

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Famous Mortimer [Mortemore] R3418

Mary Fagan¹

f70VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/22/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Fleming County, Sct:

On this the 23rd day of June 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful the Justices of the County Court for the County of Fleming in the State of Kentucky, now sitting, Famus Mortimer [sic] a resident of the said County of Fleming & State aforesaid, aged seventy-one 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Choir [? Corps?] or Legion of the service of the United States Armand's [Charles Armand's, Marquis de la Rouerie] Legion immediately after the siege of York and surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], That he enlisted under Jonathan Bornside, who was a recruiting officer or Sergeant in one of the horse companies of said Legion, he believes in the month of April but he is certain it was but a few months after the siege of York – that he enlisted for three years or during the war – and after the enlistment he applied to Captain Brifo [perhaps a mistaken attempt to name Capt. Augustine Briffault or Brissault] a Captain of the infantry of said Legion, to take him or procure him to be added to his company & accordingly he served not in the Company to which he had been enlisted by Bornside but in Brifo's foot company. That he marched from Loudon [Loudoun] County Virginia where he enlisted towards Winchester & joined the Army near Winchester. That they lay at Winchester that summer, and in the month of December 1782 marched with the prisoners to Fredericktown Maryland – and from thence to York Pennsylvania. At York the Army continued for some time – until the news of peace reached us, and until after the rejoicings in consequence of peace. That after it was found there was no further service for the soldiers he applied to Captain Brifo for a furlough to visit home. That while at home on furlough – the Army was disbanded – that he followed on to York in Pennsylvania, where he had received his furlough – but when he arrived there, the officers and all had gone to Philadelphia & elsewhere, where on he returned home, not having the means of going on to Philadelphia. He states that his Captain's name was Brefo, Lieutenant's Riddle & Ensign Shafner – that he recollects Captain Sharp [John Sharp] of the Grenadiers, Captain Brown, Captain Bedkins & LeBert [perhaps Capt. Claudius de Bert] of the Cavalry – he states that in consequence of his absence on furlough he received no discharge, but that he followed on to York that he followed on to York for that purpose – but could not proceed to Philadelphia for the reasons a that he followed on to York for that purpose – but could not pursue to Philadelphia for the reason given above. He states that from about April 1782, he served until the war was completely terminated and was ready to serve his country at all times during the war. He states that he has no record of his age, but he verily believes he was born in the year 1763 & that he was about 20

¹ Former widow

years of age when he left the Army – that when he entered the service he resided in Loudoun County Virginia. He also states that he is acquainted with Joseph Powers, and David Blue who can testify as to his respectability & the rumor of the neighborhood, as to his revolutionary services. He says that there is no clergyman convenient whose evidence he can procure in his behalf. He also states that he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person in this Country by whom he can prove his services but states that he enlisted for three years & was in actual service from April 1782 to December 1783 – when he thinks the Army was discharged.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Famous Mortemore [sic]

S/ Famous Mortemore

[Joseph Powers and David Ballew gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

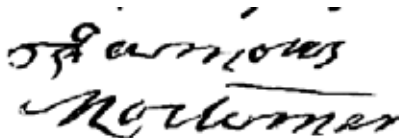
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Commonwealth of Kentucky Fleming County: Sct.

On this 24th day of July in the year of our Lord 1848 personally appeared in Open Court and before the Court of Fleming County now sitting Famous Mortimer & resident of said State and County and is now in the eighty fifth year of his age who being first 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated. That he was born in the state of Virginia Loudoun County and that he enlisted in the service of the United States in Leesburg in said County for the term of three years and during the war in the first days of the month of September in the year 1781 when near eighteen years old he states he was enlisted by a Corporal by the name of Lewis and Corporal Lewis marched him to meet the Regiment or Legion and in going through the town of Shartottsville [Charlottesville] Virginia some more recruits were added to our number we continued our march and joined Colonel Armand's Legion or Regiment in Amelia County Virginia. He further states he was ordered and put in Captain Brefos Company of Infantry and in Colonel Armand's Legion or Regiment which Regiment was composed of Captain Brown, Captain Laburts and Captain Beakeys Companies of Cavalry and Captain Sharp's of the Yaugurs and Captain Steuben of the Grenadiers and Captain Brefoes of the Infantry which Companies composed Armand's Legion. Armand's Legion was mostly composed of horsemen French and German Colonel Armand Major Shafner [perhaps George Schaffner] and Captain Brefoe were Frenchman. He further says that sometime after joining the Legion Colonel Armand took up the line of march for North and South Carolina after traveling hard marches we reached South Carolina and met a detachment of British troops in advance of the main body of troops which was commanded by General Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] on meeting them Colonel Armand immediately formed in line of battle formed right and left wing Captain Brefo on the right after changing [exchanging?] some shots Colonel Armand gave back I think we did not lose a man we lay there that night and during the night they came to our camp to British deserters and gave information to Colonel Armand and Major Shafner. In our march we passed through Hillsboro in North Carolina Colonel Armand then again took up the line of march

