

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Murdock¹ R7504 Agnes Murdock f33NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/14/09: rev'd 10/2/17

[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.]

[p 11]

State of North Carolina Iredell County} SS

On this 9th Day of November 1844 personally appeared before me W F Cowan a justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid Agnes Murdock a resident of the above named County aged Ninety-six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of William Murdock who was a private in the war of the Revolution: that he was drafted & served a 6 months tour under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in South Carolina principally (& in what was called the Snow Campaign)² that he served as a drafted man one other tour of three months under General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was at the skirmish at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River when that General was killed [Battle of Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781], -- that he had previously to that time, been employed by General Davidson to make collars for the wagons horses belonging to the Army, which he was permitted to go to his own house & do in consequence of his family living not far from the camp -- that he the said William Murdock was at another term (she thinks it was after his making the collars) employed & by the same General to find & recruit a number of horses belonging to the Army which he done at his own house. That he was drafted & served another tour of three months under Col. Caldwell [Captain David Caldwell?] & went in pursuit of Col. Bryan [Samuel Bryan], a leader of a body of loyalists, & Tories & that he was drafted three other tours & hired substitutes in the first tour he hired one William Kile, -- for the next tour hired John McCafferty and for the next he hired one James Chambers, -- from old age & loss of memory she cannot recollect the names of any other officers under whom he served, except that of Capt. Alexander Davidson -- under whom she thinks he served one or more tours -- that she well recollects of her said husband's being in the Army at one time, when on his return home he is relating the facts relative to the battle he was engaged in which away & that he had been commissioned as an officer previous to the said battle. She thinks it was the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] so-called but she cannot recollect any further particulars about it, that her said husband & herself lived at that time in the County of Rowan (now Iredell) & State aforesaid, that all the aforesaid services was performed from the year 1775 to 1782 that she cannot now recollect the particular dates as to her husband's services, that she

¹ The cover sheet lists the following alternate spelling of the veteran's surname: Mordah, Murdaugh, Murdah, Murdoch.

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html

has no documentary evidence as to the Services of her said husband to support her claim that she is aware of.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Murdock on the 30th day of November 1769; that her husband the aforesaid William Murdock died on the 14th day of July 1829; being in the 98th year of his age; and that she is unable from great bodily infirmities to appear in Court to make this affidavit or declaration -- and that she remained the widow of the said William Murdock ever since the period of his death.

Sworn to & subscribed on the day & year above written before me
S/ W. F. Cowan, JP

S/ Agnes Murdock, X her mark

[p 2 is the original marriage license issued to William Murdock for his marriage to Agnes Wason, issued in Salisbury [date illegible except that it clearly states it is in the 10th year of "his Majesty's Reign" [meaning King George III, which would place the year as 1769, George having been crowned in October 1760]; the license was issued in Salisbury and is attested at the bottom thereof as follows:

"These are to Certifie that William Murdock and Agnes Wason were Joyned together as Man and Wife in the Holy Estate of Matrimony (Solemnized) the 30th of November 1769 by me.

S/ Waltr Lindsay, JP"]

[p 15 is a copy of the marriage bond dated November 14th 1769 issued in Rowan County North Carolina to bondsman William Mordah, Joseph Wasson & Joseph Davidson to secure the marriage of William Murdock to Agnes Wasson [sic].]

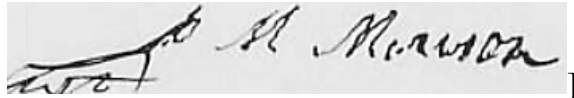
[p 9: On November 9, 1844 in Iredell County North Carolina, Elizabeth Murdock, a resident of said County, aged 72, executed an affidavit in which she states she is the daughter of William and Agnes Murdock; that she will remembers the services of her father during the Revolutionary War, that her father hired one George McCafferty as a substitute for one tour; that her father was drafted and served one tour of 3 months under Captain Alexander Davidson under the command of General Davidson; she thinks her father also served under Captain Full [?]³ at Cowan's Ford [February 1, 1781], where General Davidson was killed; that her father was again drafted with his class and hired James Chambers to serve as a substitute for him in a tour of 3 months; she signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 17: On May 22, 1845, Joseph Davidson, 66, made affidavit in Iredell County North Carolina in support of the application of Agnes Murdock for a widow's pension. Joseph Davidson states, among other things, as follows: "... further deponent saith that he has often heard his father (Alexander Davidson who was also a soldier in the Revolution and a Capt. in the Army under General Gates at the time of his defeat near Camden South Carolina where he the said Davidson was wounded and taken prisoner) speaking of the services of himself and of the said William Murdock in the War of the Revolution as considerable but does not recollect the number of tours or amount of service of the said William Murdock...."

Capt. Fuller

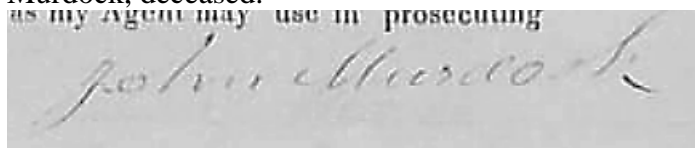
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph Davidson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. Below the signature is a horizontal line, and a closing bracket "]" is positioned to the right of the line.

[p 22: On May 22, 1845, in Iredell County North Carolina James M. Morrison, 65, made affidavit in support of the claim of Agnes Murdock for a widow's pension and states as follows: "... William Murdock (or Murdok as the family then spelled their name) who was always reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he then he resided (then the County of Rowan now Iredell as aforesaid) to have been in actual and active and a good, Soldier during the war of the Revolution, up to the period of his Death which took place in the year 1829. -- And further saith that he has often heard his father William Morrison who was also a soldier in said war, speaking of the Services of the said William Murdock, as a Soldier especially of his the said Murdock's services in the same Campaign with him the said Morrison under General Rutherford and also of their serving together under General Davidson in guarding the passes and forwards on the Catawba River for a considerable period, before the British Army crossed that River, and that he has heard his father the aforesaid William Morrison often say that he the aforesaid Murdock was at Cowan's Ford, when and where General Davidson was killed, and that they served one other Tour under Col. Caldwell in pursuit of Col. Bryan, besides many and varied other services of the said William Murdock in South Carolina during said War..."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James M. Morrison". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. Below the signature is a horizontal line, and a closing bracket "]" is positioned to the right of the line.

[p 7: On August 8, 1851 in Iredell County North Carolina, John Murdock signed a power of attorney in which he refers to himself as the son of Agnes Murdock, the wife of William Murdock, deceased.

as my Agent may use in prosecuting

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Murdock". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. Below the signature is a horizontal line, and a closing bracket "]" is positioned to the right of the line.

[p 4: On August 26, 1854, Joseph W Murdock executed a power of attorney 5 which he granted authority to pursue the claim of Agnes Murdock widow of William Murdock for the pension due her as the widow of a revolutionary war soldier. His relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated. He signed the document with his mark.]

[p 20: On August 2nd, 1855 in Iredell County North Carolina John Murdock, son and heir at law of Agnes Murdock, signed the power of attorney seeking the pension due his mother as the widow of William Murdock.]