

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Gray¹ W7575

Eleanor Gray f104VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/31/09 rev'd 9/28/15

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

[p 5]

Commonwealth of Virginia Campbell County

On this 18th day of April 1818 before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the General Court of the Commonwealth aforesaid and Judge of the 7th judicial Circuit including the County of Campbell aforesaid personally appeared Francis Gray aged about Sixty-two years resident in the town of Lynchburg in the County aforesaid who being by me first duly sworn by affirmation according to law doth a firm and make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An act provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War." That he the said Francis Gray enlisted about December 1778 as a private soldier in the 4th troop of Dragoons Capt. John Watts in the State of Virginia in the service of the United States in which Corps he continued to serve until some time in the year 1780. That about September 1780 he was commissioned an Ensign in a Company of infantry commanded by Capt. Benjamin Lawson being a detachment of the 6th Virginia Regiment in the service of the United States in which service he continued until the soldiers belonging to said Regiment were discharged at Salsborough [sic, Salisbury] in North Carolina the term of their enlistment having expired some time in 1782 -- from whence the officers generally returned home subject to further orders, but that he the said Francis Gray being in a bad State of Health received no further orders until the close of the Revolutionary War. That he was in the several battles in the affair at Savannah,² at Guilford,³ at Campden [sic, Camden],⁴ the Siege of Ninety Six⁵ & at Eutaw [Eutaw Springs]⁶ -- and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to & declared before me the day & year aforesaid

¹ BLWt873-200 Lieut. Issued June 24, 1793 Joseph Highbee, assignee. No Papers and Va. Half Pay

² September/October 1779. <http://ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution15.html>

³ March 15, 1781. <http://www.nps.gov/guco/>.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁴ This could be either a reference to the Battle of Camden on August 15-16, 1780

[\[http://gaz.jrshelby.com/camdenmarker.htm\]](http://gaz.jrshelby.com/camdenmarker.htm) or the Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781,

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hobkirk.htm>. It is most likely to have been the Battle of Hobkirk Hill given the time frame referred to by the veteran. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hobkirks_hill.html

⁵ May/June 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ninetysix.htm>

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

⁶ September 8, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

S/ Wm Daniel

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Virginia, to wit:

At a Court of Sessions held for the corporation of Lynchburg at the Court House on Friday the 9th day of June 1820.

On the 9th day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court expressly constituted a Court of record by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Francis Gray, aged Sixty-two years, resident within the Corp. of Lynchburg in the Commonwealth of Virginia, who being first duly affirmed according to law doth on his affirmation declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows -- that he the said Francis Gray enlisted for the term of 3 years on or about the 28th or 29th day of December 1778 in the County of Culpeper in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt. John Watts in the Regiment commanded by Col. Benjamin Temple in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment, that he said Francis Gray continued to serve in said Corps until the month of September 1780 at which time he said Francis Gray received a Commission of Ensign in the 6th Virginia Regiment of Infantry commanded by Col. ___ Febeger [sic, Christian Febiger] and continued in the same Regiment of Infantry until the happy termination of the Revolutionary Struggle, when he was discharged from said service at Winchester in the State of Virginia -- that he was in the following battles -- At the attempted to storm of the Town of Savannah -- he was severely wounded on the head at the surprise of Col. White [Anthony Walton White] at Lanew's ferry [Leneud's Ferry]⁷ on Santee River -- at the battle of Guilford -- the siege of Ninety Six -- at the surprise of Col. White at Moncks Corner⁸ and in various lesser skirmishes -- That he has heretofore made a declaration of his services & circumstances (the date of which he cannot recollect) and I obtained a certificate of a pension of \$20 per month from the 18th day of April 1818, which certificate bears date the 5th day of March 1819, and is number 7100, and the said Francis Gray doth solemnly affirm that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that h has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed -- That he is family consists of 4 persons, himself, he is wife, and 2 daughters named Maria & Eleanor, That his own constitution is so effected and weakened by age and the hardship undergone in his youth as completely to prevent that exertion and application which would be useful and productive. That his wife is nearly of his own age and consequently unable to render material services in the support of a family -- but is engaged together with their daughters above mentioned, Maria & Eleanor in the milliner's business by which they acquire a hard-earned and precarious sustenance. That the said Francis and his family have received a donation of about \$40 annually for the last 6 or 8 years from the "Cincinnati Society" which he hopes will probably be continued to him. That he has no property whatsoever except two milk cows & a small stock

⁷ May 6, 1780, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/leneuds.htm>.

