

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Morgan S1704

f67SC

Transcribed by Will Graves & supplemented by Jo McPhail

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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 Alabama Perry County: County Court __ Term 1833

On this __ day of __, in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open court before Dunklin Solomon Judge of the County Court of the County & State aforesaid James Morgan a resident of the County of Perry & State aforesaid aged seventy-three 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: (viz.) This applicant states on oath that he is not only old but is illiterate and fears that his memory may be too imperfect to give entire satisfaction to the department as to the precise periods of his service. But to the best of his recollection in the latter part of the year 1776 while he was living in Fairfield County in South Carolina he entered the service of the United States for the first time. It was at a time when the Tories had become very active or were doing great mischief = I hired myself as a substitute in place of a drafted man by the name of William Hughs (as a private soldier). The company officers under whom I was placed were Captain William Rabb & Lieutenant Proctor [probably Samuel Proctor]. Rabb was taken sick & Proctor took command. I belonged to what was called General Winn's [Richard Winn's] Brigade. If my memory does not deceive me it was also afterwards called Pierson's Brigade (but I cannot assert this fact positively). My Major was Manas Liles [sic, Magnus Lyles]. Henderson [William Henderson] (who I think at this time was commanding as General though it is possible that I may be mistaken and that his commission was only that of Colonel) was stationed at Orangeburg. Major Liles was the superior officer under whom we were marched to Orangeburg & joined to the forces under Henderson. I think I was part of this tour under the command of Colonel Wallace -- we remained at & near as this station three months without doing much active service -- the distance this place was from the place started from was near 140 miles.

In the year 1781 I was drafted. To the best of my recollection it was early in this year or at [the] close of eighty [1780] --. If my memory has not greatly failed me I was at this time also under Lieutenant Proctor & Captain Rabb & under Colonel Henderson. I now as well as I remember belonged to Pierson's Brigade our march was first to Orangeburg -- thence to the four hole bridge from this place I was in a detachment which was sent to a place called Tyler's Bridge and here stationed for a few weeks in order to watch & prevent the operations of the Tories. From the last mentioned place a part of three Regiments of us were hastily marched to the Eutaw Springs to join the Army under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. I was in the heart of that great battle fought at Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781]. For me to recollect the precise

day or month on which it was fought I cannot. I think it was in the year 1781, but I hope I have proof that is no less satisfactory -- I carry on my feeble body the scars of three severe wounds received in that battle, one is a cut on the head made by one of our own men on horse who aimed a blow at one of the enemy on his charge through the line & accidentally struck me, for the infantry of the two armies were almost at bayonet point -- a musket ball from the enemy passed through my groin -- the effects of which I feel to this day, another struck my leg just above the ankle all of which are now visible -- After this battle we were marched to the high hills of Santee & there stationed several weeks & I was here placed in the hospital until I got able to go home -- this was a tour of three months. I received no written discharge at the close of any of the tours I served that I have the faintest recollection of. As soon as I recovered from my wound I entered the service again as substitute & private in the place of William Morrison. I was in a company commanded by Captain John McCool. I think in the year 1782 I marched in this company a distance of 160 or 70 miles to Lawrence's Ferry on the Santee [River]-- this was also a tour of three months which was the usual length of the drafts -- our principal employment while here was supplying the Main Army under General Greene with provisions & supplies to prevent their being intercepted & destroyed &c. If I am not mistaken this tour was during the months July, August & September, & when it was ascertained that peace was made or making we were discharged & sent home without any written discharge.

There is no living witness whose testimony I can procure to my services. I have no documentary evidence that I can procure or that I know of my services. As a regular officer I remember General Marion [Francis Marion] which I have often seen, Generals Sumter [Thomas Sumter] & Lacey [Edward Lacey] -- I remember distinctly Colonel William Washington commander of light horse Regiment at Eutaw battle -- I saw him when he was charged upon the first time by the British his horse killed and he wounded. I was in the charge that was made by which we retook him and our cannon, he was taken a second time & I was amongst those that we recovered him. The third time the British took him and carried him off to Charleston & at the same time spiked our cannon. Both armies separated from the spot at the same time -- I do not know which were regulars or which militia officers of the others, & I really am sorry I cannot state distinctly who was my Colonel at each tour there were frequent changes & promotions among the officers -- one Wallace commanded us as Colonel at the four hole bridge. It is the best of my belief & recollection that the expedition during which I was at the Eutaw battle John Purcons [sic, Perkins? or Pickens?]¹ commanded as Colonel. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

To the 1st interrogatories propounded by the war department, this deponent answers & says 1st According to the best tradition I have I was born on James River in Virginia on the 9th of March 1760. 2nd I have no record of my age. 3rd I was living in Fairfield County South Carolina when I was called into the service -- moved thence to Warren County State of Georgia - - thence to Franklin County Tennessee & thence to Perry County in this State where I have lived ever since. 4th The first time I entered the service I was a substitute in place of William Hughs -- The next time drafted & the third time as a substitute in the place of William Morrison. 5th There was no regular troops where I served except at Eutaw Springs -- General Greene was at Eutaw & commanded, William Washington was there Colonel of a Regiment of Cavalry there was perhaps other officers regulars but I do not remember it -- Captain or Colonel Hampton & Captain Martin were recruiting officers for Greene's Army. The number of the Regiments I

¹ Bobby Moss does not list an officer that would fit this description.

cannot remember but there was Lacey's Regiment = General Sumter sometimes assigned portions of the Army under him to colonels who commanded & Brigadier Generals & this circumstance serves to confuse my recollection as to the officers & there grades. Winn once commanded only a Regiment & Purcons Regiment previous to his promotion in which I served - I always served as a private & never received a written discharge I have given as full a statement of my services in my declaration as I can from the feeble state of my memory.

