

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Murrell R7527 Mary Murrell f51NC [sic, VA]
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/4/09: rev'd 10/12/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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 3]

State of Tennessee Weakley County} Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions -- October Term 1832

On this ninth day of October personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions, now sitting in the courthouse in the town of Dresden in said County of Weakley Benjamin Merrill a resident of State of Tennessee and County of Weakley aged seventy-two years next November the 13th day according to the register of his parents, 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 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. In the year 1780, when he was about the age of 20 years, then a resident of Henry County, in the State of Virginia he entered the service as a volunteer on horseback, under Captain Owen Ruble, under the apprehension that the British and Tories were about to plunder and destroy the property of our citizens. This Declarant states that the entire company in which he went against the British and Tories were volunteers, who had furnished themselves with arms and ammunition, and horses, to protect the defenseless women & children from the insults of the enemies of the Country -- From Henry County in Virginia, we marched into Rowan County in North Carolina, where we met about 300 regular soldiers, who had preceded us in dispersing the British and Tories, we then continued stationed at Rowan County about two months, and received a discharge for a tour of three months -- which discharge I have, from the great length of time, and not expecting it ever to be of any utility to me, lost or mislaid -- This discharge was given by Captain Owen Ruble, and was dated, as well as can be recollected, about the close of the summer of 1780, for his services three months as a volunteer -- About the first of March 1781 as well as I can now recollect I again volunteered a second time, on horseback, having furnish myself with a horse and arms, under Captain Samuel Harston [Samuel Hairston?]. A report of the British and Tories being about to plunder the country having reached our neighborhood. Captain Samuel Harston raised a volunteer company of cavalry, to skirmish with and disperse the British and Tories & I became one of the company. All volunteers were exonerated from being enlisted until it came to their term to serve by division, under this regulation I preferred volunteering, and accordingly done so. From Henry County in Virginia, we proceeded, in search of the enemy, to the edge of Guilford County in North Carolina, where we learned that but few British and Tories were plundering in that part of the Country, & that those few, before we reached Guilford, had been dispersed -- We then returned home, to Henry County in Virginia, with orders to keep ourselves in readiness at a moment's warning, to supply

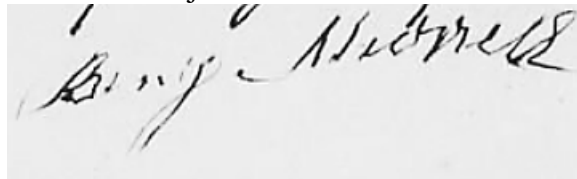
any call for men that a sudden emergency might require -- I then received a second discharge, for a tour of three months service as a volunteer, from Captain Samuel Harston, which was dated, I think, according to the best exertion of my frail recollection, about the first of June in the year 1781. This discharge I am also unable to produce, from the circumstance of my considering it a paper of little value, and consequently not taking that care in the preservation of it, which would have been necessary to have kept it for so great a length of time. In the fall of 1781 I came out of the County of Washington, now part of the State of Tennessee, then a frontier Country in North Carolina, settled on the Watauga River, a branch of the Holston [River]. The next march after my arrival in Washington County, which was in the Spring of 1782, there was a rendezvous, at the mouth of big Creek on Holston, in the Western part of Sullivan County now Hawkins County East Tennessee, where I volunteered, together with many others, to go on a campaign against the settlement of Cherokee Indians, called the Chickamauga Towns.¹ These Indians, it was supposed, were in league with the British, and whenever an opportunity offered, would steal horses and other property from the whites, and massacre our men, women and children. At this rendezvous, on big Creek on Holston River, there was about the number of 300 men, and the officers present to whom the command was to be entrusted, refused to enter the campaign with a less number than 500 men. The officers consisted of Colonel Isaac Shelby from the State of Virginia, who was afterwards Governor of the State of Kentucky -- Major Lewis (his given name not now recollected) also from Virginia. The names of the subordinate officers, this declarant does not now remember. -- the men present at this meeting dispersed without organizing themselves into companies, on account of Colonel Shelby & Major Lewis being unwilling to enter a campaign of such importance with so few men. The object of the meeting thus failing Captain Robert King was appointed by Colonel Shelby to raise a volunteer company of horse to range along the Western frontiers for the purpose of protecting the white settlements. This company was to serve for the space of three months. I joined this company and we ranged from one station to another on the frontier, from 40 to 50 miles apart, down the Rivers Holston and French Broad for three months. At the end of this term of service our Captain Robert King gave us discharges. My discharge, I think, from the best of my recollection was dated about the last of May or the first of June 1782. This discharge, owing to the lapse of time, I have also lost. This Declarant states that he has no documentary evidence whatever, of his service, that not expecting ever to have any call for his several discharges, he was careless in keeping them, and have consequently lost them all. He knows of no person in this part of the country by whom he can prove his services, but thinks it probable that there may be a number of persons in the State of Virginia, and East Tennessee, who can testify to the same.

