

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Magee S1555

f29NC/VA

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 '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.]

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State of Tennessee Jefferson County: SS

On this 10th day of September personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County (being a Court of record, having a Clerk and Seal) now sitting, James MaGee [sic], a resident of said County of Jefferson, & State of Tennessee, aged about seventy 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

That in the summer of 1776, his brother Willie MaGee was drafted in Sussex County in the State of Virginia, under Capt. Jesse Williamson for a one-month tour -- that his mother being a widow, and Willie being the oldest son, this applicant went as a substitute for the said Willie -- that the company rendezvoused at Sussex Court House, as well as he recollects, in the month of August 1776, -- from thence he was marched to Portsmouth on James River and Norfolk was then lying in ashes on the opposite side of the River [Norfolk Virginia was burned by Lord Dunmore, John Murray, the last Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia, on January 2, 1776] - - At Portsmouth they joined Col. Charles Harrison of the Artillery train [sic], there was no Col. of the Militia at that place, -- he does not recollect the names of any other of the field officers at that place -- but recollects a Capt. Burrell [sic, Nathaniel Burwell] in the regular service under Harrison. He remained here a month -- while he was there, there was no engagement between the enemy & the US troops, but there was frequent cannonading between the American batteries, and the *Roebuck* and *Kingfisher*, two ships of enemy, which played up and down the James River. At the expiration of his month, the term for which he was substituted, his Capt. marched his company back to Sussex through Suffolk (the same route he marched out) to Sussex, making in all six weeks from the time of rendezvous. He was then discharged by Capt. Williamson. This applicant further states, that in April 1777, as well as he can recollect, his brother Drury MaGee was drafted in the same County of Sussex & State of Virginia, under the command of Capt. ___ Smith, for a one-month tour -- that his family being in a delicate state of health, this applicant at his request, agreed to served the tour for him -- he accordingly joined the company at Sussex Court House, the place of rendezvous -- from whence they marched through Sussex to Portsmouth, which was still under the command of the same officers as of the preceding year -- that he remained at that place one month, during which time, there was no fighting, except the

cannonading with the two ships before named, which was much as before -- at the end of the month, the company was marched back the same route, to the place of rendezvous, and there discharged by Capt. Smith after an absence of 6 weeks.

About the first of March 1778, one John Izzard, having nearly served the term of two years for which he had enlisted, enlisted for another term of three years in the 15th Virginia Regiment, under the command of Col. David Mason -- the said Izzard's father, having died, he applied to this applicant to serve in his stead until he could settle the business of his father's estate -- he consented to do so, and proceeded from said County of Sussex, where he still lived, with said Izzard, to Williamsburg -- at which place Izzard presented the applicant to Col. Mason as his substitute, and he was accepted as such -- the 15th Regiment was then lying, there, waiting for clothing to march to the North to join General Washington -- this applicant was immediately placed in the shop of one Nickerson, a tailor, where he and four others (that being all in the Regiment that could sew) remained until the Regiment was equipped, which was some time in August, as well as he recollects, -- when the marching orders were given -- the Regiment proceeded as far as New Kent Court House, he thinks about twenty miles, when they were overtaken by Col. Mason who had been home to settle his business, and also by the said John Izzard, who then took his place, and this applicant returned home. He does not recollect the names of any of the officers except those already named -- he will state as one reason, in addition to the length of time, why he cannot recollect the names of the officers, that he was constantly in the tailor's shop, and never paraded with the troops, except in the march to New Kent. He got home about the first of September 1778.

In the fall of 1778, he removed to Orange County North Carolina to his brother-in-law's - - from thence he removed to Caswell County, adjoining Orange (having married). In the year 1780, the last of June or first of July, he was drafted for a three months tour, out of Capt. Peter O'Neil's company & served under Capt. Fauquier [sic, probably Capt. James Farquhar of Hillsborough] in the Regiment commanded by Col. William Moore from Caswell County NC -- he thinks that Major Rogers of Orange County was along -- they rendezvoused at Caswell Court House -- from thence they marched to Hillsboro NC where they joined the Granville & Orange troops, commanded by General Butler [John Butler] -- one of the captains from Granville was named Gilliam [perhaps William Gilliam of Granville County North Carolina] -- he does not recollect the names of the other officers -- from thence they marched to Salisbury NC at which place a difference arose between Col. Moore and General Butler, when Moore with his Regiment left him, and went over to New Providence SC [sic, North Carolina] near Twelve Mile Creek, and joined General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], Col. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] with his riflemen & Col. Washington [William Washington] with his troop of horse, where they remained until their terms of service expired, when they were marched to Guilford Court House NC where they were discharged by Col. Moore.

In June 1781, this applicant was again drafted for a three months tour, in said County of Caswell NC. His Capt.'s name he does not recollect, but thinks it was Capt. Rogers [perhaps William Rogers] from Orange. He was in Col. Thomas Farmer's Regiment his Majors were Humphries & Parrish, his Lieut. was __ Curry [perhaps James Currie of Caswell County], who was wounded in the battle at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], of which he died -- they rendezvoused at Caswell Court House -- from thence they marched to Hillsboro -- from thence to Salisbury from thence we marched to Camden SC where we joined the General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at headquarters -- from thence the whole Army, under the command of General Greene, marched to the High Hills of Santee, where the British lay at the time Army left

