

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Morris S38236

f26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/17/09: rev'd 6/5/17

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Green County Sct.

On this 27th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Benjamin Monroe Judge of the Green Circuit court now sitting Jesse Morris aged 77 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, that in the year 1779¹ in the month of May he was drafted for three months in Surry County North Carolina and entered into service as a private soldier in the militia under the command of Captain James Freeman, Joel Dyer was Lieutenant, the Ensign he thinks was by the name of Reynolds [perhaps William Reynolds]; Captain Freeman he understood to be under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and in the Regiment of Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford of the Virginia Continental line]. That he marched under the command of Captain Freeman from Surry County North Carolina to Salisbury, thence to a town called Camden, thence to the River Santee about 30 miles from Charleston; General Rutherford and Colonel Buford encamped within a short distance of each other on the Santee River about 2 weeks, it being understood that the British had marched into the Country between the River Santee and Charleston so that General Rutherford and Colonel Buford thought it impracticable for them to proceed any farther towards Charleston the place of their original destination, after they had remained at their encampment on the River Santee about 2 weeks Colonel Buford marched for Salisbury but was defeated by the British at the hanging rock [Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] as this applicant then understood, from Santee River this applicant marched under Captain Freeman commanded by General Rutherford a distance of near 200 miles to a Town called Cross Creek, General Rutherford had been ordered to march for the purpose of securing a quantity of salt which was there before the enemy would reach that place; which was affected by removing the salt to Salisbury; he served out the term of three months fully and was discharged by Captain Freeman at Richmond in Surry County North Carolina but his discharge has long since been lost; his recollection, as to do date of this tour of service, is that it was in the year 1779 that he cannot speak of the date with certainty. –

That he again entered into service in Surry County North Carolina, to the best of his recollection in December 1779,² that he volunteered and entered into service as a private in the

¹ The events applicant describes occurred around the time of Charleston's fall to the British on May 12, 1780, not in 1779 as stated by applicant.

² The Battle of Cowpens occurred on January 17, 1781.

militia under the command of Captain Samuel Hampton, Oliver Charles was Lieutenant, McDowell [Joseph McDowell] was the Colonel, they marched from Surry County North Carolina to Pacolet River in South Carolina and there joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]; from Pacolet River they marched under the orders of General Morgan to the Cowpens, and there a Battle [January 17, 1781] was fought between General Morgan and Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] the British commander; and the applicant fought in said Battle which terminated in the defeat of the British forces about 500 of whom were made prisoners and placed under the care of Colonel McDowell who marched with them to Burke County North Carolina in which march this applicant aided in guarding the prisoners, in Burke County Colonel McDowell gave up the prisoners to other officers (their names not now recollected) and returned home; the officers under whom this applicant served promising him before he entered into service, that if he would volunteer and served six weeks he would receive pay and a discharge for three months, he accordingly received a discharge at Burke Court house from Captain Hampton for three months service but the time he was in actual service on this tour was six weeks -- the company he served in were mounted horsemen and this applicant furnished his own horse & equipage, he cannot recollect the date of this tour with certainty but to the best of his recollection it was as above stated --

This applicant should have stated, in order in which he served that he served, two weeks to the best of his recollection, in the year 1779, under the same officers, stated in the tour of six weeks, in a company guarding prisoners, at the Moravian towns which had been taken at the Battle of Kings Mountain;³ he was drafted in the militia to serve and did serve this tour as a private soldier on the occasion mentioned. The tour was performed between the first tour of three months, and before he started to serve the one of six weeks as stated before. His Captain was Hampton as stated before, the Colonel however, was not the same he was then under Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], after this tour aforesaid, he was discharged without having a written one & went home. In the year 1780, in the latter part of the Summer of the year he was called upon by Major Winston [Joseph Winston] who was a major of the militia of the County [Surry] where he then lived, to turn out, scout about & drive the Tories out of that part of the country, he did so, but entered for no particular time, Winston in this way raised about 30 men of whom he was one, and taking the command he scoured the country around to drive the Tories out of the neighborhood -- this was at the time Cornwallis with his Army was encamped at the Moravian towns -- after serving on this occasion under Winston, who commanded the company thirty-nine days to the best of his recollection, he was verbally discharged by said Winston as his Captain & returned home. In this tour he was engaged in the immediate neighborhood of his residence part of the time in watching & operating against the Tories, and the latter part of it he with the other man under Winston marched up, into what was called the hollows of the Blue Ridge, a place where many Tories used to collect together, that on this occasion they found no Tories; they had heard, it is presumed, of their approach and fled -- this was his last service in the revolution -- he has lost or destroyed all the discharges he ever had, and has no documentary evidence of his said service and knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services or any part thereof --

He hereby relinquishes every claim to any pension or annuity from the Government except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any state in the United States.

³ The Battle of King's Mountain occurred on October 7, 1780. Consequently, the services herein described must have been rendered some time thereafter.

The said Morris further states that he has a record of his age and by that record he was born on the 7th day of March 1757; that he was born in Fairfax County State of Virginia, when called into service he was living in Surry County North Carolina -- he was acquainted with few officers except those above named, he was however during the revolutionary war acquainted with General Washington and Colonel Armstrong -- since the revolutionary war he has resided in Kentucky and he now lives in Green County Kentucky -- he is well acquainted with the number of persons in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity &c and among them he would name James Sympson, James Headspeth, and William Sympson -- Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written.

S/ Jesse Morris, X his mark

[Enoch Spratt, a clergyman, and William Sympson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.13 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry for 4 months and 18 days and as a private in the cavalry for one month and 12 days, all in the North Carolina militia.]