I am known to ___

Sworn to and subscribed in Open court

S/ James Morgan, X his mark

I Alexander Q. Bradley, a regular practicing physician in the County of Perry & State of Alabama do hereby certify that I know James Morgan and the above applicant have conversed with him in relation to his services, have examined the scars on him mentioned in his declaration and from these circumstances as well as from general rumor believe him to have been a soldier of the revolution and that he did serve as he has stated and that the scars mentioned in his declaration were occasioned at the time & in the manner he states.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the acting Justices of the Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid

This first day of July 1833.

S/ Willis Nall, JP

S/ Alexander Q. Bradley, M.D.

[James Veasey, a clergyman, & Henry C. Lea gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7 On August 8, 1842 in McNairy County Tennessee, James Morgan applied for a transfer of his pension payments.]

[p 21]

State of Tennessee McNairy County: Be it known that on this the 4th day of April 1843 before me Samuel D. Pace one of the acting justices of the peace in and for said County personally appeared James Morgan and made oath that his Pension Certificate (who heretofore sent to the Commissioner of Pensions) was not altered for the purpose of committing a fraud on the Pension Walls, that he is very old and illiterate, and his certificate was altered by Henry C. Lea of Perry County State of Alabama, who was my agent and other pensioners agent. Lea told me that Congress had passed a law giving all persons Ninety Six Dollars per year. And your affiant believing that he knew, and believing that he had the power suffered him to the erase the true amount and place \$96 in the body of the Certificate, this affiant therefore hopes the Commissioner of Pensions will give to him a certificate, so that he can draw his pension as heretofore, your affiant served long and faithfully in the Revolutionary War, and now in his 84th year of age and reduced to once, hope you will forth with send him a certificate so that he may draw the pension for 12 months ending for March 1843 -- the day and date above --

S/ James Morgan, X his mark

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

[p 18]

Columbus Mi. 8 May 1844
James L. Edward Esq.
Commissioner of pension

Sir,

An old man who says his name is James Morgan applied to me to day with a request that I would aid him in obtaining his pension from the government. He says he was transferred from the pension agency of Alabama to that of the agency of west Tennessee. He sates in Alabama he received a pension of ninety six dollars per annum but lost his certificate, that a new certificate was sent him by the department after a pension of thirty dollars per annum. He states in Alabama that he was of the militia service - that he can make proof of his identity.

I have concluded as his matters in reference to his pension [? is?] somewhat embarrassed [embarrassed] the best way was to ascertain from you a statement of the amount and time for which there is due him arrearages of pension. What portion of it he should apply for at the agency, what at the treasury of the United States. Why his pension was reduced if it has been and request you to forward to me the proper information and forms necessary to enable me to obtain for the pension due him if there be any.

I am with due respect your obt. [obedient] sevt. [servant]
Stephen Cocke

P.S. The old man says he now resides in Oktibbeha County, MI.

[p 6]

State of Tennessee
McNairy County

On this 8th day of August 1842 before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the said county of McNairy personally appeared James Morgan who on his oath declared that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the Malitia [Militia] company commanded by Captain William Rabb in the Regament [Regiment] commanded by Col. John Pearson and attached to Genl Richard Wynns Brigade [sic, Col. Richard Winn's Brigade], that his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of Alabama at Tuscaloosa from whence he has lately removed that he now resides in McNairy County State of Tennessee where he intends to remain and wishes his pension to be payable at Jackson Tennessee in future The following are his reasons for removing from Perry County Alabama to McNairy County Tennessee to wit, I am verry [very] old feble [feeble] and infirm, and my children moved to McNairy Tennessee, so I moved with them so they could take care of me in my old days. Given under my hand the day and date above written,

his
James X Morgan
Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me
the day and year aforesaid
W.D. Pace Justice of the Peace

Teste

Maclin Cross
John R. Wright

State of Tennessee
McNairy County

Be it known that on this 8th day of August 1842 personally appeared James H. Morgan before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said county and made oath that James Morgan who has signed the within application for a transfer is the identical James Morgan who was hertofore [heretofore] placed on the Pension Roll of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and is a credible [credible] person given under my hand the date above –

Swornto and subscribed before
Me the date above.

James H. Morgan

Maclin Cross
John R. Wright

~~~~~  
State of Tennessee  
Mc [letters covered by seal] ty [McNairy County]

I John R. Adams Clerk of McNairy County court for said county do hereby  
Certify that Samuel D. Pace above named a magistrate in said county and that the  
foregoing certificates signed by him are genuine In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand and affixed my seal of office this 8 day of August 1842.

John R. Adams  
By A. A. Sanders