

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Murphy ¹ R7512

Jane Murphy f45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/31/09: rev'd 10/11/17

[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.]

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State of North Carolina Burke County }

On this Eighth day of January 1857, personally appeared before me S. A. Bettis one of the acting Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Burke & State aforesaid Jane Murphy a resident of the said County & state, aged 71 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 3rd of February 1853, granting pensions to the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers. That she is the widow of James Murphy deceased of Burke County who was a soldier in the Army of the revolution as she has always understood and believed, and as such he served the United States for a considerable time during the war against the common enemy. That he resided during the Revolution in the Counties of Mecklenburg & Burke, and done service in the Companies commanded by captains McDowell bracket Joseph McDowell], Cathey [George Cathey], Patten [Robert Patton], Kenedy [Thomas Kennedy], and others of North Carolina Militia commanded by Major Davidson [William Lee Davidson], Colonel Joseph McDowell & General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was in two Battles with the Enemy (viz.) on Cane Creek, Rutherford Co. [County] and at Ramsour's Mills Lincoln County [June 20, 1780] in which engagement he was wounded in the hand by a ball from the enemy's guns, was for some time at Forts Cathey, Davidson and ___ which was garrisoned for the defense of the frontier against the Indians, and to keep down the Tories -- that she was married to the said James Murphy but a few years before his death, has often heard him narrate his services during the Revolution and that it is her opinion and belief that during the last 2 or 3 years of the war he was generally in the service -- She also states that she knows of no person by whom the Revolutionary services of her husband can be directly proven; that her reliance is upon such traditional Evidence as can be obtained from the oldest residents of the County.

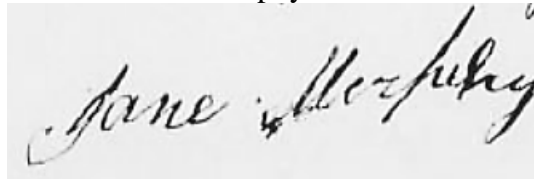
She further declares that she was married to the said James Murphy in Burke County North Carolina on the ___ day of December & in the year 1829, that her said husband died on the 9th day of November, 1831, and that she has remained a widow ever since his death as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

Sworn to & subscribed on the day and year above written before me.

S/ S. A. Bettis, JP

¹ BLWt45714-160-55

S/ Jane Murphy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Murphy". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some loops and flourishes characteristic of the early 19th century.

[p 6: copy of the marriage bond dated December 3, 1829, issued in Burke County, NC, to James Murphey to marry Jane Fleming on his bond.]

[p 8; bounty land claim filed by Jane Murhpy (who signed this claim with her mark) dated Sept. 4, 1855, filed in Burke County, in which she says her maiden name was Jane Flemming; that she married her husband in Sept. 1830; that they were married by John Sullivan, a minister of the Gospel; and that her husband was killed on __ October 1832.]

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United States of America

The State of North Carolina County of Burke

On this 20th day of February A.D. 1857 before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared Charles McDowell a resident of said County aged 72 years who being duly sworn according to law declares on oath that he was born as he believes in this (Burke County) and has resided here all his past life, that from his infancy he was acquainted with one James Murphy now dead who was the husband of Jane Murphy who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing Declaration for the purpose of obtaining a Pension under Act 3rd February 1853 -- that from information had and received from his Father Charles McDowell deceased the said James Murphy came to this County during the War of the Revolution that he was a Brick Mason by trade and brought his Trowell [sic] with him -- that he took up his abode in the Family of affiant's Father, that he has often heard his Father and the said James Murphy who lived within a mile or so of each other talk over subjects connected with their early life and first acquaintance and very often has he heard him speak of events that occurred in the Military operations of the Country during the War in which they were both engaged my Father being an officer and Mr. Murphy a Private Soldier

Deponent declares in addition to what he has often heard both his Father and Murphy say in relation to military services performed by the said James Murphy during said Revolutionary War he has often heard others who were in a situation to know & whom he is satisfied and believes were in the same service, declare that James Murphy was a soldier and rendered important and valuable services as such during said war -- that he was in the Battle at Ramsour's Mills he has often heard not only Mr. Murphy himself declare, but has had the same report from his Father Charles McDowell, from Joseph McDowell who was also an officer from this County, from one Henry Hiland who was in same service as well as from various others now no more -- Deponent further declares that he has heard from respectable sources who had the means of knowing that the said James Murphy rendered important services against the Indians in West N.C. and was out on one or more tours of duty of this kind -- has often heard it said that he was stationed for a while at Cathey's Fort in West NC -- although Deponent knows nothing of his own knowledge as to what was done in the War of the Revolution he verily believes that the services of the said James Murphy would amount in all during the War of the Revolution to more than 12 months and perhaps as much as 2 years -- this declaration is made from information had

