

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Morphis S41884

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/16/09: rev'd 6/4/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 5]

District of North Carolina} SS

On this 14th day of May 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the United States, for the said District, personally appeared John Morphis, aged Seventy Six years, resident in the County of Chatham & District aforesaid, 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 & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" -- That he the said John Morphis, in the year 1776, entered the service, as Ensign, in Captain Emmitt's [James Emmett's] company, of the 3rd Regiment, in the North Carolina line, on the Continental establishment, in the war of the Revolution --

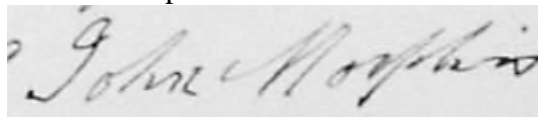
That he obtained his commission in Halifax in said District, & served as Ensign aforesaid about three months, and then obtained a Commission of Lieutenant in the same company, in the City of Charleston, in the year 1777, as well as he can now recollect; under which Commission he served throughout the said war, against the common enemy, partly in said company & partly under Captains Wood [Matthew Wood] & Granberry [Thomas Granbury] of the said line --

That at the end of the war he was in North Carolina, where the troops to which he belonged were disbanded, his commission of Lieutenant he has lost & his Commission of Ensign he now presents in a mutilated state --

He was in Charleston when the British made an attack on the Fort on Sullivan's Island [June 28, 1776] & he was in several skirmishes in North Carolina, but in no general battle -- And that he is in reduced circumstances, & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no evidence (other than that which he has offered) now in his power, of his said services, except by traveling a considerable distance for it.

Sworn to and declared before me the date aforesaid.

S/ John Morphis



S/ H. Potter, DJUSNC

[p 13: another application, this one dated June 30, 1823, given by Morphis, 81. The only fact set forth in this application that is not in the other applications is that he was discharged near Fort

Johnson in the State of North Carolina.]

[p 3]

State of North Carolina Orange County }

On this the 28th day of May A.D. 1825 personally appeared in open Court, held for the County Orange, John Morphis resident in said County, aged Eighty-three years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 & the 1st May 1820: that he the said John Morphis of the County & State aforesaid, entered an Ensign in August 1777 in the State of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain James Emmet, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Jethro Sumner in the line of the aforesaid State on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in that station for about three months, when he was promoted to the office of Lieutenant, in which office he served in the said Corps until he was promoted to the grade of Captain; and that he served during the War, when he was regularly discharged from service in the State aforesaid; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any State except the one aforesaid; and the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, that he was ignorant of any appropriation made for the aged & indigent Soldiers & Officers of the revolution, and that as soon as informed of it he made application, but owing to the informality in his declarations, they have been returned without effecting anything.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 18th 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

The following is a correct Schedule of the property belonging to the said John Morphis (to wit) 2 small pots, 2 wheels, one small Dutch oven, 3 sitting chairs, 3 plates pewter, 1 pewter dish & 2 Basons; that my Occupation has been that of a House Carpenter but that my age & infirmity has long since disabled me from pursuing that occupation; that the number of my family is four consisting of a wife who has been for many years in a state of mental derangement; and two little orphaned children belonging to my deceased daughter who contribute nothing to my support; and that no changes of consequence have taken place in my fortune since the 18th of March 1818.

Subscribed to by me

S/ John Morphis

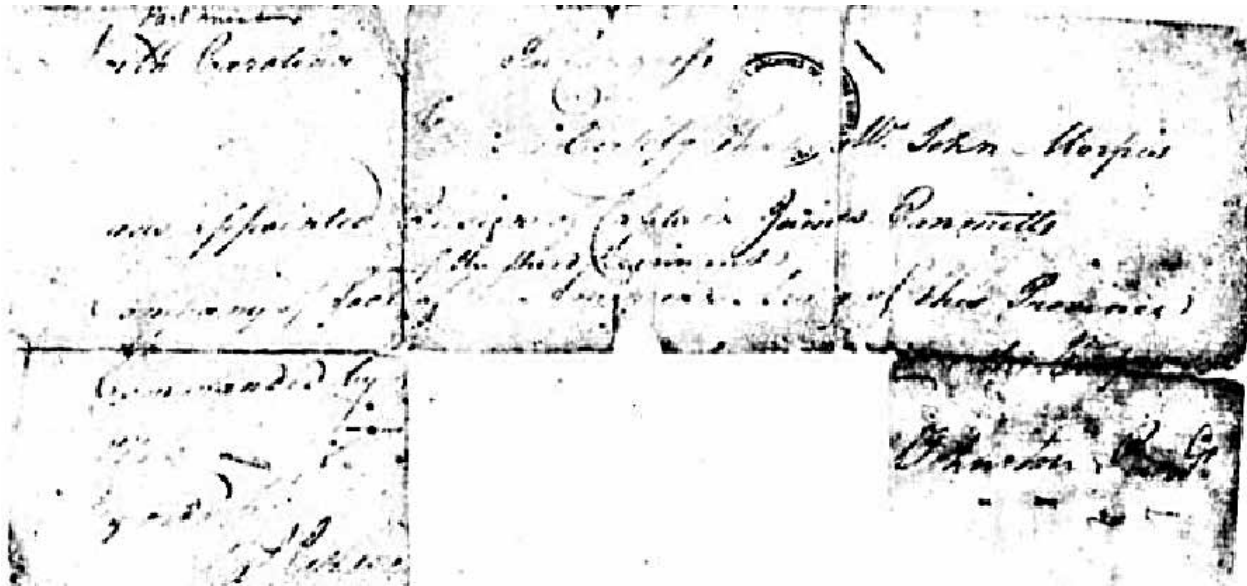
[p 9]

