

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Messhew (Messheu) S15523

f13SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

State of Kentucky County of Hickman: Sct.

On this ___ day of March in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful County Court to wit John T. Taylor, E. A. Daniel & B. P. Wright Justices of the County Court of said County which Justices as aforesaid legally and lawfully comprise Said Court, Jesse Messhew the Resident of said County and State aged 78 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 that he entered the Service of the United States in Georgetown District State of South Carolina In the year 1776 he thinks about the first of April but from old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot be certain under the following named officers (To wit) Captain John Graham, William Servis Lieutenant John Sarvis [sic, John Servis] Ensign Francis Marion Major ___ Moltier [sic, William Moultrie] Colonel marched from said District to Sullivan's Island near Charleston assisted in building a Fort on said Island my best recollection the name of said Fort was Motlier [sic, Fort Moultrie] and we made the same out of Sand & Palmetto &c was there when attacked by the British by Sea [June 28, 1776] the attack was made about the last of June 1776 they were marched home and discharged Tour was at least three months. This declarant states that he again entered the Service of the United States in September 1778 under the command of the following named officers, To wit, Joseph Long Captain, Bryant Gough Lieutenant ___ Horry [Peter Horry] Major Francis Marion Colonel from George Town [Georgetown] District State of South Carolina. In this Tour we were engaged scrimmaging and marching from one side to the other of said State but had no General engagement took up some vagrants &c and was again Discharged at Georgetown & after a Tour of at least three months &c. This Declarant again entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers as above mentioned with the exception Horry Colonel Marion General both having been promoted. This campaign was in the year 1779 at this time the British had possession of Ebenezer and Georgetown and on this Campaign we joined no General Army we had our hands full to Quell and keep in subjection the Tories or rather plundering banditta [sic, banditti] who was more attached to the booty then to the Royal cause on this campaign a Lieutenant commanded of which this declarant was one and drove to General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Army who was stationed on the Savannah River a drive of beef Steers, this campaign was commenced sometime in March and ended some time in June at least it was a three months tour of duty but as to precise dates he cannot positively State owing to old age and consequent loss of memory &c -- He again entered the service of the United States in the month of February 1780 under the following named officers, to wit, Joseph

Long Captain, Bryant Gaugh Lieutenant, ___ Servis Ensign we marched from Georgetown District to a place owned Big Pedee River this was a kind of temporary headquarters we had frequently to fly to this place as a place of Security to avoid Colonel Talton's [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] horse who was then scouring the Country and outraging everything like honorable warfare there is acts of wanton cruelty Recorded of that officer but they do not come up to the facts this Campaign was at least three months he again Entered the Service of the United States about the 10th of May 1780 under the following named officers to wit James Johnson Captain Reuben Hartsfield Lieutenant ___ Sabb [Thomas Sabb] [Lt.] Colonel We left Georgetown District State of South Carolina and marched for Charleston was at Moncks Corner was driven from the latter place by Colonel Tarleton's horse. From there we reached Laneau's Ferry [sic, Leneud's Ferry] on the Santee River again we was cut to pieces by the same Colonel Tarleton from this latter place remains of our Company went to Bear Bluff on the Wacomough [sic, Waccamaw] at this point General Marion organized all the fugitive forces that had escaped the British and all other Citizens whose spirits was unconcerd [unconquered?] and in fact a few who had been fighting on the Royal side but our Army was small and we had to shift pretty much for ourselves and we Ranged and fought in small detachments we marched to Watboo [sic, Wadboo? or Wappoo] at this place we was again attacked by Colonel Tarleton's horse or rather a small foraging party of that corps we had the honor on this occasion to drive the invaders from there anticipated booty at this time it seemed as though South Carolina was conquered I thought that the safest place was in the Army and continued in the field until the latter part of October at one time started to join General Gates [Horatio Gates] but did not we heard of his defeat at Camden and the British having possession of Charleston, Georgetown, Savannah, which was the Case [sic, cause?] of this Campaign being prolonged I served at least six months on this Tour. He again entered the service of the United States under the following named officers to wit Captain James Johnson Reuben Hatfield Lieutenant again from the aforesaid Georgetown District we first met at a place called Watboo [Wadboo] we met in the month of January 1781 we was all under the command of General Marion at first not more than seventy took the field but our forces increased but when we would get an aunmitation [sic, augmentation?] of strength those whom General Marion had confidence in was all was on advance guard or as we in those days called it a scouting party &c from Watboo we marched towards Santee River and near Bacon's Bridge a party of British and Tories attacked some ammunition wagons destined for the Army of General Greene our small party together with General Greene's reserve drove the British &c we then turned for the North East part of the State was at Mrs. Mott's at the time of the Battle Continued in the field until the latter part of September of the same year was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] was one of Marion's brigade. He will say he served at least nine months. He will state he has served in all at least two years and 3 [? digit unclear]¹ months between the year 1776 in the year 1781 after the battle of the Eutaw Springs he was afterwards engaged in fighting the Tories but these campaigns or Expeditions was short &c as such he will not pretend to state &c. He states he has no documentary Evidence of his Services and knows of no person by whom he can prove his services by and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity Except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State or Territory of the United States. Sworn to in open court the day and year first above written.

¹  [0 or 8 or 3???

S/ Jesse Messhew



Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was Born in Goughlan [sic, Goochland] County State of Virginia and from traditionary account in the year 1756 --

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

Answer I have no record of my age --

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 was living in Georgetown District State of South Carolina after the war I moved the upper part of said State and lived about 15 years and I have then moved to Jackson County State of Tennessee I lived there about 18 months I then moved to the State of Kentucky Henderson County and there I have lived until the year 1821 and then I moved to Hickman County Kentucky and there is 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 never was drafted but once and that was the first Tour I never was a Substitute I was a volunteer &c.

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 Company officers I have given by name in my statement: at the commencement of each campaign the regular officers that I saw and was acquainted with was General Lincoln General Greene Baron DeKalb and Count d'Estaing I also in addition to General Francis Marion Colonel Horry of my own State I knew Colonels Lacey and Hill General Sumter kep [kept] alive the spirits of the Whig Population in another Section of the State he also recollects Colonel Postell Major Postell and James a Regiment from Delaware he thinks and some other of the Eastern States these Continentals and came on about the time Baron DeKalb headed. The Incidents of the war are so numerous and I have already detailed in a disputting [sic ?] manner in my declaration but owing to old age and consequent loss of memory I cannot recollect all or near all of the Particulars I can recollect events when told from the that had perhaps forever slipped my memory had not have heard them &c --

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 our Received to the best of my recollection discharges from my officers for all the Tours of duty that I served the three last tours I am confident General Marion gave or signed my discharges but in moving about and frequent lapses and [indecipherable word, looks like "Imborisments"] I have had I now cannot find the aforesaid discharges I think they are lost or worn out -- he here again states he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can prove his services by but there is now living in the neighborhood the following Gentlemen who can testify to my character for veracity and truthfulness and their belief of my service in the Revolutionary war to wit John Bone, Thomas Griffey and ___

State of Kentucky Hickman County: This day the above named Jesse Messhew made his personal appearance [N.] open court and made oath in due form of law and deposes and says that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to his best recollection he served not less than 2 years and 3 months in the grade of a private soldier. Given under my hand the day and date above written.

S/ Jesse Messhew

[Samuel Gibson, a clergyman, John Bone and Thomas Griffey gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia and Continental line [?.]