

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Jonathan Morris: S41896
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

I Jonathan Morris, now residing in the borough of Washington in the County of Washington, state of Pennsylvania, do swear upon the holy evangelist of Almighty God, that I served in the revolutionary war against the common enemy from the month of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six till the end of the war as follows, to wit - I entered the service as a second Lieutenant under Captain Henry Hardman of Frederick town in the State of Maryland, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Griffiths, Gen. Beal's brigade called the "Flying camp". In that capacity I served about three months, when the corps was discharged. I then received a first Lieutenants commission in Captain Elisha Williams' company of Montgomery in the State of Maryland in the seventh Maryland regiment, commanded by Col. John Gunby of Gen. [William] Smallwood's brigade of the Maryland line. I continued in that situation till the fourteenth day of April in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, when I received a captain's commission which rank I held till the end of the war. At the defeat of General [Horatio] Gates near Camden in South Carolina [16 Aug 1780] I received two severe wounds and was captured by the British and continued a prisoner on parole till the war was ended.

I am now in the Sixty sixth year of my age, entirely unable to procure a subsistence, partly by reason of the wounds I received during the revolution, as I have before stated: and partly by reason rheumatic pains induced, I believe by exposure in early life. In the year 1812 I made application to Congress under the then existing law for a pension, which application was supported by certificates of officers and by the report of surgeons who had examined me touching my disability; and in the year 1818 a pension of ten dollars a month was granted me. I made a similar application to Congress at the last session for an increase of pension, on account of increasing infirmities; whether that petition was presented or not, I do not know. (For the proofs accompanying the above several applications I beg leave to refer the honorable Secretary of War) An act having passed at the last session of Congress providing for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war by which officers, under certain circumstances shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month provided they shall relinquish their claim to every pension heretofore allowed them by the laws of the United States. In compliance with the provision of the said act, I do hereby relinquish my claim to the pension heretofore allowed provided I shall receive a pension under the said act. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the sixth day of April A.D. one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. [signed] Jon'a. Morris

Washington County }
Pennsylvania }

On this sixth day of April A.D. 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Court of Common pleas for the County of Washington, aforesaid, personally appeared Jonathan Morris, Esquire, aged sixty six years, resident in the said County of Washington, 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 Jonathan Morris entered the service as a Lieutenant in Capt. Hardman's company, Colonel Charles Griffin's [sic] regiment of the Flying Camp of Maryland about the first of June A.D. 1776, and continued there for three months, at the expiration of which time he received the appointment of First Lieutenant in the seventh regiment of the Maryland line, commanded by Colonel Gunby (Smallwoods Brigade). That he continued to serve in that corps, until the fourteenth day of April 1777 when he was appointed a Captain in the same regiment. That he continued to serve as a Captain in the service of the United States and in the same regiment until the end of the war. That he was in the battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776], Princeton [3 Jan 1777], White Plains [28 Oct 1776], Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777]

and Camden, in which last battle I was wounded severely and taken prisoner. That he was taken first to Charlestown [Charleston SC] and afterwards to Edisto Island, where he was held till after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] when he was allowed to return home on parole. That he never was exchanged and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services. That his commission has long since been lost.

Sworn & subscribed before me the day & year aforesaid -

[signed] James Allison

[signed] Jonathan Morris

SCHEDULE

PENNSYLVANIA

Washington County, SS.

On this Sixth day of July, 1820, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the said county, Captain Jonathan Morris aged Sixty eight years, resident in Washington in said county, who being duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows: Served seven years and upwards in the Seventh Maryland Regiment, first as a Lieutenant, and afterwards as a Captain, under Colonel Gunby, Smallwoods Brigade, Made his original declaration on the Sixth of April 1818, and his certificate is numbered 2434.

And 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, 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 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. I have no property, real or personal, other than a G[?] and my fishing tackle. I have no family and am unable to procure by reason of wounds and rheumatism.

[signed] Jonathan Morris