North Carolina

N. Congress

[illegible word or words] is Certify that Mr. John Morphis
am appointed Ensign of Captain James Emmitt's
Company of foot of the third Regiment of the American Army of this Province
Commanded by [text missing—paper torn]

[appears to be signed by someone whose last name is "Thaxton"]



[p 12]

Raleigh 16th of November 1824

Sir:

The name of John Morphis does not appear on the musterrolls of the Office of Secretary of State for North Carolina; but I see in the Journals of the Provincial Congress held at Halifax in April 1776 he was appointed an Ensign -- how long he served I cannot tell.

A few years past the Assembly of this State appointed a Committee to pass on such military claims for land warrants as should be laid before them, and such evidence was presented in support of the Claim of John Morphis an Ensign as induced them to allow him full pay for the war.

Very respectfully
your obedient servant
S/ Wm Hill

Jas. L. Edwards, Esqr.

[p 16]

State of North Carolina Chatham County }

This day personally appeared before me John Rosson¹ and made oath that he was well acquainted with John Morphis in the time of the Revolutionary War and that he is still acquainted with the said Morphis and that the said Morphis was an Ensign in the Continental service of the United States in the line of North Carolina in the said Revolutionary War that he saw him enlisting of men in the said service and also that he has good and sufficient reason to believe that Morphis was in the said service of the United States at the end of the said War and that he had been in the said service for 9 months at the least and that he believes for a great deal longer also that he believes that the said Morphis is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support further this deponent saith not

Sworn to and subscribed the 13th of June 1823

S/ Jas H. Rogers, JP

¹ [John Rossen S9093](#)

S/ John Rosson, X his mark

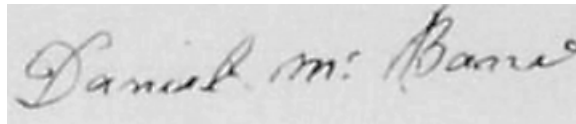
[p 18]

State of North Carolina Chatham County: Made the 23rd A.D. 1823 This day Daniel McBane² Personally appeared before me James H. Rogers one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County and after being duly sworn upon the Holy evangelist of Almighty God deposeseth and saith that he has been a long time acquainted with John Morphis that he was acquainted with the said John Morphis in the Revolutionary war that he saw him enlisting of men in the said service in the Continental line of the State of North Carolina and that he understood that the said Morphis was an Ensign that he believes that he had a Commission and that he is induced to believe from his own knowledge together with a combination of circumstances that the said Morphis are at this time in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support further this deponent saith not

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above written

S/ Jas. H. Rogers, JP

S/ Daniel McBane

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel McBane". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[p 21]

I do hereby Certify that Mr. John Morphis was an Officer in the 3rd Regiment in the Continental line of this State commanded by Colonel Jethro Sumner.

Given under my hand this 18th of November 1800.

S/ Matthew Ramsey, formerly
a Captain in the 4th NC Regiment

This Day came Osborne Dilliard before me and made oath that he saw John Morphis Acting as Ensign in Captain James Emmett's Company in the 3rd North Carolina Regiment in the year 1776.

Sworn to this 23rd day of February 1801

S/ Phil Mesoney[?], JP

[p 22]

State of North Carolina Chatham County

This day came before me Joseph Scurlock one of the Justices of the Peace in & for the County of Chatham aforesaid George Dismukes³ & being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeseth & saith as follows (to wit). In June 1776 I was in Wilmington in this State as a Soldier in the Service of the United States at which time John Morphis was there & had the command of some Soldiers & I believe acted as Ensign in the company that was commanded by Captain James Emmit & I understood that the Soldiers then were under the command of Morphis was enlisted by him. Captain Emit at that time was gone to Charleston & a short time after that I understood that the said Morphis also went to Charleston with the men

² [Daniel McBane W4735](#)

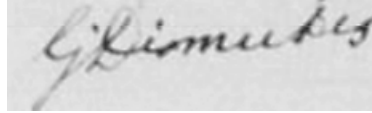
³ This MAY be the only record of this soldier's service in the Revolution as no application for a federal pension can be found for a soldier by this name.

which was under his command -- further this deponent saith not

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 16th of November 1816

S/ J. Scurlock, JP

S/ G. Dismukes

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "G. Dismukes".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing May 28, 1825, for service as a Captain in the North Carolina Continental line.]