

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Murphey [Murphy] S7260

f28SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 7/7/09: rev'd 9/19/17 & 6/26/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

The State of Mississippi Lowndes County } County Court January Term 1833

On this 14th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Lowndes County in the State of Mississippi aforesaid now in session, John Murphy [sic] a resident citizen of the County aforesaid aged Eighty-Six years and nine months was born in the year 1747 & has no record of his age 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 Congress passed June 7th 1832, SS that he resides in said County now, that he has resided here since he came from South Carolina, That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated,

The said John Murphy declares that he entered the service of the United States in York County, State of South Carolina where he then resided in the early part of the year 1778 according to the best of his recollection at this time and as a volunteer under the command of Captain Hugh Bratton and Colonel William Bratton to go on an expedition or campaign against the Tories in the back parts of South Carolina, That the Tories on the approach of the Whigs fled and dispersed and the Army in which he had enlisted returned to their homes. He states that sometime thereafter the precise time not recollected he was in Charleston South Carolina with his wagon and team when upon the reception of intelligence by the Americans that the British were about to invade Georgia under Colonel Campbell [Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell] he thinks, he and his team were impressed into the United States service and he and team were marched from Charleston to Savannah with the Main Army under the command of Colonel Moultrie [William Moultrie], that they lay at Savannah until the British under General Howe came in the Americans retreated and the British took possession of the place, -- This affiant states that after evacuating Savannah he was frequently and almost constantly in the service against the British and Tories until the British came and took Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] when his party and himself joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], General Sumter was defeated the next day after the defeat of Gates [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], the defeat of General Sumter he thinks took place at fishing Creek [Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780].¹ This affiant states that he was taken prisoner by the British and sent to Camden Jail where he was confined three weeks. That his wife prevailed upon the Tories to go his security and he was liberated on parole. He states he can now repeat the words of his parole,

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

it was as follows, "I John Murphy of Fishing Creek acknowledge myself a prisoner on parole to a detachment of his Majesty's troops under the command of the right Honorable Lieutenant General Earle [sic] of Cornwallis and I do promise that I will not act directly or indirectly against his Majesty's Government nor stir up others so to do, that I will not speak or say anything that shall be prejudicial to his Majesty's interest and will confine myself to my own plantation not exceeding one mile from thence until further enlarged."

This affiant states that he afterwards went to the Camp of General Sumter who persuaded him that no good man and patriot would be bound by such a promise, he then tore up his parole and joined General Sumter under the command of Captain John Henderson, Colonel Thomas Taylor. He states that he was at the Battle of Rights Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff] on Santee River where the British had a Fort at which the Americans were defeated [first attempt to take Fort Watson, February 24, 1781].² This affiant states he then got wounded by a ball through both thighs, and that he was not afterwards in the service of the United States, he has no discharge in form. He did not march through any other Country but South Carolina and Georgia, He knew Colonel Moultrie, Captain Craig, and others of the regular officers.

He has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any person by whose testimony within his power at this time he can prove his service. Some time since he applied to be placed on the pension roll as an invalid pensioner and then proved by his Captain (John Henderson³) of his being wounded, and forwarded his testimony to the war department. He states that the period of his service was about three years. 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ R. D. Haden, Clerk

S/ John Murphey, Senior, X his mark

[Jacob Crocker, a clergyman, and William Feemster gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 24]

State of Mississippi Lowndes County: Circuit Court February Term 1834

The amended declaration of John Murphy for a pension --

And now on this 17th day of February in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared the said John Murphey in open court and being first duly sworn maketh oath that the period of the revolutionary war when he served was in the year 1778, 1779-1780 and 1781 and the said declarant states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot now swear positively 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 following grades -- His grade was that of a private -- for the year 1778, not less than 6 weeks -- in the year 1779 -- the affiant has no recollection of having been engaged in any embodied troop but was one of what was called the minute men ready to go at the first warning; that in the year 1780 and 1781 he was actually engaged in the service of the United States the whole of said years until the first week of March 1781 when he got wounded in the thighs after which time he was not in the service of the United States anymore during the revolutionary war -- during his second year he was not engaged in any embodied troop. He states that the Captain John Henderson under whom he served and whose testimony his original declaration refers to as being on file in the war department and as taken on

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_1.html

³ I think this is very likely to be the same man as [John Henderson R4869](#).

his application some years ago for a pension as an invalid pensioner had at the time of taking the declaration to which this is an amendment removed some place in the State of Tennessee to him affiant unknown -- That he supposes the testimony of said John Henderson is yet on file in the war department -- That his said Captain in said testimony proved that he was a soldier and got wounded while in the service of the United States during the revolutionary war. This affiant states that his memory at this advanced period of his life he is extremely defective and in nothing more so than in precise dates. That he considered himself in the service of the United States the first year of his entering the service of the United States during the whole year having been one of the many men ready at any time to go when called and so included that year as a year of service in his original declaration to which this is an amendment. He does not now know nor did he then know of any person by whom he could prove his said services except his own oath whose testimony he could procure.

And in answer to the interrogatories propounded by the court in conformity to the regulations of the war department the declarant states

To the first interrogatory⁴ he states that he was born in York County State of Pennsylvania, that not having ever seen any record of his age he cannot say what day but he states that from the best account he has ever had of his age, he is now going on 87 years & will be 87 the 10th day of May next which if his information has been correct he must have been born on the 10th day of May 1747 --

To the 2. He has no record of his age.

To the 3. He was living in York County State of South Carolina when he entered in the service of the United States -- He resided in said County of York in SC until the year 1818 when he moved to Madison County State of Alabama and resided there about 5 years, he then moved to Lowndes County State of Mississippi which he now lives.

To the 4 He states he volunteered

To the 5 The names of some of the regulars whom he knew were General Huger [spelled "Eugee"], General Howe [presumably Robert Howe of North Carolina who served as the commanding officer of the southern division of the Continental Army for some time during the veteran's period of service], Colonel Moultrie

To the 6. He states that he has no recollection of having received any written discharge and thinks he did not that written discharges were not given if he did it has been lost or destroyed from the length of time and he can now give no account of it.

To the 7. The names of Persons in his present neighborhood whom he knows who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution he will name the Reverend Jacob Crocker, Mr. William Feemster, Captain Robert Doudle [?], John

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

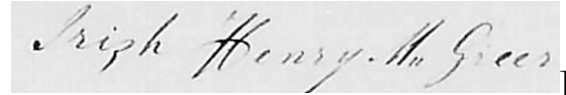
Williams Esquire, Mr. William Egger and he could name an hundred others who [he] is confident would willingly bear testimony to their confidence in his integrity to their opinion of his service as aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 17th of February 1834

S/ Wm Dowsing, Clerk

S/ John Murphy, Senior, X his mark

[p 28: Letter dated Oct. 10, 1834 from Irish Henry M. Greer contains the statement that his father-in-law died May 7 last; Greer makes reference to John Murphey having 3 daughters and there being some confusion as to the amount of money due Murphey at the time of his death.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irish Henry M. Greer". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The word "Irish" is written in a smaller, more compact script, while "Henry M. Greer" is written in a larger, more flowing script. The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the South Carolina militia.]

[Note: The file does not contain the affidavit of John Henderson or the earlier application for a pension as an invalid as referred to in the veteran's application. I searched the SC Archives to see if a "John Murphey" or "John Murphy" had petitioned the SC Legislature for a pension on account of wounds sustained in the Revolution and did not find any such petition. My guess is the earlier petition he mentions in his applications was filed in Washington prior to 1814 and were lost in the fires that destroyed DC during the War of 1812.]