

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Murphy R7514 John Murphy

f12VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/7/13

[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.]

Norfolk Borough

At Quarterly Session Court held the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 1840

John Murphy who desires to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 this day appeared in open Court, and made the following declaration.

"State of Virginia Borough Norfolk SS:

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 1840 personally appeared in Open Court, before the Hastings Court of Norfolk Borough now sitting John Murphy a resident of said Borough in the County of Norfolk and State of Virginia aged seventy-seven 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 1832. That he was enrolled in the militia of the State of Virginia in the month of September 1779, and served in the said militia during the Revolutionary War as a private for about the period of 2 years under the following named Officers and as herein stated. He first served in a Company commanded by Captain John Whitehurst of Komhsville [sic, probably Kempsville] in Princess Anne County in the State of Virginia in which County the said Company was raised and this deponent was born and lived. He marched directly with his Company to Seawell's Point Virginia and thence to Portsmouth Virginia; at which last named place, he was transferred to another Militia Company commanded by Captain John Cannon; and remained stationed with said Company at Portsmouth until the Spring of 1780, when he marched with his Company to Great bridge in the County of Norfolk aforesaid and there remained a short time. He thence returned to Princess Anne County and was enrolled in another Militia Company commanded by Captain Amos Wicks and remained in said Company under that Commander in said County until after the surrender at York Town in October 1781 – Colonel Wishart, Colonel William Robinson and Colonel John Thorowgood successively Commanded the Regiment or regiments to which his Company belonged. During the period of his service he was pretty constantly engaged in duty and whilst in Princess Anne County was occasionally relieved from duty but at brief intervals during which the deponent worked at his trade as a Silver Smith. Whilst under Captain Wicks his Company was engaged as a scouting Company in Princess Anne County affording protection to the inhabitants of the County from British depredations. Went under Captain Whitehurst's Command, this Deponent was one of a Guard that escorted some British Prisoners taken by his brother Anthony Murphy in princes and County to Portsmouth where they were delivered to Captain Armistead of the Regular Service then Commanding the Troops at Portsmouth. The Prisoners taken were a Captain whose name was either Anderson or Saunders, five white privates and three Negroes. Deponent has no Documentary evidence of his Service and he knows of no person now living who can testify to his [service] except his brother James Murphy, now living in the Borough of Norfolk and Samuel Hosier who is a resident of

Norfolk County, but whose extreme age and infirmities consequence thereon, render his memory imperfect. 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.

S/ John Murphy"<sup>1</sup>

And James Murphy also appeared in Court and subscribed the following statement being first sworn "State of Virginia, Borough Norfolk – On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 1840 personally appeared in open Court before the Hastings Court of Norfolk Borough now sitting, James Murphy, a resident of said Borough in the County of Norfolk and State of Virginia aged seventy-four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration. That he is well acquainted with John Murphy who is his brother; that on his own personal knowledge he can state that John Murphy entered the Militia Service of the State of Virginia in the County of Princess Anne in the year 1779 in the latter part of Summer or early in the fall in the Company commanded by Captain John Whitehurst which Company left the County of Princess Anne in the State of Virginia and did not return until the spring of 1780, he does not know who commanded said John Murphy after he left the County of Princess Anne. After his return to said County he was under the command of Captain Amos Wicks and remained under the same command until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Town. This deponent was born in the County of Princess Anne in the year 1766 and is now a resident of the Borough of Norfolk.

S/ James Murphy"<sup>2</sup>

And the Court having propounded the interrogatories to the said John Murphy prescribed by the War Department, to which the answers annexed to the said interrogatories are given.

"Interrogatories propounded to John Murphy of Norfolk Borough by the Hastings Court of the Borough of Norfolk, and his answers to the said Interrogatories.

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the County of Princess Anne in the State of Virginia on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1763.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

My age was recorded in the Parish Books of Lynhaven Parish in the County of Princess Anne and I believe the record now exist. I heard about two years since of its being in possession of Captain Peter Sand of that County, and an effort has been made to procure it; without success.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I was living in Kempsville in the County of Princess Anne. I have lived since the Revolutionary War, in that County and in the Borough of Norfolk, in which Borough I now reside and have resided since the year 1790.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

I was not a volunteer or a substitute. I was ordered by a Sergeant to repair to a certain place then designated by him and to perform a certain tour of duty – This was the Common mode at that time of enrolling the Militia for duty. And in this mode I was enlisted and I presume was in the sense of the interrogatory, drafted.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served,

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<sup>1</sup> not veteran's actual signature

<sup>2</sup> not affiant's actual signature

such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

The Companies of Militia in which I served never acted with any regular Troops. The only regular Officers I now recollect to have known were a Captain Armistead, who commanded it Portsmouth Virginia, totally Robertson as Lieutenant in the state Service, and Robert Hayes a recruiting Officer. I do not recollect the numbers or designations of any Continental or Militia Regiments and I have already stated the general Circumstances of my service in my declaration in the first and 2<sup>nd</sup> pages of this sheet to which I beg leave to refer.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I never did receive a discharge from the service and in those days I never heard of any Soldier of the Militia who did.

7<sup>th</sup> 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I could refer to nearly every inhabitant of the Borough of Norfolk of full age and to the members of this Court. I am well known to Doctor Alexander Galt the Postmaster of this Borough, and all the other public Officers, and would refer to any of them as to my character for veracity. All my contemporaries lived in Princess Anne County during the Revolutionary War and who if alive could confirm my statements are dead except my brother James Murphy and Samuel Hosier, as I have already stated. Hosier is bed ridden and his memory very infirm.

S/ John Murphy"

[all of the above documents are copies of documents said to be filed in the court records]