

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Graves S16839

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Missouri } SS (A Francis Parker)
County of Lincoln }

On this seventeenth day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Judge of the second Judicial Circuit of said State Thomas Graves a resident of the county of Montgomery in the State aforesaid aged 85 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 towit

That in the beginning of the war of the revolution early in the year 1775 he was one of the rebels so called who embodied at Culpeper Courthouse with Col. John Thorn & others without orders or officers & marched down against Lord Dunmore then Governor of Virginia who was suspected of bringing the indians on our frontiers & locking up our Magazine in Williamsburg [21 Apr] & was striving to lock the wheels of government & we helped to drive him on board a vessel [8 Jun]. We were governed by a body of wise men the Carters, Lees, Beverleys, Thorns, Patrick Henry & Edmund Pendleton, who were with us off & on, and found us in provision & supported us upwards of six weeks & dismissed us with thanks—

In the year 1776 we were organized and formed into Divisions & in the course of this year ordered out by Divisions. I the said Graves was ordered out & went as orderly Sergeant under Capt Bohannon who marched us again for Norfolk, but we arrived too late, Norfolk was burnt [1 Jan 1776] & the enemy on board their vessels, we continued on for Long Bridge [sic: Great Bridge] found no opposition & were discharged. At this time I was in Service about three months In 1777 the war grew hot. I was ordered out at the time the British landed at the head of Elk [now Elkton MD, 28 Aug 1777] & steered for Philadelphia. I went as orderly sergeant under Capt Hill, with four companies from Culpeper commanded by Maj William Roberts, who marched us through Pennsylvania - crossed the Schuylkill & joined Gen Washingtons army above Philadelphia just as he fought the battle in germantown [4 Oct 1777]. Soon after this Battle we were detached off and put under regular officers & sent down on the enemies lines near Philadelphia, & here we felt some of the horrors of war. We were marching & maneuvering day & night - many times in full view of the enemies main body. Seldom an hour passed over but we were shedding of Blood. We continued at this place in perils of hunger cold & fatigue till we were discharged for winter quarters, our bed at night the cold earth & our covering the canopy of the heavens. We had to return home without cloathes & barefooted. On this expedition I was in service about six months

In the year 1778 I was called out and sent to guard Burgoynes troops [surrendered at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777; arrived in Virginia early Jan 1779] at the Barracks in Albemarle County. I was appointed Sergeant under (Quarter Master) James Staughton who was soon after promoted and left his command. I was appointed in his place by Major Roberts [probably John Roberts], who commanded in Col Coles absence After I had served my time I was discharged by Col Cole who settled up my account & paid me for my services, there being a sum of money left in my hand of Country money, which I put into the hands of Col Cole when I was discharged. here I was in service 4 months

In 1781 the seat of war appeared to be in virginia, I was then called out early in the summer at the time the British took possession of Richmond & sent a party up to Charlottesville [4 Jun]. I went as orderly Sergeant under Capt Ferguson in Col Alcock & Greens [John Green's] regiment. We joined the regular troops commanded by Gen. De La Fayette [Marquis de Lafayette] & Gen. [Anthony] Wayne We continued with these troops in all their various routs untill we drove the enemy into old Jamestown and there gave them a battle [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul]. The Brittish then took shipping went round to york and fortified. Our troops then marched for york at which time I was discharged. At the same time I had two younger brothers who came into camp one of them was taken sick & wrote me to have a man to take his place. I could not do so. I directly returned to camp and took my sick brothers place. I then fell into a different

Regiment. After the British surrendered [19 Oct] I assisted in guarding them out to their station in Berkley [sic: Berkeley] County Va. under the command of Col Clopham [possibly Josias Clapham] & Maj [Nathaniel] Welch & as soon as a new guard came in & relieved us we were discharged which was my last services rendered in the Revolution. I served at this time 8 or 9 months

Questions by the Judge

1st Where & in what year were you born?

As- I was born in Culpeper County Virginia in the year 1747

2nd Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Ans- I have none

3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary War & where do you now live

Ans- In Culpeper County Va when called into service I came to Kentucky about the year 1812 & remained there about 12 years - then moved to Montgomery County Mo where I now live.

4th How were you called into Service, were you drafted were you a volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom

Ans. I first volunteered as stated in my declaration — Next I was drafted & then served as a substitute for my brother Lewis Graves.

4th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service

Ans- I served under Maj William Roberts who crossed the Schuylkill above Philadelphia & joined Gen Washingtons Army — I was under Gen LaFayette in 1781 at the Siege of York. I was in the Regiments of Cols Alcock & Green before & at the Siege of York. I was also under Gen Wayne at Dandridges old field and at Jamestown the day after the Battle at that place. I was appointed by Maj Roberts (who commanded in the absence of Col Cole) Quartermaster at the barracks in Albemarle County, which office was after the return of Col Cole confirmed by him - this took place in the Spring of 1778

5th Did you ever receive a discharge. if so where is it & by whom was signed

Ans. I received a discharge from Maj Welch and another from Col Cole & they are both lost. — State the names of the persons in your neighborhood to whom you are known & who can testify as to your character for veracity & good behavior and your services in the revolution

Ans— Richard Wright & Washington Timmerman James Timmerman & David Hubbard & N. C. Kabler clergyman.

In Addition to the services above mentioned I hired Levi Prince as a substitute for 10 months and paid him about 250 dollars & a good suit of cloathes. I delivered said substitute to Col Barber [sic: Ambrose Barbour] and he received him in the year 1778

— I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension Rool of any agency of any State

[signed] Thomas Graves sen'r

[Date illegible] Personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Missouri Thomas Graves who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear precisely as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades.

For the year 1775 I served 6 weeks as a private

For the year 1776 I served 3 months as a Sergeant

For the year 1777 I served 6 months as a Sergeant

For the year 1778 I served 4 months as Quarter master

For the year 1781 I served 8 months as a Sergeant

And for such service I claim a pension

And the said Thomas Graves for reason why he did not make his declaration to which this is a supplement in the County of Montgomery where he then resided states That he lived 28 miles from the County seat of said County of Montgomery and only 12 miles from the County seat of

Lincoln where he made his said Declaration And he further states that the persons who were acquainted with his character for veracity &c and who testified for him before the Court in said case lived near the County seat of Lincoln and verry remote from the County Seat of Montgomery. While I served as a substitute for my brother Lewis Graves who was sick in the year 1781 as stated in my declaration I served under Captain Triplett & under Col Claphan & Major Welch and I served as a sergeant [signed] Thomas Graves Sen'r

NOTE: A letter in the file states that Thomas Graves died 14 Mar 1834 with more than half a year's pension due, which his son and only heir, Thomas N. Graves of Warren County, was attempting to collect.