from others who served in said war and he affiant is under the impression that Mr. Murphy devoted his time almost exclusively for the last 2 years of the War to the militia service of the Country -- Deponent further declares that for upwards of 40 years immediately preceding the death of the said James Murphy he lived within a short distance of this affiant -- that he was a man of high character and respectability in this community -- was for many years, and up to the day of his death a most worthy and efficient magistrate of this County and the Presiding Justice of our Court of, and Pleas -- that during the War of the Revolution James Murphy acted a conspicuous and deserving part in support of his Country's honor is a fact that was never controverted but on the other hand was universally admitted by those who lived in that day and time. Deponent also declares on oath that he also knows of his own knowledge that Jane Murphy whose declaration is hereunto annexed is the widow of James Murphy of whom he speaks that this affiant -- was present at their marriage which took place about the year 1829, and that James Murphy died in the fall of the year 1831, in the County of Burke.

Further this Deponent saith not -- Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year last above mentioned.

Witness

S/ Chs. McDowell

S/ S. A. Sudderth

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North Carolina Burke County: Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace within and for the said County and State Henry M. Oneil [O'Neil] a resident of Burke County, aged 65 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says, that he is acquainted with Jane Murphy of Burke County, NC, widow of the late James Murphy, whom he understand is now and applicant for a Revolutionary Pension on the account of the Revolutionary services of her said husband. That deponent is a son of Patrick O'Neil who lived in Burke during the said war & continued in said County up to his death in 1813, was a soldier in the militia during the latter part of the war, that he has [heard] father, as well as others who had a chance to know, often speak of the said James Murphy's services in the Revolution, of being with him at the Battle of Ramsour's, Kings Mountain as well as on sundry different occasions in pursuit of the Indians & Tories with which their section of Country was threatened. That deponent's understanding has ever been, that the said James Murphy came into Burke from some of the Counties east of this about the year 1780, a single man, & a brick mason by trade, seeking employment at his trade and finding none, he secured a home in one of the McDowell families, amongst whom were Colonel Joseph McDowell, Captain Charles with one or more, and all of whom were diligently engaged in the defense of their Common Country, and with whom the said James Murphy Engaged as a common soldier and under whom with other officers he continued to the end of the war. That about the close of the Revolution the said James Murphy married into the McDow family settled in Burke County where he lived for many years and enjoyed the confidence respect and honor so justly due to one who had periled his life in defense of his Country['s] cause.

This deponent further states, that the said James Murphy lost his first wife, and his 2nd marriage was with Jane Fleming with whom he lived for some very few years before his death which took place in Burke County about the year 1831.

Sworn to and subscribed this 20th day of February 1857 before
me. <https://img9.fold3.com/img/thumbnail/25194209/100/100.jpg>

S/ S. A. Bettis, JP

S/ Henry M. Oneil

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North Carolina Burke County: On this 24th day of February 1857, before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace within and for the said County and State, personally appeared Mrs. Elizabeth Rust a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged ninety-six years, and made oath in due form of law, that she resided during the war of the Revolution as well as ever since in Burke County -- was well & personally acquainted with one James Murphy who came into Burke from some of the Eastern Counties about the year 1780, and entered the United States service under the McDowells and continued in the Army until peace was made. That during the latter part of the Revolution deponent spent a considerable portion of the time with her sister Mrs. Rutherford, who lived in the immediate neighborhood of Captain Charles & Colonel Joseph McDowell, both of whom belonged to the North Carolina Militia and were almost constantly engaged in the military operations of the day, that the said James Murphy [was] generally with them, That on different times she has seen the said James Murphy pass & repass with other soldiers during the Revolution, have heard him as well as sundry other persons speak of the said James Murphy in different engagements with the enemy, one of which she now distinctly recollects (viz.) the Battle at Ramsour's in which he was wounded in one of his hands, of his serving at the forts Cathey & Davidson which were erected in the Western part of Burke County and for the latter part of the war were kept garrisoned for the purpose of protecting the frontier settlements from the Indians and Tories. That from deponent's knowledge of the Revo: services of the said James Murphy she is of opinion that he was generally in the Army from 1780 to the end of the war.

Deponent further makes oath that the aforesaid James Murphy married a Miss McDowel about the close of the revolution with whom he lived for a number of years and she died, consequently he married Jane Fleming who has survived him and is now living in Burke County

Sworn to and subscribed the date above written before me

S/ S. A. Bettis, JP

S/ Elizabeth Rust, X her mark

and S/ C. S. Walker

[p 21: On Feb. 20, 1857, Alexander Duckworth, 58, gave testimony that his father, John Duckworth,² was a pensioner for his service in the Revolution and often heard him speak of the services of James Murphy especially at Ramsour's Mill.]

² [John Duckworth S6805](#)