

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Shared Gray S31707

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Transcribed by Will Graves

8/25/08

The United States of America, Territory of Arkansas: Superior Court

On this the 13th day of January A.D. 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Superior Court of the Territory of Arkansas now in Session at Little Rock, in the County of Pulaski, in said Territory, Shared Gray, a resident in said County and Territory, aged 75 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 passed June 7, 1832.

That in the year 1777 or 1778 (this applicant does not recollect which as he is now old and infirm, but knows that it was not long after the Declaration of Independence) about the first of May, as well as he recollects, he volunteered as a private soldier under General Rutherford who commanded a body of men raised in North Carolina to march against the Cherokee Indians. This applicant, at the time he volunteered lived in Mecklenburg County, in said State – Captain William Hagan commanded the company to which this applicant belonged, and Colonel Adam Alexander the Regiment. They were footmen – and term of service about four months, which term he fully served. General Rutherford commanded about 3000 men raised in North Carolina, and marched into the Cherokee Nation, where at the Middle Towns, he was joined by about 1500 South Carolinians commanded by a Colonel or General Williamson this applicant does not recollect which title he bore. Next morning after the Junction of the two armies, they took up the line of march for the Valley Towns and soon after their start early in the morning, they were attacked by a large body of Indians, and a battle ensued, in which the whites forced the Indians to retreat. The loss in this engagement on the part of the Americans was between 30 and 40 killed, and between 80 and 90 wounded. A detachment of about 700 men, of which this applicant was one, was left at this place to take care of the wounded and baggage and to bury the dead and the rest of the Army marched on to the Valley Towns, when the Army returned from the Valley Towns they returned to their homes, where this applicant thinks they arrived in the month of September.

That during the year 1780, he was in service, as a private soldier, the principal part of the year, in some companies of Rangers, or Independent Companies of horsemen, formed and kept on foot for the purpose of harassing the British and Tories. He still lived in Mecklenburg County. He was in the course of this year under the command of several different Officers, viz. Major Davie, Captains William Hagan and John Foster. This was a flying and fluctuating service; sometimes in North Carolina, but principally in South Carolina, wherever their services were necessary to check the Tories and British. As well as this Applicant can recollect, previous to the above service, in the year 1779, he volunteered under Captain White in a body of about 300 men raised and commanded by Colonel William Hagan (the Captain Hagan mentioned above). These troops were also raised to operate against the Tories & were horsemen. That he served three months, and were the principal part of the time in the neighborhood of Rutherford Court-house North Carolina. He does not recollect that he received a written discharge from service in any of the terms above mentioned.

In December 1780, or in January 1781, this applicant was drafted as a private soldier in the Militia of North Carolina, from Mecklenburg County; and served a three months tour of duty under General Sumner of the Militia; Colonel Phipper [sic, Phifer] commanded the Regiment in which he served; but the Captain being a stranger his name is not remembered. The militia of North Carolina assembled in a large body in Mecklenburg County near a Meeting-house called New Providence. At this place a large body of the Regular Continental Army was also encamped. Thinks that Generals Gates and the Greene were both at this place sometime during the stay of the troops there, but does not recollect distinctly which was in command of the Army. General Morgan & Colonel Washington with their respective commands, were also at this place. It was after the defeat of General Gates at Camden.

During the stay of the troops here, General Morgan & Colonel Washington went down with a detachment, and captured Rugeley's Fort. Militia lay at this place until the expiration of their term of service. Applicant received a written discharge from the service but has lost it by time or accident. He was born on 11th June 1758, in Granville County, North Carolina: Has no record of his age; and no other evidence of it but that delivered to him verbally by his parents. About the close of the Revolutionary War, he lived four years in Kershaw District in South Carolina and then removed back into Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where he resided until the year 1815, when he removed to Bedford County, Tennessee; and in the last County and Williamson County in the same State, he lived until 1820 or 1821, not now distinctly recollect it. From Williamson County, he came to Arkansas, where he now lives in the County of Pulaski. He refers to Honorable Benjamin Johnson, Honorable A. H. Sevier, Colonel Samuel M. Rutherford, Mister John McLain, Richard C. Byrd Honorable William S. Fulton who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person, except his brother Jacob Gray,¹ whose testimony he can procure, in Arkansas, who can testify to his said services, and

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 or Territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the 30th day of January 1834 in open Court.

S/ Wm Field, Clk

S/ Shared Gray

[Samuel M. Rutherford and John T. Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Jacob Gray, a younger brother of Shared Gray, the applicant in the above declaration, and have some recollection of his absence from home, and reputed service in the Cherokee War. He further says that he believes from the rumor of the days of the Revolution, and from his personal knowledge of his brother's veracity, that all the statements contained in the said declaration are true.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year last aforesaid. S/ Jacob Gray

S/ Wm Field, Clk