

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Morris [Morriss] S7252

f27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/6/17

[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.]

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State of North Carolina Burke County }

On the 22nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting William Morris Sr. a resident of said County & State aged 82 years the 19th day of November next – who first being 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 7 June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

I first volunteered in my 28th year (he states he was born in 1750) in the summer season for three months under Captain Kemp [Jonathan Camp] (believes his name was Jonathan) & Colonel Charles McDowell in this County (Burke) (I then resided where I now reside), and marched down into South Carolina while on this tour was in the battle that was fought at Colonel Ned Hampton's [Earle's Ford, July 15, 1780]. We were attacked in the night by a company of British Dragoons & some Tories after fighting some time the British retreated but got what prisoners we had. Captain Kemp & Captain Kenady's [Thomas Kennedy's] Companies done the hardest of the fighting. Next morning there was a detachment ^{of horsemen} sent after them. Our officers got all the horses they could start & picked those men & started then in pursuit. I was one of the men picked out & sent. We pursued about 12 miles & overtook them. We had a skirmish [Prince's Fort, July 17, 1780] with them, we killed some of the enemy & took about 20 prisoners. They had about 20 of our men prisoners which they had taken before, they were all released in the fight or rather got away & returned with us to the Camp. I don't recollect the date but thinks it was in the summer of 1778 or 9 we done no more fighting till my term of service was ended. I was discharged near Pacolet River in South Carolina. I got no written discharge Colonel McDowell allowed me to come home eleven days before my time was out on account of my Wife who situation required me to be at home.

In the fall of the same year I volunteered for three months more to go under Captain Whitaker but he got killed before I got to him & Lieutenant Boyakin¹ took his place we marched to the State of South Carolina against the Tories. We had several skirmishes with Magerts [Daniel McGirt?] and Cunningham's [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham's?] Companies of Tories & upon one occasion we killed 5 of Cunningham's men on Pacolet River in South Carolina. We had a skirmish upon a small Creek that runs into Tiger River in South Carolina with a Tory captain by the name of Bright in that skirmish my Brother-in-law John Raburn was killed & one other of our company wounded. I served my three months out & was discharged by

¹ JD Lewis thinks this man is Capt. Samuel Boykin of SC. See, http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_captains.html and search "Boykin."

Captain Boyakin. I seen this discharge among my papers about three years ago. I have made diligent search since I learned we were to get pay for our services, but can't find it nor I know not what has become of it.

I next volunteered for three months under Captain George Walker to guard the frontiers against the Indians this was the next winter after I returned from the Tour after the Tories. We were stationed at the upper Fort on the Catawba River in this County near where Esquire John Burgin now lives. I served out my time at that place there was no fighting done & was discharged by Captain Walker. I don't think I got a written discharge from him. After this I was twice a volunteer to go to the Cherokee nation. We did not volunteer for any particular time but turned out for the trip be it long or short. The first time I went I went under Captain Daniel Smith one of the McDowell's commanded. We were only gone a few weeks. We killed a good many and took some prisoners & plunder. I killed one Indian Warrior myself & took another prisoner & brought him back to Captain Smith. This person led us on to a Town but the Indians had left it before we got there we got some of their horses & other plunder. The next route was under Major Joseph McDowell (afterwards General McDowell of Johns River) we were out about the same length of time & killed & took some prisoners & drove the Indians back from the frontiers. This ended my services. I got no written discharges from either of these officers when we got back to the settlements we were dismissed & each man went home.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or of any State [sic].

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Morris, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Burke County } September 22nd, 1833

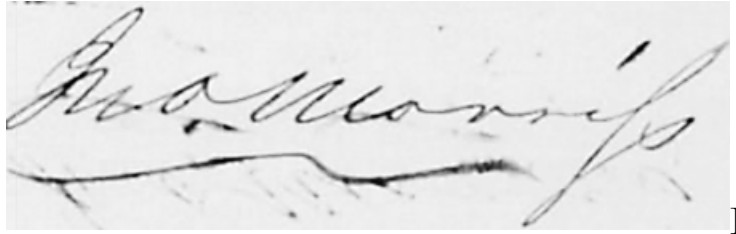
Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for the said County of Burke William Morris Sr. of said County who being duly sworn depose & saith that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise period of the war at which he served or as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the Grade of a soldier. His first service was as a Volunteer for three months in the year (as he believes) 1778. The reason why he believes that was in 1778 is that he thinks he was then in his 28th year & he was born according to the record of his age in the year 1750. He was discharged eleven days before his term was out on account of the situation of his Wife as set forth in his declaration.