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lenuds_ferry.html

⁸ perhaps a reference to the action at Moncks Corner, May 6, 1780

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_moncks_corner_2.html

of Household furniture the principal part of which has been purchased by his wife and daughters from the profits of their own labor.

S/ Francis Gray⁹

Affirmed to and declared before the Hurting [?] Court of Lynchburg on the 9th day of June 1820
S/ W. W. Nowell, Clk

[There is a substantially identical application dated June 20, 1820 appearing at pp. 98-99]

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Armistead Long of Culpeper County Virginia of lawful age being first duly sworn deposed and saith, that he the said deponent and Francis Gray were raised from boys in the same neighborhood, and that the said Gray and himself enlisted in the 4th Troop of the first Regiment of light Dragoons in the United States service during the revolutionary war, in December 1778 and joined the said Regiment at Winchester Virginia in January 1779, and that in the spring of 1780, the said Gray (at Lenaw's ferry on Santee River South Carolina) received a wound from one of Tarleton's Legion, and was taken prisoner, the wound was inflicted with a broad sword which took off the greater part of his left ear and entered his skull, he was paroled and left on the ground, after which he remained with the Regiment until we got to Halifax North Carolina where he the said Gray left the Regiment and went home on furlough, and as soon as he recovered of his wound obtained an appointment in the Infantry of the United States and joined the southern Army again sometime in November of the same year, where he continued in the service aforesaid as this deponent believes until the close of the War.

S/ Armistead Long

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Lynchburg Virginia, to wit

We the undersigned Commissioners in obedience to, and by virtue of the annexed Commission, to us directed, by the Honorable St. George Tucker, District Judge of the United States, for the district of Virginia, do hereby certify that the above, and annexed affidavit, was duly taken, signed and sworn to before us, by Col. Armistead Long on this 22nd day of March 1814. Witness our hands and seals the day and date aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Humphreys

S/ Thomas W. Cocke

We the undersigned Commissioners do further certify, that the following Questions were then asked by us, of the Claimant, Capt. Francis Gray, who being first duly Sworn, gave the answers hereunto annexed. Question 1st What has been the reason, or cause, that you did not, sooner made an application to be placed on the pension list, of the United States.

Answer -- my situation was such until within a few years past, that I thought I could do without it, and was then unwilling to put my Country to any expense, but now being old, and getting infirm, together with my having a family to support, and having been reduced in my pecuniary circumstances, I am now compelled to ask of my Country its bounty, towards my support, as some compensation for the injury I sustained while fighting for its Liberty.

Question 2nd -- Have you ever been placed on the pension list of this State, or any Other, of the United States of America.

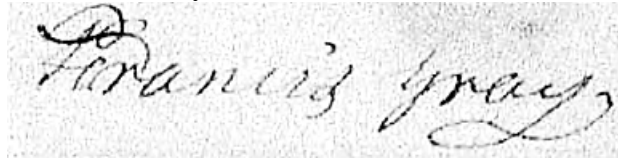
Answered. -- I have not.

⁹ Same handwriting is the body of the document – consequently I don't believe it is an original signature of the veteran

Question 3rd -- did you remain in the service of the United States, after your wound had healed, (or 2 word of) until the close of the revolutionary War.

Answered. -- I did.

S/ Francis Gray

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Gray". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured.

No further Questions occurring the foregoing was signed before us by Capt. Francis Gray.
Witness our hands and seals, this 22nd day of March 1814.

S/ Thomas Humphreys

S/ Thomas W. Cocke

S/ Rob. Morris

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The Deposition of Col. John Watts of the County of Bedford, in the State of Virginia, taken before us, in the Town of Lynchburg, in the State aforesaid, the Deponent being first duly sworn, Saith, that respecting the wound received by Capt. Francis Gray, while in the Service of the United States, during the revolutionary War, the said Gray served as a private under his command, in a company of Dragoons, but that he was not present at the time Mr. Gray received the wound, nor does he recollect anything further on the subject. Given under our hands and seals this night day of December 1813.

S/ Thomas Humphreys

S/ Rob. Morris

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We hereby certify, that on examining Francis Gray respecting a wound, which he states to us on affirmation, was received in the Army of the United States, when combating with the British troops commanded by Col. Tarleton; we find nearly one half of his left ear extirpated, and a large portion of the skull bone deeply indented; and consequently very much disfigured -- Mr. Gray, further affirms, that except the partial loss of hearing; he experiences no bodily inconvenience from the above mentioned injury. Given under our hands this 24 October 1814.

