

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Morris His 2863

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/15/13

[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.]

The State of Ohio Miami County: SS

Court of Common Pleas September Term 1832

On this [written over and illegible] day of September in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas for the County of Miami aforesaid (being a court of record) now sitting Benjamin Morris a resident of Monroe Township in said County, aged sixty-nine 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 provision 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 sometime in the month of August 1780 early in the month in Botetourt County in the State of Virginia he entered said service as a volunteer for a term of three months in a company the name of whose Captain he does not recollect in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lockhart – that he was marched to Fincastle to the place of rendezvous where he with about fifteen others of the troops under the command [of] Sergeant Thomas Anderson were left to guard about 20 Tories who were confined in the jail at Fincastle – that he remained there in the service aforesaid until the expiration of said three months his term of service & was then & there discharged from said service. That in the month of February following in the County of Botetourt aforesaid he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer for the term of three months in the company commanded by Captain John Cartmill under whom the company marched to Colonel Ewing's in Bedford County Virginia the place of rendezvous, where they were formed into a Regiment in company with the troops from Rockbridge County, he does not recollect the name of the Colonel – but recollects that the Major's name was Thomas Rowland – the forces last aforesaid were raised for the express purpose of going to Guilford – from Colonel Ewing's aforesaid they went on horseback as far as Staunton River, where they sent their horses back, and proceeded to Guilford North Carolina, that he was engaged in two or three severe skirmishes with the British before the main engagement took place at that time the battle took place he was on the opposite side of Dan River, under the command of quarter master Edward Mitchell to guard the provisions in his charge, he not deeming it prudent to cross over with the provisions until after the battle, that he continued in said service under the officers aforesaid in General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army until his term of service expired, at which time there was a proposition made to the troops whose term of service had expired to volunteer – this request was made as he believes by General Greene's aid-de-camp – many of the militia did volunteer but this applicant having lost his shoes in a swamp and being unable to procure another pair was in no condition to serve longer or he would have willingly done so. That he was acquainted with Colonel Andrew Wallace of the regular troops who was killed at the battle of Guilford. That after his term of

service had expired this applicant returned home – to Botetourt County aforesaid in company with his Captain where he received from said Captain a written discharge and further that about the last of July or first of August 1781 at the County of Rockbridge Virginia on Buffalo Creek he was drafted into the service of the United States for the term of three months – that he entered the service aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain James Gilmore in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Lewis, Major William Long – that he marched in said service through Lexington, & across the South [?] Mountain [?] at Rockfish gap, Charlottesville & to Richmond where he and the Corps to which he belonged encamped & remained for a few days – from thence they marched to within about 20 miles of Jamestown on the James River where they crossed said River, thence down said River on the West side and recrossed the same at Jamestown; where they encamped, remained there a short time, & then went to Burrill's [Burwell's?] mill below Williamsburg where they remained until General Washington came with the main Army, thence he marched with the Army to Yorktown where he remained in said service assisting in erecting the batteries &c until within about a week of the surrender of Cornwallis, when & where he was discharged from said service I the said Captain Gilmore – that he remained at York Town until within 2 or 3 days of the surrender [October 19, 1781] and then returned home in company with his Captain – that he knew the following named officers in the regular service at the siege of Yorktown, to wit – General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg], General Lafayette, General Wayne [Anthony Wayne], Major Willis, and General Washington – that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to prove his services.

This applicant further states

1. That he was born in Spotsylvania County Virginia on the 4th day of June 1763.
2. He has a record of his age in his possession
3. That he lived when called into the service at the places where he has stated he entered the service – that he lived in Rockbridge County Virginia after the revolutionary war until the year 1808 when he removed to a place on the Scioto State of Ohio about 22 miles below Chillicothe – that he resided at the latter place 4 years when he removed to Mad River where he remained about a year when he removed to Miami County where he has resided ever since.
4. He has already stated how he was called into the service.
5. He has stated the names of all the regular officers who were with the troops where he served as far as he knew them and now recollects.
6. That he received discharges for every term of service which he performed, for 3 months each & that they are all lost.
7. He states the names of ____ to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

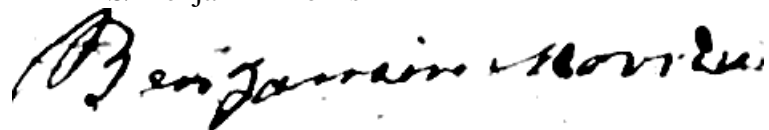
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

28 September 1832

John G Telford

S/ Benjamin Morris

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

[Thomas W Finnas and John C. Winans gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 12 days in the Virginia militia.]