

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Morrison S31269

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } SS

County of Union }

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Union County in the State of Kentucky now sitting James Morrison a resident of said County, aged seventy eight 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 made by the act off Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That in the month of March 1776, he enlisted as a soldier in Prince Edward County Virginia, in which county he was born and raised and then resided, in the company of Virginia Militia called the “minute service” commanded by Charles Allen Captain, Josiah Parks Lieutenant and James Allen Ensign - at the time he enlisted, he was discharged from the militia company to which he had previously belonged - that under the belief that their service would immediately be required and in order to have the men properly drilled Capt. Allen called out his company and crerused[?] them for two or three days at a time but did not leave the county of Prince Edward till the month of May or June when he was marched with the company to Manchester opposite Richmond where they were joined by other companies and Maj'r James took command — they were then marched to old Williamsburg, then to Little York, then to Hampton and Col Meredith took command of the Regiment, they remained there for sometime and there received and celebrated the Declaration of Independence — they were crossed over to Portsmouth opposite Norfolk where they remained till near Christmas where they were discharged and marched home with their baggage waggons and got home in the Christmas Holydays - he having been kept under the control of his enlistment from March till that time

When [Gen. Horatio] Gates was defeated and his army dispersed in the year 1780 [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug] the Virginia Militia returned home but were required by proclamation to rejoin the army — James Graham who had been in the Battle and had got home to Prince Edward County was unable, from fatigue and indispositions to rejoin the army as required by the proclamation. This applicant consented to take his place and marched with others from Prince Edward County Virginia to Guilford County North Carolina and joined the American Army in the company to which Graham had belonged the name of the Captain he does not recollect — Bryan W German was the Lieutenant of the company and this applicant with the company were generally employed in procuring forage for the army and were generally between the points occupied by Cornwallis and Gate's army [see note below] — he remained until the Virginia Militia to which he belonged were discharged the length of time he cannot state, but believes more than two months

In the fall or winter of 1780 in Prince Edward County as a volunteer he joined the Rifle company commanded by Andrew Baker Capt., Joseph Parks Lieutenant and Joseph Reed Ensign they rendezvoused at Prince Edward Courthouse where he was elected Sergeant by the company — he was marched with the company to Guilford North Carolina where they were joined by another Virginia Rifle Company Thomas Smith Captain — they were also joined by two companies from Delaware called Delaware Blues, one of them was commanded by Capt [Robert] Kirkwood - Maj. Williams (afterwards killed at Eutaw [Battle of Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781]) had the command of the four companies - when he was absent, Kirkwood commanded — they were kept on severe and constant duty between the army of Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and Cornwallis — Kirkwood one night marched the four companies to Cornwallis's army, took a centinel prisoner, fired upon the army and retreated [see note below] — he distinctly recollects that Kirkwood told them on the retreat that they need not apprehend pursuit, the General would suppose he was about to be seriously attacked and would not follow them that night — He remained upon duty until his term of enlistment which was for three months expired, which was a short time before the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781], was discharged and returned home

In 1781 at the time of the Siege of York, he again volunteered in Prince Edward County in the militia company commanded by John Holcolm [John Holcomb] Capt. - Lieutenant & Ensign not recollected, marched from Prince Edward Courthouse to Petersburg, were detained there some days and were then discharged upon being apprised that their services were not required at York

This applicant further states that he cannot find upon examination any of his discharges nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove his service and has no documentary evidence thereof —

that he resided in Prince Edward County till the year 1797 when he moved to Mercer County Kentucky and about the year 1780 moved from Mercer to the place where he yet lives in Union (then Henderson) County Kentucky

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State — He has no record of his age — he is well known to every early settler of this county having lived in Peace & Harmony in it for upwards of thirty years, and all his acquaintances can testify to his character for veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution — Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] James Morrison

NOTE: Gates was headquartered at Hillsborough NC until Gen. Nathanael Greene took command of the Southern Army at Charlotte NC on 2 Dec 1780. Cornwallis remained in the area of Camden during this period. Kirkwood's raid was actually against the camp of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton on Alamance River, 7 Mar 1781.