S/ G. A. Rose

S/ John J. Cabell

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State of Virginia Mount Jackson Shenandoah County

On This 26th Day of August Personally Appeared before Me Jonathan Shuler Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Daniel Gray post master of the town aforesaid, a Revolutionary soldier and a respectable Citizen of County & State aforesaid, and who after being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath say that he was married the 16th day of June 1787 and that Francis Gray my brother was married to Eleanor Henning [in subsequent documents her maiden name is spelled Hening] some time previous he says some 2 years or upwards before, he thinks they had one child born at that time . He says that he has seen and examined the family record of the said Francis Gray and that he believes the insertion of the marriage of Francis & Eleanor Gray June 23rd day of 1785 was done by his brother Francis Gray in his own proper handwriting. He further states that his brother was in and served as a soldier and officer of the Revolution upwards of 3 years in the Continental line.

S/ Daniel Gray

Sworn to and subscribed on the 28th day of August 1838 before me Jonathan Shull a Commonwealth's Justice of the Peace.

S/ Jonathan Shull, JP

[pp 15, family Record]

Maria S. Gray born September 7, 1786

William W. Gray born May the 4th 1788

French S. Gray born March 22, 1790

Robert H. Gray born October 12, 1792

Eleanor F. Gray born September 17, 1795

Lucy S. Gray born November 4, 179[~~last digit obliterated~~]
died August 19, 1807

Albert Gray born May 3rd 1802 died September 1819

French S. Gray died December 1820

Eleanor F. Gray Died July 1822

Maria S. Gray Died February 9, 1831

Francis & Eleanor Gray was married 23 June 1785

Lynchburg, Campbell County State of Virginia: SS

On this 15th day of August 1838 personally appeared before me Samuel Nowlin a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Lynchburg in the County of Campbell Robert H Gray who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say that he believes the above record of the marriage of Francis and Eleanor Gray the 23rd June 1785 as well as the within record of the births of their children Maria, William, French, Robert, Eleanor, Lucy and Albert is in the handwriting of Francis Gray deceased a Revolutionary officer (his Father) who was a pensioner under the law of 1818 – and died in April 1827

S/ Robert H Gray {Seal}

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTH.	DEATH.
Maria S Gray Born September 7, 1786	
William W Gray Born May 4 1788	
French S Gray Born March 22 1790	
Robert H Gray Born October 12 1792	
Eleanor F Gray Born September 17 1795	
Lucy S Gray Born November 4 1795	Died August 19 1807
Albert Gray Born May 3 1802	Died Sept - 1819
	French S Gray Died Dec 1820
	Eleanor F Gray Died July 1822
	Maria S Gray Died Feb 9 1831

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Francis & Eleanor Gray was
 married the 23rd of June 1785 ---

Lynchburg, Campbell County state of Virginia, s.s.
 on this 15th day of August 1838 personally
 appeared before me ~~James A. Smith~~ Justice
 of the Peace for the Corporation of Lynchburg
 the County of Campbell Robert L. Gray who first
 being duly sworn according to law doth so this
 23rd June 1785 as well as the within record of
 the birth of their children, Maria, William,
 French, Robert, Cecelia, Lucy, and Albert
 the said wife of Francis Gray, doth so in
 testimony whereof this Robert L. Gray
 under the seal of 1818 - and died in April 1827

Robert L. Gray

[p 18: On August 15, 1838, in Lynchburg, Virginia, Eleanor Gray, 74, widow of Francis Gray filed for a widows pension. She states "That she is the widow of Francis Gray deceased a Revolutionary subaltern officer, 1st of Cavalry and afterwards of Infantry, in the Continental line of service -- who served most of his time in North and South Carolina, was at the battle of Eutaw Springs South Carolina was wounded in the left side of his head at Lenears [sic, Leneud's] ferry in South Carolina losing part of his left ear -- was taken prisoner, his wound dressed by the British Surgeon -- was exchanged, and afterwards attached himself to the Army again as Lieut. of Infantry and owing to his bad State of health, he was afterwards granted leave of absence from the Army on Furlough; and so remained she believes until the end of the War." She states they settled in Culpeper County Virginia and in 1793 removed to Albemarle County Virginia and in 1800 removed to Campbell County Virginia and in 1802 removed to Lynchburg Virginia; that her husband died on the 27th of April 1827.

