

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Muirhead S30609

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/30/13

[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 Mississippi County of Holmes: SS

On this sixth day of June in the year of our Lord 1842 personally appeared in open Court Before the Court of Probate in and for said County, Henry Muirhead a resident of the County and in the State aforesaid, aged seventy-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 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: to wit: –

He first volunteered at least as early as the first of May 1781 in Landon County [Loudoun County], Virginia, under Major Clapham [Josias Clapham], who was Major of the militia of that County, his Captain's name was White, soon after joining Major Clapham's Corps he marched to Williamsburg; and joined General Lafayette, where he lay some time, when General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] came on, with 800 Pennsylvania Militia, all volunteers, if his memory serves him, and before any movement was made from Williamsburg, as late at least as the first day of August 1781 he received his discharge which was signed by Major Clapham, that he remained at Williamsburg over a week after receiving his discharge & the militia which was expected to come on to supply their places not coming home he started for home, and on the road home (in the lower end of Loudoun County) they met Colonel West (he thinks his Christian name was Thomas) going on to Williamsburg, when he was substituted for his brother Andrew, which occurred at least as early as the 15th of August 1781 – and he marched back to Williamsburg, his Captain's name was John Linton; – After Colonel West joined General Lafayette, say 3 or 4 weeks, in which his memory is not very distinct, we marched from Williamsburg towards Richmond, but hearing that General (Lord) Cornwallis was there we retreated; a day or 2 after which this declarant learned that Cornwallis was pursuing them, but they did not then fall back on Williamsburg, but took a circuitous route and for about 3 weeks maneuvered so as to avoid, but hearing that Cornwallis had encamped at York Town, they fell back to Williamsburg. Here they heard that General Washington was coming on, and in a short time after, an express came on for them to join him, as he understood at the time: but in a few days General Washington and suite [?] came to Williamsburg; – General Washington & suite went on board a vessel then lying in the River, and went down the River, for the purpose, as he understood at the time of conducting [?] measures of cooperation. Soon after which they took up their line of march from Williamsburg, and in 4 or 5 days (or thereabouts) they joined General Washington and the French Officers, some 10 or 12 miles from York Town, about 2 o'clock in the evening, and the next morning took up our line of march towards York Town, when within a short distance of the River they separated from Washington, he Washington, crossing the River a little above the town, and

they under Wayne (who commanded the left wing) & Lafayette (who commanded the right) were stationed at Gloucester Point. He thinks it was on the 6th day of October the action commenced. During the siege, the artillery never from incessant firing day and night, were so exhausted that 6 men (he thinks) were detailed from Captain Linton's company to serve the artillery of which number he was one, in which capacity he served until the capitulation [October 19, 1781], say some 4 or 5 days. After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, the whole of the Army, prisoners and all were marched up to Nolan's ferry, the prisoners were there divided, a part were delivered over the Potomac to the Maryland Militia, and part marched under guard to Winchester Barracks, but he received his discharge at Nolan's ferry, which was signed by Colonel West, as late in the year at least as the 15th of November 1781 – and this declarant then returned home, to Loudoun County.

As early as the 15th day of July in the year 1782 this declarant volunteered to guard the prisoners at Winchester Barracks and was principally commanded by Ensign Russell his Captain George Mason having died, and the Lieutenant (if ever) so seldom in attendance that the declarant does not remember his name; his first Colonel he thinks was Peyton, but sickness he thinks prevented his attendant; and they looked to Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel Lanscwonger [sic, John Niscwanger?] as their commanding officer, in this service he was engaged at least 6 months, and received his discharge from Ensign Russell, by whom he thinks it was signed, as late at least as the 15th of December A.D. 1782.

This declarant states that he was born in the County of Loudoun, Virginia on a quarter course called broad River on the 5th day of October 1763. That he has a record of his age in a family Bible, now in his possession, copied from an old family Bible in the possession of a brother's family in Loudoun County Virginia when on a visit to see them some 2 or 3 months after having met with the misfortune of having my house burned.

He was living in Loudoun County Virginia during the revolutionary war and when he entered the Army; after the war he moved to the North fork of the Shenandoah River, Shenandoah County Virginia, thence to Greenbrier River Bath County Virginia, thence to New River, Montgomery County Virginia, thence to Duck River in Hickman County Tennessee, thence to this state, now living 6 miles East of Lexington homes County Mississippi.

That his discharges were consumed when his house was burned, which occurred while he lived on the North fork of Shenandoah River in Shenandoah County Virginia. And that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. The declarant should have stated in another place, which he now does, that [he] aided to guard the prisoners from Winchester Barracks over the Potomac, previously to receiving his discharge.

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

S/ John J Williams, Judge

S/ Henry Muirhead



[Perry Bardwell, and Berry Nall, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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