

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Morris R16555

f30GA[GA Half-Pay]

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/10/09: rev'd 6/5/17

[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.]

[There is no application in this file. The file contains a number of letters to the Commissioner of Pensions from various descendants of Thomas Morris, but, apparently, no application was ever actually filed. I've transcribed two of the letters. There are others.]

[p 3]

Norfolk June 19th 1849

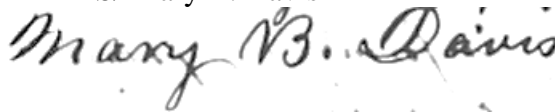
Sir,

As the Administratrix Captain Thomas Morris I deem it my duty to request some information from you, respecting the pay of officers serving in the Continental Army in the revolutionary war. My Grand Father Captain Thos Morris served in that time, and was taken prisoner & was kept in prison bonds more than six months and was then put on a parole of honor and sent to Virginia, he then proceeded to York town where Genl Washington was then encamped, while there, he caught the small pox and died in 1781.

I wish to know whether he is entitled to half pay or commutation [sic, commutation] pay and how I am to proceed to obtain it, I, also, desire to be informed if any monies have been paid out in reference to that claim or any claim longing to the heirs of Captain Thomas Morris since 1846 up to the present date, in your reply of the 15th instant you say, a full and particular statement of the case should be made known to you. I am fully prepared to establish the claim of his service that I desire to know if it is half pay or commutation pay that is due him. I intend visiting Washington soon I therefore wish to get all the information I can so that I made make all necessary arrangements before coming.

Yours very respectfully

S/ Mary B. Davis



J. L. Edwards

Washington, D. C.

[p 6]

Mathews County Court House September 18th 1849

Deare

Sir, I rec'd [received] your letter dated auct. [August] 30th 1849 In answer to ^{the} letter

addressed to the Secretary [Secretary] of War you requested in your letter that I, give you the particulars relative to the case of Tho Morris dec'd And to state to what regt. [Regiment] he belonged and under What law the claim is made and at what time, By whom and from what post office the papers were sent and return your letter with my answer -- Captain Thos Morris was a grand farther [father] of mine. He dec'd before my remembrance I kow [know] nothing more about the business more than I see -- From letters and information from my pearents [parents] and informed by Captain Borum who was inployed [employed] by my farther [father] and mother aunts &c -- To proceed and do this business and had their power of attorney Captain Morris was a conternental [Continental] offecer [officer] in the State of georgia [Georgia] in the town of Sunberry [Sunbury] and commanded fort morris, a bout [about] the close of the war after a seveare [severe] combat With the British his commanding offecer ordered his cullers [colors] to be struck that he could not fernish [furnish] Him with any more powder and boll [ball] he then struck his cullers agreeable [agreeable] to orders The british then come [came] In and took perseson [possession] of The fort and town Captain Morris had in The fort 18 negros [Negroes] of his own taking [taken] in by orders to fite [fight] with the cannon in the fort They ware [were] valued which he rec'd a certificate for in the First of the war he had vessels going to sea armed That, took some of the british and what powder and Ball he took he fernished [furnished] with I have also seeing [seen?] in his alphabit [alphabet?] provisions proviner [?] firnished [furnished] to the commanding offecers for the benefit of

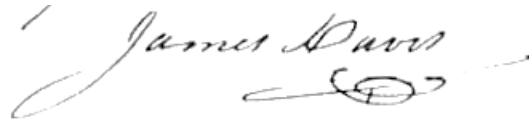
[the above is a literal transcription of the letter given in order to alert the researcher using this transcript to the liberties taken in editing the following portion of the letter]

the Country which he received certificates for. The certificates were recorded in the Governor's office which still remains there which Captain Brown had copies of. It appears he was expelled from this business by the heirs of Captain Morris. He then withdrew his papers so that no one else could have the benefit of them as he had the trouble of getting them. He says on his return from Washington he lost his trunk & part of his papers, he has the balance relative to the business and as to what he lost, is a matter of no consequence more than the trouble of getting them again. Since all this Borum has been authorized by the heirs of said Morris to proceed an act, again with their powers of attorney. After Captain Morris was taken a prisoner of war and could not fight for his country anymore he came over to Virginia on a visit with his family to see his brother William Morris who lived here. On his visit here he died and his wife also. William Morris his brother then took the administration of his estate and after the decease of William Morris, Young William Morris the son of the said Thomas Morris took the administration of his father's estate in Georgia to settle up the estate there. But at that time the money due from the country could not be paid. He then took a lieutenant's place in the Army against the Indians. It was not long before he had to return to augustry [Augusta?] town again in consequence of sickness. He put up in a tavern there kept by a man by the name of Dergey [?]. After being there 5 or 6 days he died. This man Dergey then administered on his estate which was one horse, gigg [?] & trunk and took letters of administration & never made no return. It could not be supposed that young Morris was indebted to him much but his view was to take the advantage to get his trunk. This fellow I understand took out of his trunk certificates to the amount of 12 or \$13,000 which he petitioned for and received or Mr Watts did for him under his administration without having any right whatever in existence it was artfulness, in him to take the rights of the heirs of Captain Thomas Morris and rob his own country. We are infants in the case and it is paid [indecipherable word] we expect it paid over again there is 1000 pounds certificate never has been paid in any manner whatever and another of 40 pounds I have nothing more to say at present, about the business

more than your counsel whether the country has a right to pay over the money that Durgey took of Young William Morris who had no right more than one heir. Young William Morris was only sent there to settle the estate having no relation. There, at, that time this advantage was taken. Excuse my writing if you please as I have not much time to write or to take much pains.

I remain your humble servant with you respect

S/ James Davis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and features a large, sweeping initial "J" and a decorative flourish at the end.