

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Morton S32411

PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Capitalization partly corrected. The document is extremely faded.]

State of Illinois }
Vermillion County Ss } On this [blank] day of November AD 1832 Personally appeared in open court the said Court being a Court of Probate in and for said County Thomas Morton a resident in said County Aged Eighty Years on the 29th day of August 1832 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. That he entered the Service aforesaid about twelve miles from Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania in the Fall of the Year 1775 An Ensign in the Company of Captain Elliot in the Battalion commanded by Colonel Culbertson of the troops commanded by General [James] Potter stationed at a place called the Trap twelve miles from Philadelphia. I was about three months on the above Tour. On a second engagement this declarant was called into the service aforesaid as an Ensign in the company of Captain Lee of the artillery was chosen by Capt Lee [several undeciphered words] rank for to assist in taking [several undeciphered words] Stratton Island [probably Battle of Staten Island, 22 Aug 1777] was engaged in the scrimmage from the beginning to the end of said engagement at Stratton Island aforesaid. This said declarant was commanded when at Statten Island by General [Arthur] St Clair[?], was stationed at Statton's Island between two and three months on the above Tour. Received the pay of an Ensign of the millitia and [two undeciphered words].

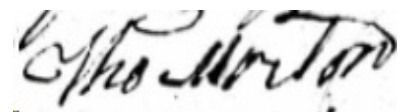
In the year 1780 the said declarant emigrated to the territory of Kentucky [part of Virginia until 1788] settled at the Falls of the Ohio [now Louisville] in Jefferson County Ky – was elected a Captain of a Millitia Company of Kentucky in month of September or October 1781 was called into service in the regiment commanded by Colonel Cox, marched from the Falls of Ohio to Chilicothe [sic: Old Chillicothe], under the command of General George R. Clark [George Rogers Clark]. Had some small skirmages with the Indians and drove the Indians from their town at Chilicothe returned home to Kentucky in the year 1781

On a 2nd tour of service this declarant was called out against the Indians as a Captain, in the sumer of the year 1782. Marched from the Falls of Ohio aforesaid, to New Chilicothe [sic: New Chillicothe, 10 Nov 1782] about thirty miles above Old Chilicothe, and had several skrimages with the Indians Drove them from their towns Burned and destroyed their corn and wigwams returned home to Kentucky in the winter of the year 1783. Seved about six months in the two tours above mentioned against the Indians. The said declarant was employed to cary an express to the commandant at Fort Vincinnes [Fort St. Vincent at Vincennes] on the Wabash when no other person would engage to cary said express. The performing of said expedition being very dangerous he had to pass through a trackless wilderness at his peril

He this said declarant served as an Indian Spy on the Ohio River and its tributaries about one year This said declarant saith that he rec a commision for the office of an Ensign from the proper authority of the state of Pennsylvania and that he this declarant rec'd a commission from the proper authority of the sate of Virginia as a Captain of a Millitia Company in Jefferson County Kentucky – this said declarant forwarded by mail his commissions to Mr Archer of Illinois for the purpose of making application for a pension for this said declarant and that he knows of no person that can testify to his services in the war of the revolution

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[Certified 5 Nov 1832]



State of Indiana } Sct

Warren County }

Personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace, in and for said County Solomon Stevens, who after being duly sworn according to law, Deposeth and saith, upon his sollemn, Oath, duly administered, That when he first became acquainted with Mr Thomas Morton, he the said Morton were residing in the County of Jefferson and state [sic] of Kentucky (now Jefferson County) In the A.D 1781 he made his home at Mr Morton's (I was a boy) and perfectly recollects of Mr Morton afs's rendezousing his Company s Capt and marching from the Falls of Ohio with the troops, commanded by Genl Clark, which were against the Indians, N. West of the Ohio River he this deponant boarded with the family of the said Capt Morton while he the said Morton was out against the Indians In the year 81 aforesaid, and still continued to reside in the neighbourhood of said Morton till the Spring of the year 82.

When said Morton was again called as Capt to rendezous his company to march against the Indians and staid with his family while said Morton were performing the aforesaid tour.

And further this said, deponant saith, that in the year 86, In the County of Nelson, in the said State of Kentucky, This said deponant vollenteered, and seved under the said Morton who was Captain of the Company that this said deponant belonged, to and he this said deponant, seved two or three months in the Company aforesaid, and that this deponant always heard that Thomas Morton afores'd was an officer of the revolution both in Kentucky and Indiana, when the subject were canvassed in company and further this deponant saith not

Solomon hisXmark Stevens

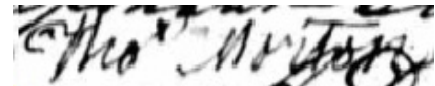
Sworn and Subscribed before me this 18th day of January 1834 John B King J peace

