

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Gray W8864                      Leah Gray            VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Hopkins County State of Kentucky            [14 Sep 1818]

Samuel Gray states that in February before the Battle at Germantown [4 Oct 1777] in Stanton [sic: Staunton] in Virginia he enlisted in the Continental Service to serve for three years under Capt Simes [sic: John Symmes or Jonathan Symmes] in the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col'n. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] that he was in the battle at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and Germantown at the last of which he was taken prisoner that after he was exchanged he was transfered into Capt. Babbees [sic: Thomas Barbee's] Company in the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Comanded by Col'n. Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] and after serving out the full period of his enlistment he was discharged by Col'n. S. Haws at Maurice town [sic: Morristown] in the State of New Jersey. That he sent his discharge to the war office to draw his pay which has never been returned that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services that alto he rec'd five wounds he never was placed on the pention list and relinquishes all claim to any pention heretofore allowed that he has become old and from his reduced circumstances in life he needs the assistance of his Country for support

District of Kentucky Ss  
Hopkins County Ss.

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1821 personally appeared in open Court being the Circuit & a Court of record for the said County of Hopkins County Samuel Gray aged 59 years resident in Hopkins County in said District who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows

He enlisted as a private in Captain Simms company in the tenth Virginia Regiment in the early part of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven The said Regiment having been broken up in the battles of Brandywine and other battles he was transfered to the sixth Regiment in which he served the residue of the three years for which he was enlisted under Captain Thomas Babor that he was wounded at or near Horsneck in the State of Connecticut. That his original declaration was made on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 1818 as appears by his certificate of pension now in his possession bearing date the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1819 that he has five children living with him (towit) Sally 18 years old Rebecca 15 years old Powetan 13 years old Thos. 10 years old, Hannah 6 years & his wife about 51 years old

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Sam'l. Gry

Schedule of the property of Samuel Gray (towit) of his whole estate and income (his necessary cloathing and beding excepted)

one Cow of the value	\$12
one pot	1
one Skillett	1.25
one Tabl	2.
Carpenters Tools	20.

Sam'l. Grey

[On 9 Jan 1843 Leah Gray applied for a federal pension stating that she married Samuel Gray on 26 Sep 1792, and he died on 29 May 1832. Her application was rejected because of doubt that the marriage occurred before 1794, whereupon she made the following successful petition to Congress.]

To The Honrble, the Senate, and House of Repr's in Congress assembled &c &c – The memorial of Leah Grey of Providence in Hopkins County, Kentucky respectfully sheweth – that your Memorialist in the winter of 1842 - 3 thro' the high commendation of her pastor Elder John Doris (since dead) given in favour of John Boyle – a Baptist preacher also – did apply at the pension Office Wash D.C – and after one or two preliminary letters did swear that she was married in the (say) “26<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>. 1793; that the poverty of her and her intended did not enable them to pay five dollars for license; but that she, then Leah Sisk & Samuel Grey were married by three Lord's days proclamation of her own Bap't. preacher – giving his name & the name of the magistrate who married them; that the first reply she received called for license – as the alone ground of her success; that, by the direction of John Boyle, her competent Atty in fact, she directly came before Newton Headley Esquire or Lorenzo Daw Orr – (the files of the pension office we [illegible word] to which she refers, & w'ld beg to make her entire file rest on) and swore, that having already sworn her entire want of proof from license, she was not going to forswear herself for a pension; that in one answer among the many, that for nov'r 13, or 14 months have been sent – it was positively alledged “she had not inserted her name in 2 material parts” when at the same time N. Headly Esquire, the Atty. J. Boyle, herself, her daughter Mrs. Simpson, and her daughter in law could then, & can now all five prove the Contrary – that she went twice to the County Commissioners' Court of Hopkins at a most inclement season of that ice bound winter; that her brother And'w. Sisk well known to [illegible word] L Boyd sent before Sam'l. Woodson, Clk of said County, and swore he was not inside the door at the marriage, (a crowd being perhaps there) but visited, and accompanied them to the “marriage supper,” that her said brother a few years before this, his proof, had been Senator for the Hopkins Ky district; that her character has been borne testimony to by about 10 or 12 certificates amongst whom were ‘Squires N. Headley, L. D. Orr, Absalom Wier, brother to her Atty's brother in law, the late Gen'l. Wm. Russel Wise – who had also been a Senator for said Hopkins District – by John E. Arnold, Atty at Law all on honour and in some cases, on oath too; that she is a poor widow with a numerous connection of widow daughters – orphans – and other Children, depending on her for support; that she has been trying to make a living honestly in “arte obstetrica” – or (less classically) by midwifery; that she has been honored by the visits of “the friendship of the Hon. L. Boyd, who well knows her – and all her connections & every Gentleman, whose names are above enumerated; She further states that (her own family Bible being lost by fire, or otherwise) she fortunately discovered her daughter's Bible – from the family record of which she swore and sent on an extract made from it in the presence of ‘Squire L. D. Orr stating the birth of Hiram Grey – her first born – 9 months to a day after that of her marriage – and humorously expressed by her Atty. “as thus not losing a day – so to speak”; that she was then required to cut out the record, & forward it – that she is now told that “such is the approximation of the “26<sup>th</sup> of Sepr. 1793” to the limitation day the 1<sup>st</sup> Jany. 1794 that the Department felt inclined to make it fatal that her Atty in fact – & all Attys. at Law applied to in Ky rejected such ground as toto Coelo untenable & she appeals to all the Judges & Lawyers in Congress if it lies not unsustainable in law; that she also proved that her late husband as a Soldier had never received his bounty land from the State of Virginia; that her Atty forwarded her forms of proof of not only Samuel Grey's her husband's title but also of his brother's James Grey's [sic: James Gray's] being equally entitled, as a Virginia Soldier who died of small pox at Baltimore, on return from the war – died single, and childless, leaving orally or [illegible word] said Samuel his sole heir, for waiting on him &c That the only answer, received from “W. H. Richardson Esquire – secretary of Commission at Richm'd. Va.” That it is “no evidence – returned at her cost of postage & not a word of what is Evidence! – She states that it has been lately certified to her Atty from Wash'n. City that Samuel Grey's Va. land has never yet been drawn; that new forms for Sam'l & James Grey's bounty land are on the way to Richmond; that she hopes the Hon. Va. member from the Henrico, Va. District will, in tender consideration of her case aid her in this land justly due to her. She states that

