

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Morgan S2860

f49VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/8/13

[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.]

[p 7]

State of Tennessee Davidson County: SS

On this 27th day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting Benjamin Morgan a resident of the County and State above stated aged 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.

I served two Tours of duty in the State of Virginia in the year 1781 – the first was in the County of Culpeper and was a Substitute for John Fishback – The number in which he was included was called out in the latter part of the Winter of said 1781 and after rendezvousing (at what place I cannot now say) we were marched to a Noted place on the lower edge of said County by the name of Jermanna, not far from where the River Rapidan Joins the Rappahannock branch called Hedgmons River; where we was stationed some time, can't say how long, waiting further orders. At length we took up our march through Spotsylvania and on our way was met by an express – Stating that we were not wanting, Accordingly we were dismissed with [indecipherable word or words]¹ that we had served a full Tour of duty, being in a County in which I have never lived but a few weeks previous to the draft what of these men, I cannot say positively what was the names of any of our officers, Though my impression is that our Colonel was Pendleton and that my Captain's name was Hank Read, nor can I on oath as I am, name a Solitary individual person, who served with me in this Tour with the exception of Frederick Fishback brother to the above John Fishback. I have no documentary evidence, nor do I know of any person in the State who can testify to the above named Services –

On another call for a Regiment of Militia to march from the County of Fauquier (my native County) I substituted for Frederick Kemper, brother of Charles Kemper Surveyor of said County ever since 1799 our Colonel was Elias Edmonds [also spelled Elias Edmunds], my Captain William Jennings [p 6] Lieutenant Edmond ball. Can't Recollect any other Commissioned officer of the Regiment, but the above Charles Kemper was orderly Sergeant of our company and a messmate of mine and also Peter Bashaw² now before you. We took up our line of march I think early in the month of May of this year, and after marching to Fredericksburg and being stationed there seven days we were marched to Richmond and after a

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¹

² [Peter Bashaw S2962](#)

short stay there, was marched to Wilton Camps – Said to be seven miles below Richmond, where we joined General Lafayette with his Regulars, and General Muhlenberg, with his Militia.

But we were not long at this place before our Army took up their line of march up the Country – the enemy lying at Petersburg. But on the day of our Army starting up the Country, there was a party of us Militia detached from the body about one hundred twenty as was said, put under the Command of Colonel Goode I think of Chesterfield County and crossed James River into Chesterfield County where we were kept between the enemy and our Army (a forlorn hope indeed) until Colonel Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] came and captured about fifty-eight of us – from whence we were run to Petersburg 18 miles that evening where Lord Corn Wallace [Lord Cornwallis] was – This was on the 23rd day of May on the next morning the whole Army took up their line of march after ours and took us prisoners along to Westafer [sic?] Ferry [indecipherable word]³, Colonel Birds where we were set over the River next day and guarded in an out house of said Birds until the whole Army crossed – then we were put on board of a ship called the *Apollion* – I think – which sailed down [p 10] James River in Company with the *Belona*, in which General Arnold [Benedict Arnold] sailed (as was said for New York). When coming into Hampton Roads, or somewhere probably about the mouth of Elizabeth River we prisoners was put on board of a *Horse* [?]⁴ Sloop, and taken to Portsmouth where the British kept a Garrison until a part of their main Army of that State returned from there pursuit after ours up the Country and until (as we afterwards found) they had fortified at Little York, when they were moving as appeared the last of Military Stores from Portsmouth we were set across the River on the opposite side from home. I think about the 15th of August. I started for home in company with some of others of Fauquier & Culpeper Militia – two of which a Brother-in-law & a [indecipherable word]⁵ German died on their way home. I lived in the County of Fauquier until the spring of 1791 – when I moved to Mecklenburg County of Virginia where I lived until the fall of 1778. I then returned to Fauquier and after living two years in that County, I moved to Culpeper County where I lived five years from there I moved to South Carolina, where I lived eighteen years; then to Madison County Alabama State where I lived with my children my wife being dead two years, thence to Davidson County Tennessee where I am yet, aged seventy years the 10 day of October present –

As to the names of my neighbors who can testify as to my character for veracity I state Matthew P Walker, Reuben Payne, Isaac Walton, Enoch Camel, Wm Camel, Enoch Cunningham of my native County, John Pirte, Edward Goodrich, Carter Allen, William Neeley, Henry H Hamlin, James Norment, George Camp, Samuel Neely, John Maneece, John Ray, Alex Walker, D. John Mary beside Peter Bashaw who served with me. Those gentlemen above named never had any personal acquaintance with me, except Bashaw, Cunningham and Camp until I came to Tennessee, though I believe several of them have heard me speak of my Captive suffering, imprisonment &c &c. S/ Benjn Morgan

3 *Har*

4 *Har*

5 *comin*

Benjamin Morgan

[James Gwin, a clergyman, and Peter Bashaw gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Peter Bashaw declare that I was acquainted with Benjamin Morgan, and was in service with him in the revolutionary war and that he was a mess mate of mine & that I believe his declaration to be true.

S/ Peter Bashaw

Peter Bashaw

[p 24]

State of Tennessee Davidson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County April Sessions 1833

On this 24th day of April 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County, Benjamin Morgan, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, by way of amendment to his former declaration –

I was born in Fauquier County in the State of Virginia October 10th 1762 – I have a record of my age – I was living when I first called into service in Culpeper County Virginia – As to where I have lived since I refer to my former declaration –

I acted as a private during all my service. In my first tour I was a private & substitute in the place of John Fishback.

In my second tour, I was a substitute in the place of Frederick Kemper, who was a private during said tour I believe I served 4 months –

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Benjn Morgan

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22.22 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 20 days in the Virginia militia.]