

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Morris S37261

MA Navy

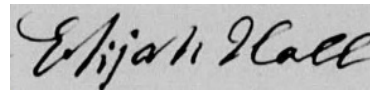
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

YORK, SS.} ON this thirtieth day of March A. D. 1818, before me the subscriber, Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the first Eastern Circuit in said Commonwealth, personally appears William Morris aged sixty years resident in South Berwick in said county of York [in Maine since 15 Mar 1820]], who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled “an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War:”—That he the said William Morris in the Month of July AD. 1778 at Brest, in France, was appointed a Lieutenant on board the Ranger, sloop of War, in the service of the United States, commanded by Thomas Simpson Esq’r. that he continued to do his duty onboard said ship as a Lieutenant commanding marines, from the time of his entering as aforesaid, until the said Ranger was taken by the British at Charlestown South Carolina in the month of May A.D 1780 [surrender of Charleston, 12 May 1780]. That he remained a prisoner until January 1781. That in November 1781 he was ordered on board the Alliance then bound to France, that he entered on board the Alliance as Lieut’t commanding marines & continued to do his duty as such until she arrived from France at New London in May 1782. That he carried dispatches from Doct’r [Benjamin] Franklin to the American Congress then sitting at Philadelphia, at which place, he resigned his Commission in the naval service of the United States.

(And in proof of the foregoing declaration made by the above names William Morris he offers the affidavit of Elijah Hall Esqr which is herewith annexed.  
That he is reduced in his circumstances and needs the assistance of his country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

I Elijah Hall Esq’r of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire, testify and say, that I was a Lieutenant of the United States’ Sloop of War Ranger, commanded by Thomas Simpson Esq’r. in the year 1778, & after until she was captured by the British at Charleston in south Carolina May 1780. That I well know William Morris of South Berwick in the District of Maine. That the said Morris entered the s’d. Sloop of War at Brest in France, prior to, or in the month of August 1778, to serve on board said Ranger in the Revolutionary War. That he continued to serve in said Vessel as Lieutenant commanding marines, from the time of his entering as afores’d. until said Ranger was taken by the British at Charleston South Carolina, in May 1780.



STATE OF MAINE.

York ss...At a Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the first Eastern Circuit, begun and holden at York within and for the County of York on the first tuesday of July being the fourth day of said month in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, before the Honorable Benjamin Greene, chief Justice of said Court.

ON this fourth day of July in the year 1820, personally appeared in open Court the same proceeding according to the course of the common law, having jurisdiction unlimited in amount, keeping a record of their proceedings, and having “the power of fine and imprisonment,” and being a Court of Record for said county William Morris aged sixty two years, resident in South Berwick in said county who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as

follows, viz. as a Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States on the Continental Establishment, as is more particularly mentioned and described in his original declaration, made on the thirtieth day of March A.D. 1818, and on which said declaration his Certificate of Pension, numbered 8,381 was granted. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed; that my occupation and ability to pursue the same, together with the number and other particulars of my family, are in fact and in truth as is herein particularly described, also subscribed by me. William Morris

SCHEDULE of the real and personal estate, (necessary clothing and bedding excepted) belonging to me the subscriber, viz: The right of redeeming my life estate in 7 acres of tillage land with a small house & barn standing on the same, under the incumbrance of a mortgage to one Joshua Roberts for two hundred & forty two dollars, being nearly or quite the value of said estate – The income of 2½ acres of land in common with Edmund Haggens, equal to the pasturing of one cow.

1 cow worth 15 – no furniture except the necessary articles for daily use, & those very old & much out of repair, worth perhaps ten dollars.

SCHEDULE of the family residing with me William Morris who, by occupation am a farmer which I am not able to pursue by reason of infirmity.

NAMES.	AGES.	Capacity of each to contribute to their support.
No family.		Wm. Morris.

NOTES:

For further details of the *Ranger* see *Memoirs of Andrew Sherburne: A Pensioner of the Navy of the Revolution* published in 1831 and Andrew Sherburne’s pension application S42275.