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 in the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm H. Johnson, Clerk

S/ Benj. Murrell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Benj. Murrell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Thomas Ross, a clergyman, and William Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1782.html ?

[p 7]

1st Question by the Court -- Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born in Lunenburg County in the State of Virginia, in the year 1760, as I have been informed by my parents.

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

Answer -- I have no record of my age, but I recollect to have seen it in our family record, in my father's Bible, about 20 years ago.

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

Answer -- I lived in Henry County in the State of Virginia when I first entered the service, from there I moved to the County of Washington in the Western part of the State of North Carolina, now part of the State of Tennessee -- and then I moved to Hawkins County in the State of North Carolina, now Tennessee sometime in the year 1784. In the year '88 or thereabouts I left Hawkins and went to Jefferson County in what is now called East Tennessee, where I lived 17 years; from thence I moved to Limestone County in the State of Alabama where I lived, as well as I can now recollect about 20 years -- from thence I moved to Hardeman County in the Western District of the State of Tennessee where I lived about 4 years -- from thence I moved to the County of Weakley & State of Tennessee in December 1830 -- and settled in the northern part of the County near the Kentucky line, where I now live --

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

Answer -- I served three three-months tours, or nearly so, and volunteered every time.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- the foot troops were commanded by Colonel George Waller of the State of Virginia. The name of my first Captain in our expedition against the British & Tories was Owen Ruble and my 2nd Captain was Samuel Harston. Colonel Isaac Shelby afterwards Governor of Kentucky, and Major Lewis of Virginia were to command the campaign intended against the Cherokee Indians, as I have before stated in my Declaration we were not attached to either a Continental or Militia Regiment during my service, and the circumstances of my services I have particularly detailed in my Declaration -- The Captain under which I served my last tour of 3 months service was Captain Robert King.

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

Answer -- I received 3 discharges; the first from Captain Owen Ruble, dated about the close of the summer of 1780 and as well as I can remember. The 2nd was signed by Captain Samuel Harston & dated I think about the first of June 1781 -- the 3rd and last was given by my Captain Robert King & dated I think about the last of May or the first of June 1782. Each of my discharges was for 3 months service as a mounted volunteer, all of which I have lost not deeming it of any importance that I should keep them.

7th 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.

Answer -- Parson Thomas Ross, William, Inman and Chapman Taylor & James Hornback have all been acquainted with me for a considerable length of time, and will all testify to my veracity

& respectability, and also that I am reputed to have been a soldier in the American Revolution.

[pp 10-12]
family record

Marriages

Benjamin Murrell and Mary his wife was married in the year of our Lord 1783, September the 30 day

Betsey Murrell was married to Joseph Routh, in the year while Lord 1804, November the __day.

Richard Murrell son of Benjamin & Mary was married to Rachael Hodges, in the year of our Lord 1809, June the 22 day.

John S. Murrell, son of Benjamin & Mary, was married to Sarah Clack, in the year of our Lord 1818, April the 16th day.

Lemuel Murrell and Alis, his wife was married in the year of our Lord 1828, November the 15th day

William Murrell and Nancy his wife, was married in the year while Lord 1829 October the 22nd day

Births

Benjamin Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1760 the 13th day

Mary Murrell, his wife, was born in the year while Lord 1764, November the 30th day

Betsey Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1784, October the 30th day

Jefferson Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1786, November the 23rd day

Richard Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1788, November or December the 15th day.

