

Pension Application for Nathaniel Gray

S.16132

State of Ohio

Medina County SS.

On this third day of March AD 1837 personally appeared before me Allen Pardee one of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas within and for the said County of Medina; Nathaniel Gray a resident of the township of Guilford in the said County of Medina in the State of Ohio, aged Seventy six 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That in the forepart of the month of March in the year 1778 at Salem in the County of Washington in the State of New York he enlisted as private in a company of minute men, under the command of Edward Long, as Captain, Alexander Turner 1st Lieutenant & John Martin 2d Lieutenant; that said Company belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Williams & the name of the Major was Thomas Armstrong; that he continued attached to said company during the Revolutionary War; that in the said month of March 1778 he was called out with the rest of his company on a alarm & marched about 15 miles towards Whitehall, when learning that it was a false alarm the company returned to Salem & were discharged, that he was out on service two days, but the days of the month he cannot now recollect.

That in the month of April 1778 (the exact time he cannot now recollect) he was called out with the rest of his company & was engaged for two days in taking & securing the Tories & that during the two days his company made prisoners of 18 Tories.

That in the month of June 1778 he was called out & in company with five other soldiers who with himself were sent as a scouting party to Whitehall, to watch the motion of the enemy's ships on the Lake & was on duty one week, but cannot now recollect the days of the month, when he was called out & returned home.

That in the month of June 1779 he was called out with a part of his company and under the command of his Captain, Capt. Edward Long & was stationed at Whitehall; there was also at Whitehall a company of Continental troops under the command of Captain Stockwell, who also had the command of all the forces then at Whitehall; that while at Whitehall he served on guard & was occasionally sent out with scouting parties to watch the ships of the enemy and ascertain whether they were coming up the Lake & also performed such other duties as were required of soldiers in garrison, that he remained on duty at Whitehall for the full term of one month & was then permitted to return home, that he cannot recollect the day of the month when he entered on duty on the day of the month when he was discharged.

That in the month of August 1779 he was ordered out for the term one month & stationed at Whitehall under the same officers & performed the same duties as when on duty in the June stationed at Whitehall a company of Militia under the command of

Captain Alexander McNutt which was composed principally of old men and were called the company of "Silber Greys", that having served one month the time for which he was ordered out, he then, at the expiration of said term, engaged to serve as a substitute for his father, John Gray, in the aforesaid company of "Silver Grey's"; that he entered on duty as said substitute in the month of September, (the day of the month he cannot recollect) and served for the full term of one month; the company was commanded by Capt. Alexander McNutt and remained stationed at Whitehall, and he performed the same duties as during the month preceding as above stated, that he was discharged at end of the month which was in the month of October, the day he cannot remember.

That in the month of May 1780 he was called out with the whole of his company, by order of Gov. Clinton, that the officers of the company were the same as when he listed, that the company marched to Lake George & joined the regiment, being yet under the command of John Williams as Colonel; that the Regiment then crossed Lake George to Ticonderoga where, the New York troops were joined by the Vermont Militia & the whole were under the command of Governor Clinton, that most of the troops were marched towards Crown Point for the purpose of intercepting a body of the British, who had landed & made an incursion into the country; the troops having marched about fifteen miles, it was ascertained that the enemy had retreated & got aboard of their ships & the American troops then returned to Ticonderoga & militia discharged that he was out on service at that time eighteen days.

That he went into service after the British burnt the fort at Lake George, the whole of his company being also called out & remained on duty three days, that he cannot now remember what time in the summer it was, but thinks it was in August 1780.

That in the month of September or October 1780 (the exact time he cannot remember) he was ordered out into service, & in company with nine other under the command of his first Lieutenant Alexander Turner, was sent out as a scouting party down Lake Champlain as far as Chinely Point, to watch the motions of the enemy's ships & was out on duty at time for ten days.

That in the summer of 1781, (the day & months he cannot now remember) he was again called into service & in company with five other pirates under the command of a corporal, was sent down Lake Champlain as scouts to watch the enemy and remained out on duty for the full term of two weeks; that afterwards in the same summer (the day & month he does not recollect) he was called into service the whole of the regiment to which he belonged being also called out, that the Regiment marched to Granville & remained in garrison for two weeks, expecting the enemy were coming down to the Lake and intended to land, that at the expiration of two weeks he was discharged, with the rest of the Regiment & returned home, having been on duty for said period of two weeks, that the officers of the Regiment & his company were the same as when he listed in 1778—

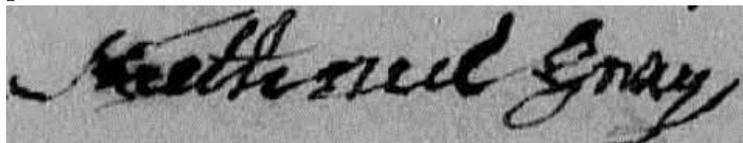
That in the year 1782 Alexander Webster was appointed Colonel of his Regiment in the room of Col. Williams, that during the summer and fall of 1782 these

being no garrison or fort between the town of Salem & the British lines, his company were constantly under orders, & at least a part of the company were engaged in patrolling & keeping guard on the lines; that he was frequently called out into service during the summer & fall & was employed as one of the guard in patrolling on the lines; that as nothing in particular occurred during the summer, which he now recollects, by which he can determine at the present date, when he entered into service or was discharged, he cannot state the date of various times he went into service or the time he was out on each tour, but that he is confident that he was out in actual service during said summer & fall of 1782, at least two and a half months, and thinks probably more, but cannot be positive, that the officers of his company still remain the same as when he enlisted in 1778 as above stated.

That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services except James Bell of Guilford, Medina County Ohio, --that he was born in Pelham, Massachusetts, in the month of August 1760, but has no record of his age, that he was living in Salem, Washington, County, & State of New York when called into the service & continued [to] live there until in the year 1830 when he removed to Elbridge in Onondago [Onondaga] County New York, where he resided until in June 1834 when he removed to Guilford, Medina County, Ohio, where he still resides, that he has stated above all the particulars of his service that he can now recollect and the names of the officers; that he never received a written discharge from the service.

That he is known in his present neighborhood by James Bell, Israel Conkey, James Gray & Dr. Jesse C. Mills, who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution and would also refer to Hon. David Russell, of Salem, Washington Co., New York, & member of Congress from that State, as a person to whom he is well known & who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity & his belief as to his Revolutionary services—

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 any State.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nathaniel Gray". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day and year aforesaid before me. Allen Pardee, Associate Judge.

Letter in folder dated June 8, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you, that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.16132, it appears that Nathaniel Gray, the son of John Gray, was born in Pelham, Massachusetts, August-, 1760.

While living at Salem, N.Y. he enlisted in 1778 and served until the fall of 1782, at various times, amounting in all to seven months, thirteen weeks, and six days, as a private, in Captains Edward Long and Alexander McNitt's Companies, Colonel John Williams and Alexander Webster's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed March 3, 1837, while living in Guilford Township, Medina County, Ohio.

There is no further data on file as to his family.