Camden -- the officers at this time in General Greene's command, were Col. Williams [Otho Williams], called adjutant General, Col. (or General) Malbardy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne], Col. Dixon [probably Henry Dickson], and others which he cannot recollect. When the Army arrived at the High Hills, the British had left that place, and gone down the Santee to the Eutaw Springs where they encamped. We encamped but a few days on the Hills, till Col. Washington had spied out their situation, of which he informed the board of war -- the next night, as well as he recollects, the 20th of August, we were marched about 10 o'clock at night -- On our march down the next morning, we met and fired upon a rooting party of the enemy, who were coming out to get potatoes, which was the commencement of the battle. General Greene, formed his auxiliary and the regulars in the rear, on each side of the road, and ordered General Malmedy to advance, and fire and retreat until he brought the enemy within the ambush there formed -- Col. Malmedy, having discovered the enemy lying close to the ground, directed his men upon the word "halt," to fire at the ground, which was done with such success, that Malmedy did not retreat, but continued to keep up the fight until General Greene rode up. Greene in turning his horse to ride back to his artillery, had his horse shot from under him whereupon he dismounted Col. Williams, and marched his regulars & artillery to the battle ground, where the twelve months men and the militia, opened upon the right and left, and Greene marched through in front of the battle -- Col. Malmedy commanded the right wing of the twelve months men & militia & Col. Washington was on the right wing with his troop of horse -- Col. Farmer [Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Farmer] commanded the left wing of the militia & twelve months men & run -- as he turned to run, his horse was shot -- Col. Lea [sic, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] with his troop of horse was on the left wing. -- Col. Washington with his troop of horse, charged the Queens Regiment, the 71st called the "Buffs" -- as he returned, his horse was bayoneted & he taken prisoner as he was informed -- the British were driven beyond their baggage, when our men commenced rummaging their tents, drinking rum &c &c which the enemy discovering, came back upon us, & drove us back into the woods, where we formed again -- we charged them a second time & drove them off of the ground. -- In the evening the enemy sent in a flag, stating that Greene might keep the ground if he would bury the dead -- Greene returned for answer, that his honor was great enough to bury the dead, & the ground he would keep anyhow. -- The next day we dug trenches just below the brick house, in which we buried the dead. We were then ordered to march to Salisbury with the prisoners, where we were to be discharged -- the prisoners were left at Salisbury, and we marched to Guilford Court House where we were discharged by Majors Humphries & Parrish, as we had left our Col. (Farmer) under arrest.

He states that he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, as to the three first terms, but expects his name is on the rolls of the Virginia troops in the War Department. As to the fourth tour under Col. Moore, he refers to the testimony of John Murphey¹ hereto annexed marked, ~~B~~. A.

As to the last tour, and the battle of the Eutaw Springs, he refers to the deposition of Nicholas Counts Senior² which is hereto annexed marked B. He states that he had for discharges -- that they were in a small box in his possession, that the Tories and British in their ravages, pillaged his house, & he believes, his discharges & all his other papers were carried away by them.

He states that he was born in Sussex County State of Virginia, on the 6th of December 1762 -- His birth was registered in Parson Willis' Office in Sussex County, State of Virginia --

¹ [John Murphey W1460](#)

² [Nicholas Counce \(Counts\) S2443](#)

After the War, he lived in Caswell County NC for some time, then in Hollows of Adkin [sic, Yadkin River], then he removed to Henry County State of Virginia, where he lived two years -- from thence he removed to the State of Tennessee Greene County, where he now lives, at this time called Jefferson.

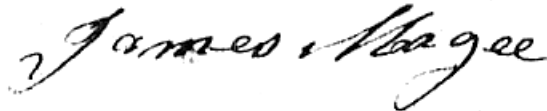
The applicant states, in addition to what he has already stated, that after the battle at the Eutaw Springs, as they were on their march to Salisbury, when they arrived at Camden SC General Malmedy overtook us, and told us, that he had orders from General Greene, for us to march back to the High Hills of Santee, which we accordingly did, where we remained two weeks, until the news of our success upon Sea [? Lea ?] arrived -- Mal [sic, Malmedy?] then told us that he had had no authority for calling us back. We then went home as before stated.

This applicant will further state, that, for all this, he has never received a farthing, nor does he expect to, unless the authorities of the land shall be gracious enough to give it him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid
S/ Joseph Hamilton, Clerk

S/ James Magee



[David Barton of Grainger County and William Cox, Jr. of Jefferson County gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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A

State of Tennessee Grainger County: Personally appeared Nicholas Counts Senior before me James R. Cocke one of the acting Justices of the peace for Grainger County in the State of Tennessee duly commissioned by the Gov. of said State and made oath that on my return from the battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina I became acquainted with James McGhee [sic] and that I believe he was among the Militia at said Battle and that he was in the Army as a soldier at said time under Col. Farmer to the best of my knowledge & believe.

Given under my hand and seal at Rutledge in the County of Grainger and State of Tennessee this 20th day of August 1832.

Sworn to before me the day and year above written

S/ Nicholas Counts, Sr., X his mark

S/ James R. Cocke, JP

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B- A

State of Tennessee Jefferson County: On this 10th day of September 1832 before me Jacob P. Chase an acting justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared, John Murphey and made oath, that James McGhee [sic] of the said County of Jefferson, in the year 1780, was mustered into service at Caswell old Court house -- and that he served a tour of three months duty in the militia of North Carolina after joining headquarters at Salisbury as I was credibly informed -- Said McGhee when he left said Caswell old Court house Caswell County in said State of North Carolina was under the command of Col. William Moore -- General Butler

was the commanding General.

Sworn to & subscribed before me September 10th 1832

S/ Jacob P. Chase, JP

S/ John Murphey

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Murphey". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured.

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State of Tennessee Jefferson County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace &c John Magee who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades -- for one year and four months I served as a private, and for such service I claim a pension, and that owing to bodily infirmity he cannot attend court well.

S/ James Magee Senr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 3rd day of May 1833

S/ Robert McFarland, JP

[James Thompson, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia and North Carolina militia.]