to go to a place then Tarleton town where we fully expected to meet General Tarleton and his troops and to give them a severe flogging but on our arrival there they had decamped and left. We remained in North Carolina sometime after which Colonel Armand took up the line of march Virginia going through Salsbury [Salisbury] and other places names not now recollected. When on our return coming to Staunton in Virginia there were added to our Legion some fresh troops. We then marched to Winchester Virginia where we remained some considerable time up to about the middle of December 1782. We then took up the line of march from Winchester to Fredericktown in Maryland taking with us 500 British prisoners marched to Shepherdstown Virginia and crossed the Potomac River on the ice and continued to Fredericktown on our arrival there we lay there a short time and were marched onward taking the prisoners with us to Little York in Pennsylvania on our arrival there and some short time after the 500 prisoners were put under a strong guard which guard was a part of our Regiment and marched to Philadelphia and after delivering them the guard returned and it was then that it was made known that Colonel Armand's Legion was to take up winter quarters which was the winter of 1782 in 1783 we remained there remainder of the winter and the following spring and summer during the spring & summer we made a large bonfires at the news of Peace being made the we Armand's Legion was not discharged until about from the 10th to the 15th of September in 1783 And I was most truly in Justice to myself and for the love of my Country and before my God and my Government I served my country a little more than two years from the first of September in 1781 up to the 10th or 15th of September 1783. He further states old and entirely unable to work or labor for his subsistence being almost an entire cripple in his feet and ankles so much so that it is with much difficulty that he can't even walk the floor. He further states he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services as having been a Soldier of the war of the Revolutionary war. He also states that he has always been told the proof of the service of all the old soldiers of the revolutionary war devolved on them to procure and if they failed to procure the proof of their services they could not obtain the justice of their claim under the pension laws. And in belief of that statement he now states that he has been using every exertion in his power for than fifteen years past to obtain the evidence of his services from those of the old soldiers who were in the service he also states that some ten years since he heard of Jonathan Burnside a soldier who served in the same Armand's Legion living near Wheeling Virginia and he did immediately borrowed from one of his neighbors a small sum of money to bear his expenses to go in search of Burnside he went but before he reached there he was informed Burnside was dead only a short time before. He also states that he has been in search of evidence in proof of his services in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky where he has heard of old revolutionary soldiers but has as often failed in obtaining the evidence of his services. He further states he has no documentary evidence in his possession of any kind touching the facts of his services but wholly relies on the Justice of this his declaration of facts for the sum due him from the Government and proper accounting officers of Government under the act of June 7th 1832 and for the term of service performed being a little more than two years. 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.

Famous Mortimer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Famous Mortimer". The signature is written in dark ink and is somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'F' and 'M'.

[Joseph D Farrow, a clergyman, and Hiram Wallingford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories prescribed by the [War Department] and propounded in Court
Where and in what year were you born Ans. I was born and raised in the State of Virginia
Loudoun County in the year 1763

2nd have you any record of your age and if so where is it Ans. My Father's family Bible in which
my age was recorded was burned in his house in Virginia and in early life my age was recorded
in my own family Bible and that Bible became old and some injured and bought another sense in
which my age is again enlisted. Q. Where were you living when called into service where have
you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live. Ans. When called into service
I lived in Loudoun County Virginia where I lived six years after peace I then moved to Kentucky
Fleming County where I now live and have lived within that space of time. Q. How were you
called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute
for whom Ans. I was enlisted soldier for three years and during the war and served in Colonel
Armand's Legion. Q. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops
where you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the General
circumstances of your Service. Ans. I have in my application stated the names of the officers
commanding the Legion or Regiment I belonged to and as was stated before the most of the
Legion were French and Germans that I never could call the names correctly. The names of the
officers I have before stated in my application. Q. Did you ever receive a discharge from the
service and if so by whom was it Given and what has become of it. Ans. I never got a discharge
owing to the fact that I have always supposed that when Colonel Armand's Legion was
discharged I was an invalid laying on my back caused by a very severe chop of an ax in my foot I
therefore alleged that as the reason why I did not get my discharge. State the names of persons
to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character
for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. I will state the names
of Simon W Robison [Simon W Robertson], James Ross, James Wallingford, Richard
Wallingford, Thomas Bell Walter Warder and Joseph Alexander.

[No sign that this document was separately executed]

[Note: a number of younger members of the veteran's neighborhood testified as to their belief
that the veteran did serve as he states in his second application. The second application must
have been filed seeking an increase in his pension of \$20/year. The second application was
rejected.]

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State of Kentucky Mason County Sct.

Personally appeared before me one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said State
and County Leonard Bean² who is a revolutionary pensioner and is eighty-eight years of age and
first being duly sworn according to law He states that he well knows one Famous Mortimer who
it appears now resides in Fleming County Kentucky and who he is told is now applying to
Government for a pension. Deponent states he became acquainted with Famous Mortimer who
was a Soldier in the revolutionary War when this deponent was in the service and in the line of
his duty. And Mortimer was a Soldier in Armand's Legion. Deponent states his first
acquaintance was caused by seeing Mortimer Jumping with his neck and breast naked and
exposed and that he had the most hair on him that the deponent ever saw on a man. Deponent
says I called out and asked who is that hairy man jumping he came up to me and said my name is
Famous Mortimer, I belonged to Armand's Legion. My acquaintance took place with Mortimer

² [Leonard Bean S35189](#)

at that time when soldiers in the service together and in the revolutionary War. He further states that he has late seen and conversed with Mortimer about his services and applying for a pension and identifies him to be the same man that he saw and knew in the service in Armand's Legion and in the revolutionary war with Great Britain called the war of 1776 and further saith not. Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of May 1849

S/ Leonard Bean

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard Bean". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Leonard Bean".

[p 9: On February 26, 1858 in McLain County Illinois, Mary Fagan, 65, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the former widow of Famous Mortimer, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him October 13, 1816 in Fleming County Kentucky; that they were married by Jonathan Wilson a minister; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Blue; that her husband died in Fleming County Kentucky May 15, 1851; that she married Joseph Fagan in Park [Parke] County Indiana December 18, 1855. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]