

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Gray S3409
Transcribed by Will Graves

f18NC
8/25/08 rev'd 9/30/15

[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.]

State of Tennessee, Lincoln County: October the 16th, 1832

On Tuesday the __ of October in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Abner Steed, Will. Edmunson, and Samuel Buchanan the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Lincoln now sitting John Gray a resident of the County of Lincoln and State of Tennessee aged about 77 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 the 7th 1832.

I entered the service of the United States in the fall of 1776 or 77 not now recollected for a Term of Service for six months – under Captain Jesse Walton, who was attached to Colonel John Armstrong's Regiment which Regiment was under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] – we volunteered in Wilkes County North Carolina from that place we marched to Salisbury where we were stationed for some time – shortly after we were marched to Surry old Court House to guard the Legislature while in Session as they were constantly threatened and was in great danger of Tories – from there we were marched to the Moravian Town Hooser and Salem from thence we were marched to the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin [River] where we remained a few weeks for further orders-- from there we marched against the Scotch Tories at Cross Creek and assisted in guarding the prisoners taken at this place a few days while on their way to the Barax [barracks] at Halifax Court House they were taken by Colonel Shephard – we were ordered to the frontiers to build a Fort: which we done at Colonel Lenoir's [William Lenoir's] in Wilkes County, this closed my first term in service. Soon after this I again volunteered under Captain Walton we were ordered to march against the Cherokee Indians we crossed over the Blue Ridge at the Pleasant Garden into the Indians Nation and destroyed and burned the Valley Towns and Middle Towns, and some Indians quieted for a while in the frontier settlements and we returned to Wilkes County Hall place of residence – we were immediately marched to the frontiers against a certain Captain Coyel [sic, William Coyle, also spelled William Koyle] who commanded a company of Tories and Horse thieves – we drove him and his party out of the County, he was soon after taken and hung we remained for a considerable time at home except occasionally called out for a few weeks or days to perform some service of different characters & on one occasion we were ordered against a notorious Tory Colonel Bryant [sic Samuel Bryan], we followed him and drove him over Pedee [River] at Colston's Ferry [sic, Colson's Ferry] – but we were not successful in taking him – and he fled to the British Army – in this expedition we were commanded by Colonel Lewis – as well as now recollected.

The next and last expedition of any note was the one against the British which resulted in the battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]. I was not in this Battle owing to the circumstance that our company with some men on foot under the command of Colonel Hern [sic]¹ -- and did not arrive in time, from this we were ordered to guard the prisoners taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain, we took

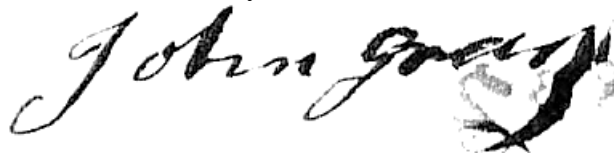
1 In the "Explanatory Notes" below, claimant says he was under Benjamin Cleveland at King's Mountain.

them to the Moravian Town from that place we returned Home; the time that those several expeditions were performed I am wholly unable to say being old and my memory quite treacherous so much so, I have not ventured to give the precise time or the length of time I was in service at various times as well as I now recollect. I was in the Service about 18 months, but was a much longer time, standing as a minute man subject to being called into service when required I was at no time in the Regular Service all under the command of Regular officers – therefore I am unacquainted with few or none -- many prominent events of that day, I have forgotten in confirmation of my statements I refer you to the statements of Benjamin Watkins and Colonel James Smith, Samuel Gray and Garnett Smith the department will see the strength of my evidence and give due allowance for the frail memory of [indecipherable word]. I have no written discharge for any of my Services.

I hereby Relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State or Territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year last aforesaid.

S/ John Gray



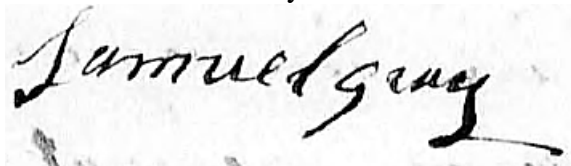
State of Tennessee, Lincoln County

This day personally appeared in open Court Samuel Gray² of Bedford County Tennessee and made oath to the following affidavit:

I am well acquainted with John Gray who signed the above declaration, he is my Brother therefore I am more conversant with the facts as set forth in his declaration, I was also in the Service with him and was on every expedition he has mentioned and can certify to the truth thereof; there was many other, short expeditions which he as well as myself performed which he has not mentioned but to all those he has stated I know to be correct and the officers as he states them the time I am also unable to give;

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above written.

S/ Samuel Gray

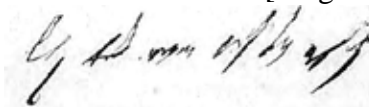


Also appeared in open Court Garnett Smithers³ of Franklin County, Tennessee, who first being sworn subscribed the following affidavit --

I am unable to say anything about any of the Services of John Gray who has signed the foregoing declaration except the one at Ferguson's defeat the Battle of King's Mountain, there I recollect distinctly of seeing him as I was then in this service under Colonel Cleveland during the most of the time he mentions he was in service. I was in the Continental Army.

Sworn to and subscribed this the ___ day of October 1832

S/ Garnett Smithers [? signature is totally illegible]



² [Samuel Gray W7574](#)

³ I cannot find an application for anyone of this or any similar name who claims to have served under Benjamin Cleveland at King's Mountain. It is possible he did not file a claim.

[Benjamin Walker, a clergyman, and James Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Explanatory Notes

State of Tennessee, Lincoln County: May the 13th 1833

This day personally appeared before me Elliott H. Fletcher an acting Justice of the peace for said County John Gray who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service or the particular time he entered or was dismissed from service but from the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades &c

The first Term of service mentioned in my application for a pension was as well as I recollect in the fall of 1776 or 1777, under Captain Walton & was commanded by General Rutherford. I entered the service for six months as a volunteer Soldier and served as a private for not less than six months in the manner as stated in my Declaration --

The Second Tour, I again volunteered as a private under Captain Walton but the year I cannot recollect -- we were marched against the Cherokee Indians and served I am confident 13 weeks, if not longer --

The 3rd expedition mentioned in my Declaration was the one against a certain Captain Coyle a Tory Captain the particular period I entered the service not recollected, but I served at least 15 days under the command of Colonel Cleveland --

The 4th tour was against Colonel Bryant -- a Tory -- as stated in my Declaration. I must have been in the service 20 days at least in this expedition I was commanded by Colonel Benjamin Herndon-

The 5th and last Tour was the one against the British at King's Mountain as before stated the time not recollected that I entered the service but I must have been in this service at least two months under the command of Colonel Cleveland & General Campbell all of the expeditions above mentioned I served as a private making in all that I can be certain of 12 months and two weeks: all of the time mentioned I was in the Military service of the United States & not in any civil pursuit.

1st Interrogatory: I was born as well as I can ascertain in the year 1755 --

2nd Interrogatory -- I have no record of my age and have to rely on my family to ascertain the time -- &

7th to interrogatory: In answer to this Interrogatory I can state that I am known to the The Reverend Benjamin Walker and a Colonel James Smith both of whom have certified to my former Declaration I am also acquainted [with] Colonel William Moore, Colonel Isaac Halmon, William A. Tucker Esquire, the Reverend John Copeland and many others &c.

S/ John Gray

Sworn to and subscribed before [me] the day and date above written

S/ Elliot H. Fletcher, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year and 6 days in the North Carolina militia.]