Eleanor Gray]

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This is to Certify, that, it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the Second day of December 1783, in the name of Francis Gray as Lieutenant of Infantry for £11, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to F. Strother and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782, to wit: as Ensign in 6 Virginia Regiment from the 1st of September 1781 to the 15th of October following, and as Lieutenant from the 15 of October 1781 to the 31st of December following.
 Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 10th day of September, 1838

S/ A. W. Morton, Clk
Auditor absent

I also further certify that it appears from a list of Officers names who have received Certificates for one and two years advanced pay agreeable to an Act of Assembly passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 28th day of June 1782 for £90, in the name of Francis Gray, a lieutenant of Infantry in the Continental line, which certificate appears to have been delivered to French Strother. Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 10th day of September 1838

S/ A. W. Morton, Clk
Aud. Absent

[widow died August 31, 1839]

[p 101, an indenture of gift from David Hening and wife, May, of Culpeper County, Va., to their son-in-law, Francis Gray, also of Culpeper County, Va.; the indenture is dated September 30, 1790.]

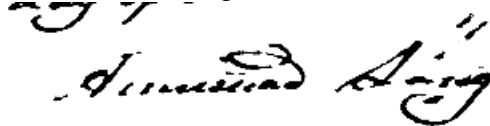
[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing April 18, 1818 for service as an Ensign for 2 years in the 6 Virginia Regiment on the Continental establishment. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum.]

[Note: This file contains a number of long letters written by Robert Hening Gray, son of the veteran, addressed to the Commissioner of pensions. The subject matter of these letters was predominantly dedicated to the advocacy of increasing the pension due his father from that of an ensign to that of a Lieutenant in the Continental line. Those interested in this veteran would doubtless find these letters of great interest.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I do hereby Certify, that Francis Gray, late of Lynchburg deceased enlisted together with myself and others under Lieutenant Robert Yancey of the first Regiment of Light Dragoons (called Bland's) on Continental establishment in December 1778, and joined the Regiment at Winchester Virginia in January 1779 and that he Gray, was wounded and taken prisoner at Leneud's ferry in South Carolina by Tarleton's Legion, and paroled on being exchanged he obtained a Lieutenant's Commission in Colonel John Green's Regiment of Infantry and marched to the South where he continued until the close of the War. Given under my hand this 3rd day of December 1830.

S/ Armistead Long



[Acknowledged December 3rd, 1830 in Loudoun County Virginia]

No. 1,925 Council Chamber October 27, 1783

I do certify, that Francis Gray is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Lieutenant of the Continental Line and for three years service.

Thomas Meriwether

S/ Benjamin Harrison

A Warrant of 2666 2/3 acres issued to Francis Gray, October 28, 1783.

To the Honorable the Executive of Virginia

Your Petitioners William W Gray and Robert H Gray Heirs of
Francis Gray deceased

respectfully Sheweth

That their Father was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army, and upon full proof of that he was allowed his Bounty in Land by the Governor and Council in the year 1783, as is seen by a reference to the order entered on the proceedings of the Executive a Copy of which is herewith [indecipherable word –

Your Petitioners show that their Father received the Land then allowed him – but they are advised he, if he were alive, and his heirs he being dead are now entitled to further allowance of one third more in proportion to the amount of Bounty heretofore Granted –

They therefore ask the attention of the Executive to the Claim they now proffer – trusting that they will consider your Petitioners Justly entitled to the additional Bounty and will Grant the same – and as in duty bound will ever pray –

The Petitioners

by

Council [sic]

Rejected May 16 1834

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Addendum to Francis Gray W7575

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 26 March 2020.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Petition for Bounty land. (additional)

Francis Gray Lieutenant. Cont'l line.

The facts of this case are – that Francis Gray enlisted as a private in 1775 (December) – that he was taken prisoner * parol'd; and on being exchanged obtained a Lieut's Commission, in Col. Green Regt of Infantry. That he served for three years. The Army Records prove, that he serv'd to the end of the war.

There is reason to doubt whether this service as private & his service as Lieutenant was continued. All who claim the additional bounty of $\frac{1}{6}$ th of all former bounties for any years service over six years, must compute their time of service from the date of their last entering into it. But, if Francis Grays service as private & Lieutenant was a continued service, it does not appear that he was entitled to additional Bounty land. according to the evidence accompanying the Petition; he enterd the service as private in December 1778[?]; and could not have serv'd more than six years, before the close of the war, which was in April 1783. He could not, therefore, be entitled to additional bounty land.

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r.

April 15th 1834

To his Excellency Gov'r Tazewell

1834 May 16 Rejected