Isaac Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1789, April the 29th day.

Nancy Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1792 April the 26th day

Sarah Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1793, December the 28th day

Mary Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1795 December the 22nd day

John Sims Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1798, February the 13 day.

Matilda Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1799 November the 17th day

Charlotte Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1801, October the 26th day

Lucy Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1804, June the first day

Gemimy Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1805, March the 10th day.

Lemuel Murrell was born in the year of our Lord 1809, April the 2nd day

[obliterated] something occurred in December 97, December -- day

Richard Decatur Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1818, December 30 day

Thomas Jefferson Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1820, November 18th day

Artemicy Francis Murrell was born in the year while Lord 1822, February 10th

Deaths

Benjamin Murrell departed this life in the year while Lord 1835, May the 25th day

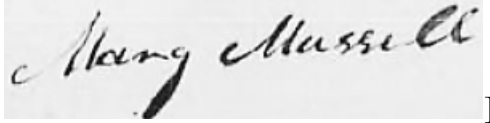
Mary Murrell, wife of Benjamin Murrell, departed this life in the year while Lord 1843, July the 26th day

Rachel Murrell, wife of Richard Murrell, departed this life in the year of our Lord 1816, October the 21st day

Sarah Murrell, wife of John S. Murrell, departed this life in the year while Lord 1823, June the 14 day

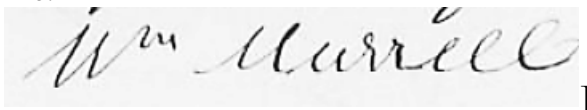
[p 13: On June 22, 1841 in Weakley County Tennessee, Mary Murrell, 77, filed for a widow's

pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Murrell, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that they were married on September 30, 1783; that her husband Benjamin Murrell died May 25 1835 and that she remains his widow.



Mary Murrell]

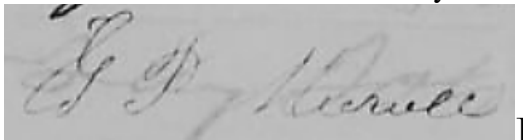
[p 15: On November 19, 1853 in Hardeman County Tennessee, William Murrell, 44, son of Benjamin Murrell and Mary his wife filed a claim for pension due his mother, she having died on July 26, 1843; he filed a claim on behalf of himself and Jeffrey, Richard, John, Lemuel, Mary Gragg, Nancy Slaughter, Lucy Cunningham, Jeremiah Hyde, and Charlotte Murrell, all of whom are living, and Isaac, Elizabeth Routh and Sarah Smith, Matilda Slaughter, having departed this life.



Wm Murrell]

[p 22: William Murrell, 45, filed another affidavit in which he states Jeffrey Murrell resides in Fayette County, Tennessee, Richard Murrell resides in Weakley County Tennessee, John S. Murrell resides in Weakley County Tennessee, Lemuel Murrell resides in Missouri; Nancy Slaughter lives in Tipton County Tennessee, Mary Gragg lives in Washington County Arkansas; Charlotte Murrell resides in Weakley County Tennessee; Lucy Cunningham resides in the state of Missouri, Jeremiah Hyde lives in Limestone County Alabama; he also says he has 4 siblings who are deceased they are Isaac Murrell, Betsy Ruth, Sarah Smith and Matilda Slaughter.]

[p 26: On March 7, 1853 in Weakley County Tennessee, Granvil P Murrell filed a claim on behalf of the estate of Mary Murrell, widow of Benjamin Murrell; he states he is the administrator of the estate of Mary Murrell.



G. P. Murrell]

[p 31: in a letter dated December 27, 1853 William Murrell states that his mother's maiden name was Sims; that he is aware of a claim filed by a G. P. Murrell but the affiant says his parents had no child by that name nor does he know of any other relation by that name. Other correspondence suggests G. P. Murrell might have been a grandson of the veteran but does not name the parents of G. P. Murrell.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia.]