“by the grace of God” she [illegible word] to speak evil of no man”: still more to think no evil of the Va. Secretary of Commission” nor of J. L. Edwards Esquire [Pension Commissioner].” of whom her Atty has often spoken, as one among the best Officers at the Washington Departments. She trusts that the Hnbles J. H. Crittenden and Lynn Boyd will gives this memorial a dignified reception, and as in duty bound, she will with gratitude, remember their consideration of a poor Ky widow’s case

Fremont	Taken & Signed on this, the	Leah Grey by her
Co. Illinois	22 <sup>d</sup> of 1 <sup>st</sup> Mo. 1844	Atty in fact John Boyle

NOTES:

On 10 Jan 1843 Andrew Sisk stated that his sister, Leah Sisk, married Samuel Gray in Wilkes County NC, and for some time afterwards they lived in the home of her father, Thomas Sisk. On 26 March 1844 Andrew Sisk stated that he was 54, and that “Samuel Gray was a house carpenter and in doing some work at his deponent’s father’s house shortly after the marriage on a certain occasion the said Gray accidently let fall a plane which struck deponent on the forehead the scar of which is now plain to be seen.”

On 30 May 1843 Leah Gray signed a statement that reads in part: “that she was not married to Samuel Grey by license from the Clerk’s office, by a 3 times proclamation [banns] at her Baptist meeting, in Wilkes County, North Carolina, by Wm. Hammond, her Elder, and married by a Squire Mitchell; that her marriage was recorded in Tho Sisk, her father’s family Bible; but that Bible was destroyed in a fire, that took place 8 or 9 years after, that she believes the date – from a letter from a friend since found out by her, was not the ‘26<sup>th</sup> day of Sepr 1792’ as she alledged in her 1<sup>st</sup> declaration on her best memory then but ‘26<sup>th</sup> Sepr. 1793.’”

On 8 June 1843 Leah Gray appeared before Lorenzo Dow Orr, acting Justice of the Peace, and listed her children as follows: “Hiram Grey alive & single 2<sup>d</sup> Rebecca Simpson alias Grey, alive with heirs 3 Th’s. S. Grey alive with heirs – 4<sup>th</sup> Hannah P. Clark alive with heirs. 5<sup>th</sup> Patsy Gillihand alias Grey dead with 2 heirs, And’w & Leah Gillihand – 6<sup>th</sup> Gilson Grey he, & wife dead with heirs – Hiram Vardeman, Geo. Miles, Milena Adeline, Cela Emeline, & Gilson Grey 5 heirs, 7<sup>th</sup> Sarah Box dead with 3 heirs, Martha, Hamilton Hy, & Samuel C. s’d heir.” She also stated that her husband had three brothers in the Virginia Line: Private John Gray, who died of small pox, as noted above; Capt. George Gray [pension application S35989]; and Capt. James Gray, who never married or left legal heirs.

On 11 March 1844 Hannah P. Clark, 29, stated that the family record transcribed below was from her own Bible. She also stated that Samuel Gray died in Christian County KY.

On 30 March 1844 Thomas Young stated that in 1794 or 1795 Samuel and Leah Gray moved to Statesville in Iredell County NC, that Leah Gray “had in her arms her first child, a boy,” and she had another boy during the 12 months they lived there.

On 4 Nov 1845 Robert Sisk, 68, stated “that the Parents of said Leah Sisk were very much opposed to her marrying the said Samuel Gray and that in consequence of that opposition they were married at the house of a man of the name of William Wilcox.”

The file contains the following by John Doris: “Providence Hopkins Co. Ky – As Pastor of a Baptist Church here I have known sister Leah Gray, as a female of most unquestionable veracity and conscientious in all things for say 10 or 12 years.”

Among [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) are papers relating to Leah Gray’s unsuccessful application for bounty land for services rendered by her husband’s brothers, referred to above.

Samuel Gray was born the 2 day January 1761

his wife a Leah was born the 17 day September 1770

Hiram Gray was born the 16 day of June 1794

Gillson Gray was born february the 22 day 1796

Martha Gray was born november the 25 1797

Sarah Gray was born the 21 august 1799

Nancy Gray was born the 15 September 1803

Rebecah Gray was born March 11 day 180[?]

K. Bonapart Gray was born 25 day September 1807

Thomas Gray was born 17 day May 1810

Hannah Gray was born the 24 day Apreil 1814

Adrew Gilahan was born the 12 day Septemb 1818

Leah Gelahan was born 25 november 1819

Set down by H. Gray the ages in the presan[ce] of Samuel and Leah Gray both alive and present this the  
5 day of may 1831. Rote me Hiram Gray

Samuel Gray died may the 29 1832