

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Morrison R7424

Polly Morrison

f41VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/19/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 8]

Virginia Louisa County, SS

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834, personally appeared in open court, before the County Court of Louisa County, – now sitting, John Morrison, a resident of said County, aged nearly 69 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

I entered the service of the United States under the following officers, & served as herein stated. Early in the spring (I think in March, 1781) there being a requisition of the militia of Orange County Virginia, where I then resided to repel the invasion of the British, I volunteered my services (being then only in my 16<sup>th</sup> year) under the command of Captain James Hawkins, who in company with Captain George Waugh marched the troops to Richmond, where we rendezvoused. But there not being men enough for two Captains' commands, Captain Waugh, as the senior took the command, & Captain Hawkins returned home. At Richmond we joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Thomas Mathews, who, with the Regiment, was detached to reconnoiter the enemy's movements. After marching to Williamsburg & James Town, we retreated up the country under the Marquis de Lafayette to Culpeper County; whence, being joined by General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] & the Northern Army, we turned in pursuit, across the country, through the counties of Orange & Louisa – the British then retreating to lower of Virginia. We pursued them till sometime in the summer; when Captain Waugh's company was discharged at Richmond. This tour was at least 4 months long, though spoken of & intended when we entered upon it, as one of 3 months only. It was prolonged by the circumstances, that some troops destined to relieve us at the expiration of 3 months, joined another part of the Army: & a part in which we served being weak, & constantly hanging on the enemy's rear, it was thought prudent to continue us on the lines until some favorable changes should occur.

On returning home, I had reached 16 years of age, & was enrolled & classed in the division called upon to perform the very next tour: which division was called into service in 2 or 3 weeks at furthest. With it, I marched, & joined the main Army under General Lafayette, then advancing upon the enemy. We joined it, I believe, between the Pamunkey & Mattaponi Rivers, probably in King William County – though perhaps lower down. Thence we gradually moved down towards, watching the movements & hanging upon the shirts of the enemy, till we reached Gloucester, opposite York Town; & we remained at Gloucester, aiding in the siege of York, till the surrender of Cornwallis in October '81 [October 19, 1781]. After that event, I marched among those who guarded the prisoners on their way to Barracks in Frederick County, but went no further than Fredericksburg, where I was discharged. In this tour also, my Captain was George Waugh. Our Major in the first tour was Thomas Barbour of Orange (father of the present

Judge P. P. Barbour & Ex-Governor James Barbour); the subalterns were Lieutenant Shackelford & Ensign Stevens. The second Tour, being always in the light infantry & Grenadiers, we were commanded by various officers in succession – a considerable time by Colonel John Mercer of Marlborough in Stafford: but the lapse of time has erased from my memory most of the occurrences of my services, their dates, & the names of the officers. In my first tour, I served with (but not under) Colonel Miles Lory [?] [Miles Cary?]<sup>1</sup>, from whom I recollect to have received extremely kind attention during a severe attack of illness: & in my 2<sup>nd</sup> tour, with Major (since Colonel) William Campbell, now deceased – of the regular service. Most or all of the officers & privates associated with me are now either dead or removed: so that it is impossible for me to adduce the proof which I could once have done abundantly. The best judgment I can form of the whole time I served, is that it was about seven months. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tour commenced in the latter part of July or 1<sup>st</sup> of August; & ended late in October or early in November. In my first tour I was in no battle: in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I was in several skirmishes – one especially occurring upon Lord Cornwallis' attempt to escape from York River through Gloucester when the Corps to which I belong was engaged for a short time, and some were killed in the platoon next to me.

I have no discharge. From the first tour I do not think any of us received a separate discharge, but just went home, upon written order, read to us by Captain Waugh. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour, I may have received a discharge; but if so, I think I gave it to the pay master, when he paid me.

I have no documentary or other evidence: that the affidavits of Robert Clark, George Morrison (my brother) & Jesse Tinder, and to substantiate what I have stated. Having lived but a few years in this County, & in a very retired manner, few or none know of my having been a revolutionary soldier: but I refer to William Waddy Esquire, the Reverend William Y. Hiter & Colonel Edmond Pendleton, for my character & reputation as such. In Orange (where I was for about twenty years a justice of the peace) many persons know me. I refer to Judge P. P. Barbour, Governor Barbour, Captain Thomas Davis, General Lawrence T Dade, & Doctor George Morris. To Question 1<sup>st</sup> the Declarant replies – I was born in Orange on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1765; according to a register of my father's family Bible, from which I copied it.

To Question 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have none now. The Bible in which it was entered fell to one of my brothers: & the copy I took is lost.

To Question 3<sup>rd</sup>. When called into service & for 31 or 32 years afterwards I lived in Orange County; thence, till 1821, I lived in Goochland County; & thence, in this County, where I now live.

To Question 4<sup>th</sup>. In the first tour I volunteered; in the 2<sup>nd</sup> I was drafted.

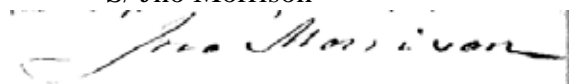
To Question 5<sup>th</sup>. (Answered to the satisfaction of the court)

To Question 6<sup>th</sup>. From the first tour, I received no written discharge: from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, if I received any, it was taken from me by the pay master when he paid me off: but I am not certain that I received any.

To Question 7<sup>th</sup>. The Rev William Y Hiter – Major William F Toles, Colonel Edmond Pendleton, Doctor Joseph W Pendleton, & William Waddy Esquire.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court, the day & year first aforesaid.

S/ Jno Morrison



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<sup>1</sup> Col. Miles Cary

[William Y Hiter, a clergyman, and William Waddy gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

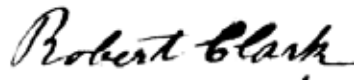
[p 19: On January 1, 1833 in Louisa County Virginia, Jesse Tinder gave testimony that he had a brother (not named) who served with the veteran.]

[p 22]

I Robert Clark<sup>2</sup> of the County of Orange in State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was in service with John Morrison now of Louisa, then of this County, during the Revolutionary War. We were together from the Spring of the year until July (perhaps the middle) when we returned to the County of Orange; he was in the Company commanded by either Captain Hawkins or Captain Waugh who were under the command of Colonel Thomas Barbour also from Orange.

Given under my hand this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832

S/ Robert Clark



[p 25]

Henry County Virginia to wit

This day George Morrison of the County aforesaid personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for said County and made oath that sometime in the month of March or April in the year 1781 John Morrison now residing in the County of Louisa, but at that time residing in the County of Orange, entered into the Army of the revolution under Captain George Waugh and served until January 1834

S/ Geo. Gravely, JP

[p 5: On May 6, 1853 in Louisa County Virginia, Polly Morrison, 71, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating she is the widow of John Morrison late of said County, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him January 18, 1839; that her husband died August 20, 1849 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 3: Certification given in Louisa County Virginia by the clerk of court stating that the returns of marriages celebrated by the Reverend Timothy T Swift include the following "Major John Morrison & Polly Thomasson 18<sup>th</sup> January 1839"]

[Facts in file: the widow died in September 1853; there is no reference to a former marriage nor to any children of the veteran.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia service.]

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<sup>2</sup> [Robert Clark \(Clarke\) S8210](#)