State of Illinois } Sct

Vermillion County }

Before me the undersigned justice of the peace in and for said County, Personally came Thomas Morton resident in said county, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith, That the discharge he received in the War of the Revolution together with his commissions for captain and Ensign that he rec'd in said War, Was lost as follows (Towit) That in the year A.D. 1815, He this deponant moved from Logan County Kentucky to the State of Indiana. He this deponant moved by water, his effects in a Boat. He descendend Green River to its mouth thence he ascended the Ohi River, and while ascending the Ohio River, In the Fall or winter of the said year 1815 The ice broke up, on the upper portion of the river and came flooding down. This said deponant was forced to run his Boat out of the river into the mouth of a Creek that emptied into said River The river then rose to a considerable depth and overflowed it Banks. This said deponant then run his boat further up said Creek, so he could get to it; he unfortunately run his boat upon some flood wood, that lay imperceptible in the bottom of said creek Then came a sudden freeze and froze the ice to a considerable thickness. The creek took a sudden rise owing to a great fall of rain, that fel in one night and the flood wood being frozen fast to the bottom of said boat the said boat was carried off; and his said discharge and commissions aforesaid, being deposited in a Trunk in said boat was destroyed with the greater part of my of goods; That the commission, that this deponant rec'd as Captain in the war of the Revolution was given to him from the authority of the State of Virginia AD 1781 or 1782 Signed by Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia [1 June 1779 - 12 June 1781] by virtue of said commission he served under George R. Clark as captain in the war of the Revolution. The Ensigns commission refered in my Declaration and lost as above stated, was given me by the authority of the state of Pennsylvania and signed by the acting officer for the state (the name of whom is not recollected) A.D. 1776.

And further this said deponant saith not
Sworn and subscribed to this 27th day of January A.D. 1834



State of Illinois }

Vermillion County Sct }

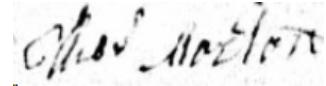
[The first part of this amended declaration is too faded to transcribe.]

Born in the year fifty two in Pennsylvania, Chester County. No record of my age here But had a record I suppose in Pennsylvania I was living when called into service in Cumberland County Pennsylvania I have

lived since part of the time In Jefferson County Kentucky In Nelson County Kentucky about seven or eight years, moved to Indiana and I settled in the County of Perry. From thence I moved into Vermillion County Illinois where I now reside.

[Part of this declaration may be missing.]

[undeciphered word] of the following named officers Towit) Capt Sturgus of the regulars Col. Sulivan [sic: probably Gen. John Sullivan] Col Adair Genl [Charles] Scott & others That I have forgotten I was appointed to Command the Spys from the mouth of Sandusky river to the now Town of Greenville and the Country thereabout I was the Capt or principal officer Commenced the above named service in the Spring of the year 1783 I served six months as a Capt of said Company as aforesaid. And futher the said deponant saith not.



Sworn & Subscribed before me the 2[?]th day of June AD 1835[?]

James Newell J Peace

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

To Thomas Morton Esq'r Greeting:

KNOW you, that from the special trust and confidence which is reposed in your fidelity, courage, activity, and good conduct, our GOVERNOR, with the advice of the Council of State, doth appoint you the said Thomas Morton a Captain of Militia of the County of Nelson to take rank as such from the [illegible word] of the Commission. IN testimony whereof, these our letters are made patent

WITNESS, his Excellency PATRICK HENRY, Esquire, our said Governor, at Richmond, this 15th day of May 1786

[signed] P. Henry

(REGISTERED.)

T. Meriwether

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

To Tho Morton ~~Cuthbert Harrison~~ Esq'r. Greeting:

KNOW You that from the special trust and confidence which is reposed in your fidelity, courage, activity and good conduct, our GOVERNOR, upon the reccomendat'n of the Court of Nelson county [in present KY] doth appoint you the said, Thos. Morton ~~Cuth Harrison~~ Major in the first Regim't. of the Militia of the said county of Nelson to take rank as such from the 16th day of April ~~May~~ 1789. IN testimony whereof these our letters are made patent. WITNESS his Excellency EDMUND, RANDOLPH, Esquire; our siad Governor, at Richmond, this 2^d day of September 1788.

(REGISTERED.)

[signed] Edm. Randolph

T. Meriwether

Note! for want of full information, precedency remains unsettled by me, pursuant to the order of the Executive, of the 20th of December 1787.

T. Meriwether

[Other side]

At a Court held at Bardstown [in Nelson County KY] on Tuesday the Twelfth day of July One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninty One Thomas Morton Esq'r produced this Commission and took the Oaths of office agreeable to Law

The COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA.

To Thomas Morton Esquire, Greeting:

KNOW you that from the special Trust and Confidence which is reposed in your Fidelity, Courage, Activity and good Conduct, our GOVERNOR, upon the Recommendation of the Court of Nelson doth appoint you the said Thomas Morton Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia of the said County of Nelson, to take Rank as such from the thirteenth Day of July 1790. In Testimony whereof these our Letters are made Patent. Witness his Excellency BEVERLEY RANDOLPH Esquire, our said Governor, at Richmond, this

nineteenth Day of October 1790.
(REGISTERED)
Sam. Coleman.

[signed] Beverley Randolph

NOTES:

Because the evidence of part of Morton's service was deemed insufficient, he was pensioned for only six months service as a Captain. A letter dated 16 March 1834 stated that he could provide no better evidence, because "his memory is gone."

A document in the file dated 8 July 1817 states that Thomas Morton had taken oaths as an Associate Judge in Perry County IN.