In the fall of the same year he volunteered for three months more under Captain Whitaker, but he (Whitaker) got killed before he started & he was commanded by Lieutenant Boyakin who took Whitaker's place & served out the three months as set forth in his declaration.

My next service was under Captain George Walker as a Volunteer for three months which was in the Winter & Spring following (viz.) 1779 which service he performed as set forth in his declaration upon the frontier to guard against the Indians. After this I was twice a volunteer to go against the Indians as set forth in my declaration. I was 2 trips, we did not volunteer for any particular time but for the expedition. I was out as well as my memory serves me 28 days in the 1st expedition & about 35 or 40 in the last – both these expeditions were in the year 1780 – I therefore claim for 33 months tours except 11 days in the 1st tour & for 2 one month's tours making 11 months except the 11 days & for which he claims a pension. Sworn to & subscribed the date above written.

S/ William Morris

[p 25: Letter dated November 24, 1854 and postmarked from Wilmington North Carolina in which the author, John Morriss, refers to his father William Morriss [sic] as a revolutionary war pensioner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Morriss". The ink is dark and the paper is light-colored. The signature is written in a fluid, somewhat slanted style.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.88 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 20 days in the North Carolina militia.]

Another version

Pension Application of William Morris, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1772, Application #S7252

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

Burke County, NC, October 22nd, 1833, William Morris, aged 82 years:

“I first volunteered in my 28th year (he states he was born in 1750) in **the summer season** for 3 months under Captain Kemp (believes his name was Jonathan) and Colonel Charles McDowell in this county (Burke. I then lived where I now reside) and marched down into South Carolina. While on this tour, was in the battle that was fought at Colonel Ned Hampton’s. We were attacked in the night by a company of British dragoons and some Tories. After fighting some time the British retreated but got what prisoners we had. Captain Kemp and Captain Kenady’s [*Kennedy’s*] done the hardest of the fighting.”

“Next morning there was a detachment of horsemen sent after them. Our officers got all the horses they could start and picked these men and started them in pursuit. I was one of the men picked out and sent. We pursued about 12 miles and overtook them. We had a skirmish with them. We killed some of the enemy and took about 20 prisoners. They had about 20 of our men prisoners, which they had taken before. They were all released in the fight or rather, got away and returned with us to the camp.”

“I don’t recollect the date, but think it was in the **summer of 1778 or 9**. We done no more fighting till my term of service was ended. I was discharged near Pacolet River in S.C. I got no written discharge. Colonel McDowell allowed me to come home 11 days before my time was out on account of my wife whose situation required me to be at home.”

“In the fall of same year, I volunteered for 3 months more to go under Captain Whitaker, but he got killed before I got to him, and Lieutenant Boyakin [*Boykin*] took his place. We mustered to the state of South Carolina against the Tories. We had several skirmishes with Magent’s and Cunningham’s companies of Tories and upon one occasion we killed 5 of

Cunningham's men on Pacolet River in South Carolina. We had a skirmish upon a small creek that runs into Tyger River in South Carolina with a Tory captain by the name of Bright. In that skirmish my brother-in-law, John Raburn was killed, and one other of our company wounded. I served my three months and was discharged by Captain Boykin. I seen this discharge among my papers about three years ago. I have made diligent search since I learned we were to get pay for our services, but can't find it now. I know not what has become of it."

"I next volunteered for 3 months under Captain George Walker to guard the frontier against the Indians. This was the next winter after I returned from the tour after the Tories. We were stationed at the Upper Fort on the Catawba River in this county near where Esquire John Burger now lives. I served out my time at that place. There was no fighting done, and was discharged by Captain Walker. I don't think I got a written discharge from him."

"After this I was twice a volunteer to go to the Cherokee nation. We didn't volunteer for any particular time, but turned out for the trip be it long or short. The first time I went, I went under Captain Daniel Smith, one of the McDowell's commanders. We were only gone a few weeks, but killed a good many and took some prisoners and plunder. I killed one Indian warrior myself, and took another prisoner and brought him back to Captain Smith. This prisoner led us to a town, but the Indians had left it before we got there. We got some of their horses and other plunder."

"The next scout was under Major Joseph McDowell (afterwards General McDowell of Johns River.) We were out about the same length of time and killed and took some prisoners and drove the Indians back from the frontiers. This ended my services. I got no written discharges from either of these officers when we got back to the settlements we were dismissed and each man went home." William x Morris