

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lester Morris S2003

f55VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/18/13

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Tennessee Giles County, to wit: This day personally appeared before me Alfred M Harris one of the Judges of the State of Tennessee the undersigned Lester Morris being sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he is now a citizen of the United States of America and resident in the County of Giles and State of Tennessee – that on the first day of March 1779 he enlisted in the war of the Revolution between the then thirteen United Colonies and Great Britain as a private Soldier on the Continental establishment for the term of eighteen months in the County of Brunswick and State of Virginia under a certain Lieutenant Binze Jones, and served in a company commanded by Captain Benjamin Tolliver [Benjamin Taliaferro] in Colonel Richard Parker's Regiment called the first detachment of the Virginia Line and in General Scots [Charles Scott's] Brigade in the Southern Department until he was made prisoner as hereinafter stated. That after his enlistment as aforesaid he was marched to Fredericksburg in Virginia and there joined General Scott's brigade.

That he fought against the British on the 9th of October 1779 in a battle at Savannah in Georgia where the American Troops were commanded by said Colonel Richard Parker in which battle he received a wound by a ball passing through his thighs – That he served in the same Company Regiment and Brigade at the Siege of Charleston in May 1780 and that on the 12th day of the same month after his Colonel had been killed in battle, and succeeded in his command by Samuel Hopkins, the American troops capitulated when this affiant was taken Prisoner by the Enemy, and detained first on board the Ship *King George* and then on board the *Fidelity* for the term of 18 months at which time being exchanged he was conducted to Williamsburg in Virginia and at that place on the 2nd of August 1781 was honorably discharged by said General Scott which discharge he has lost by time and accident. That he was in the services including the time of his being detained as a Prisoner as aforesaid for the term of two years and five months –

That on the 5th of July next he will be fifty-nine years of age. That he has a family to support and is unable to do so without laboring extremely hard; and as he is now old and not very able to perform hard labor, he thinks he stands in need of the assistance of his Country for a support. He hereby relinquishes all pensions by the Laws of the United States allowed him previous to the passage of an act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary war passed the 9th of March 1818 & by the President on the 21st day of the same month. He prays the benefit of said act by being placed on the pension list according to the provisions thereof 5th June 1818.

S/ Lester Morris



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State of Tennessee Giles County SScit: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1826

On this 23rd day of November 1826, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the County of Giles & State of Tennessee, Lester Morris, resident of said County, aged 76 years, on the 8th of July 1826, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress passed the 18th of March 1818 & the 1st May 1820, that he the said Lester Morris, enlisted for the term of two years in the month of March 1775 (the day of the month not recollected) in the State of Virginia, in the company commanded by Captain Benjamin Tolliver [Benjamin Taliaferro] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker, in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment, That he continued to serve in the said Corps until the end of the term for which he enlisted, and again enlisted in said Regiment for the term of three years, & continued to serve therein until his said term of Service expired, when he was discharged from the Service in the State of Virginia = That he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension whatever except the present = That his name is not on the roll of any State, but he has heretofore obtained a certificate as a Pensioner under the law of the United States of the 18th of March 1818 in the words & figures following, viz.:

War Department – Revolutionary claim

I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 18th of March 1818, Lester Morris, late a Private in the Army of the Revolution, is inscribed on the Pension list, Roll of the West Tennessee Agency, at the rate of \$8 per month, to commence on the 5th day of June 1818. Given at the War Office of the United States this 21st day of June 1819.

S/ J C Calhoun

Secretary of War.

That under said Pension certificate, he received his pension until the first of May 1820, when his pension was stopped, in consequence of the act of Congress of the United States passed the said first of May 1820 relative to revolutionary Pensioners under the Act of the 18th March 1818. – He further more swears that he is the same Lester Morris to whom said certificate issued. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. – That since the 18th of March 1818, the following changes have been made in my property – 1st my cotton gin with all my cotton has been consumed by fire by unavoidable accident thereby indamaging [sic?] me to the amount of \$1200 – 2nd three of my horses have died. – 3rd three of my Negroes have died. – 4th 8 of my horned cattle have died. –

Schedule of declarant's property.

1st 100 acres of land – 2nd 4 Negroes, viz. one about 12 years old, another about 8 years old, another about 6 years old, and the other about 15 months old. 3rd three head of horses. 4th eight head of horned cattle – 5th eight sheep – 6th twenty-five hogs – By occupation I am a farmer, but not able to pursue it in consequence of my advanced age, profitably. – The number and names of my family residing with me all first my wife Franciss [sic], aged sixty-five years, not able to contribute much to my support, 2nd my daughter of Martha (now a widow) & her three daughters

Sally, Rebecca & Susan, who are not able to contribute anything to my support, but are a charge upon me, 4th my daughter Lucy about 18 years of age, who cannot do as such or at least more than support herself.

S/ Lester Morris

Sworn to and declared the 23rd November 1826 before

S/ German Lester, Clerk

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State of Tennessee Giles County

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th

1832

On this 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before William E Kennedy one of the Circuit Judges in & for the State of Tennessee & now sitting in the Town of Pulaski & County of Giles aforesaid, Lester Morris a resident of said County who being duly sworn according to law sheweth, that he was placed upon the pension roll under the law of the 18th March 1818 upon the 21st of June 1819 as a Private in the Army of the revolution at the rate of \$8 per month, commencing the 5th of June 1818 as will appear by his said certificate hereto attached, he further states that he drew his pension on said certificate for 2 years commencing on the said 5th of June 1818 after which he was dropped from the roll in consequence of his having a small portion of Property over & above what was required by a subsequent Act of Congress to entitle him to continue on the Roll, which will appear in the department. He further states that he was a private in the first Regiment of the Virginia line, commanded by Colonel Richard Parker & Colonel Samuel Hopkins & Major Anderson all of which will appear in his petition under the Law of 1818 & under which he received his said certificate. He further states he was at the time of his first application & is now a resident of the County of Giles & State of Tennessee.

S/ Lester Morris

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service. Veteran was stricken from the rolls under the 1818 act when the schedule he filed under the 1820 act disclosed that he had too much property to qualify under the 1818 act. He was subsequently pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 under the 1832 act for 18 months service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]