolk thence toward North Carolina to meet with Lord Cornwallis, but before joining the main American army they were informed of the Battle of Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and its termination they retreated back to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] and Richmond where he was discharged some time in the month of April 1781 and permitted to return home having served his tour of three months for which he substituted

He further states that some time in the month of May following he was drafted and again entered the service in the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia about the last of that month for a three months tour under Capt. Henderson & Lieutenant Hamner. That after Capt. Henderson had organized his Company he [illegible word] toward Richmond to join Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne's army, that before they reached Gen'l. Wayne's army he this affiant was taken sick, and was furlowed for an indefinite period depending entirely upon his recovery so as to enable to be fit for duty, when he was to report himself, but not having sufficiently recovered during the three months for which he had been drafted and entered the service he did not report himself at all.

He further swears that some time in the month of September 1781 he was again drafted for three months in the County of Albemarle in said state and there entered the service under the Command of

Capt. Robert Sharpe under whose immediate command he marched to & joined Gen'l. Washington's army at little York, where he was at the time that Lord Cornwallis was captured by Washington [19 Oct 1781]; from thence he was marched as one of the prison guard to the Patomac [sic: Potomac River] where as well as affiant now remembers discharged some time in the month of Dec'r. 1781 at Noland's ferry having served out three months entire – having in the mean time been transferred from Capt Sharpe's to Capt Ben. Harris' [Benjamin Harris's, W7664] Company, under Command of Major Jones. He at Little York knew and served under Gen'l. Stephenson [sic: Edward Stevens] That of the Regulars he knew Gen'ls. Washington, Wayne, & LaFayette. He states that for any of his said services he never had any written discharge and that he has no particular recollection of any of the regular or militia regiments or officers by name other than what he has already stated

Affiant states that he was born in Augusta County, Virginia on or about April 15, 1758 and resided in said State in the County of Albemarle that in the time of the Relutionary War he lived in said County; Since that time he has lived in the state of North Carolina in the Counties of Surry & Burke in the latter of which he now is and has been a resident for more than thirty five years He has no record of his age. He is not on the pension roll of any state of territory and hereby Relinquishes all claim for a pension from the United States save the present Wm hisXmark Gragg

NOTES:

On 23 May 1853 Nancy Gragg, 40, of Burke County, applied for a pension stating that she married William Gragg on or about 4 July 1837, and he died on 20 Oct 1847. On 7 Nov 1854 Tilman Gragg stated that he was present at the marriage of his father, William Gragg, and Nancy Coffey in Burke County. Nancy Gragg was a resident of Caldwell County NC on 26 March 1855 when she applied for bounty land.

On 7 Sep 1866 Nancy Gragg, about 55, applied for restoration of her pension which was suspended during the Civil War, during which time she subsisted "by the Cultivation of a little farm, assisted by her children." She stated that her pension certificate was destroyed with other records in the office of the pension agent by troops under Gen. George Stoneman. On 7 Dec 1868 Nancy Gragg applied for an increase in pension, stating that she was 57 and a resident in Caldwell County, but giving her mailing address as Morganton in Burke County.