

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

### **Pension Application of Josiah Morton S8898**

Transcribed and Annotated by R. Neil Vance  
[Original spelling and punctuation retained]

January 18, 2012      Source: Fold3 VA

Declaration of Josiah Morton

State of North Carolina  
County of Caswell

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County and State aforesaid, now sitting – Josiah Morton, a resident of the said County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, aged Seventy Two years on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December last. 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 - That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and Served as herein Stated. To wit, Some Time in the year 1780 (Very early in the year) the Declarant thinks, perhaps, in the month of January he was drafted in the State troops of Virginia, he this Declarant, at that time lived in the County of Prince Edward in the State of Virginia; and was rendezvoused at Prince Edward Court House; was there put under a Captain Cunningham, as well as he now recollects and was from there marched to Baltimore in the State of Maryland, There this Declarant was taken sick and was put in the Hospital and remained for about three months, with what (in those days) was called the long fever or slow fever when he had nearly recovered and the troops being about to march, this Declarant feeling himself unable to travel and undergo the hardships of the Camp and field in his feeble state hired a man whose name was Richard Epperson to take his place and serve out his time, for which he gave him Sixty pounds Virginia money. This Declarant then returned to his home in Prince Edward County \_ Virginia, he reached home, he thinks in the month of April of the same year. These facts are from recollection only and from the great lapse of time, and, the weak and debilitated state both of body and mind about that time, has so affected his memory that he cannot be as particular as he wishes to be. He this Declarant remained at home some four months, when he was again drafted in the Militia of Prince Edward under one Captain Thomas Moore, in a Company commanded by Col<sup>o</sup>. Florney [probably Col. Thomas Flournoy], and was marched with the Virginia Militia to the aid of the South; They met with the North Carolina troops, at Yadkin River some forty or fifty miles below Salisbury and were thence marched to South Carolina, where he joined the main American army under Baron DeKalb [Gen. Baron Johann de Kalb], after joining and reinforcing the American army he was marched to a place called Rugeleys Mills [Rugeley's Mills]. Here about this time, Gen<sup>l</sup>. Gates [Horatio Gates] took the Command of the army. – While at Rugeleys Mills Lord Cornwallis came into Camden, and he made ready for Battle; We were ordered to get ready to march in the night & to march as silently as possible and not going many miles before we met the enemy in the night and commenced firing. – We slept on our arms that night and the Battle [Camden, August 16, 1780] commenced early the next morning – which resulted in the defeat of our army – If Genl. De Kalb had have had the management of the action on that occasion the result of the Battle would have been different. – for he wanted to go back to Rugeleys Mills and wait for an attack, and be prepared to meet enemy – for which, Genl. Gates accused him of cowardice – In this action, Barron De Kalb perhaps the bravest man that ever lived, was killed – After the action we met in Hillsboro in North Carolina, where we were ordered to meet in the event of a Defeat. When this Declarant got there, (and he ran all the way) he here found Genl. Gates who had been there two or three days before - This is the last time this Declarant has ever heard of Genl. Gates, and he hopes this may be the last time he may ever thing [think ?] of his name - This Declarant thinks, as well as he can now recollect, that a Genl. Stevens [Edward Stevens] of Virginia had the Command of them when they were marched to the South to meet and join the main American army – After remaining in Hillsboro some four days, this Declarant was put under a Captain

Archer , and the troops that met at Hillsboro here marched under a Major Mazarett [John Mazarett] to near the Catawba River in N. Carolina, where they joined Genl. Green [Nathanael Greene] who then had the command of the army & was on his retreat into Virginia – Some short time after joining Genl. Green, This Declarant together with eleven others were taken out of the army and put under Capt Archer and sent off into Virginia as a press gang – to press horses for the use of the American Army – We were marched into Virginia were there six weeks in the Counties of Amelia, Lunenburg and Prince Edward where we pressed a Company of the finest horses we could find, and brought them on to near Dan River in Halifax County Va, where Genl. Green sent an express for them and relieved us and we were there discharged, by Capt Archer, and returned home; after serving a Tour of about six months or seven months as well as this Declarant can now recollect – He thinks he was discharged in the month of February 1781 some few weeks before the Guilford Battle [Guilford Courthouse March 15, 1781] –

Some four weeks after getting home in Prince Edward County Virginia, This Declarant was informed that the enemy were at a place on James River at a place called pointy fork and were very troublesome to the Country, destroying and doing all the injury they Could; Genl. Lawson [Robert Lawson] issued a proclamation Calling upon all the Citizens of the Country around to take up arms in defence of their Country and to drive them away – accordingly this Declarant Volunteered his Services under Captain Charles Allen and joining a Company or Regiment at Prince Edward Court House under Col<sup>o</sup>. John Holcomb, and Major John Overstreet, were marched to Pointy fork on James River, when they got there the enemy had left and gone to Hanover County, where we overtook them, and were watching and harrying them all we could, by cutting off their supplies, here we continued in the neighborhood guarding the Country and watching the enemy and following them from place to place, to Holt's forge and had a little picket Guard fighting, we not being able to come to a General engagement, we followed them to Hickory Neck Church, and from thence to Old James Town, Here we attempted to Harrass them as they passed over the River and made an attack on them; old Genl. Steuben [Baron Frederick William Augustus von Steuben] , and Genl. Layfayette [Marquis de Lafayette] , and Genl. Wayne [Anthony Wayne] were all with us here, as well as I now recollect, we were here repulsed and retreated to a place called the Burnt Chimneys – On the next day we were marched back and followed them until they got into Yorktown, and besieged them. Here this Declarant continued until his time expired, being employed in digging Ditches and preparing for the attack when he was discharged, he was discharged by a relief which came down only two days before the General engagement in October 1781 – after serving a tour in this Campaign of three months – He this Declarant was discharged by Col. Holcomb as well as he now recollects – His discharge he has long since lost or destroyed never expecting that this would be of any service to him; this the whole time which this Declarant served his country during the War of the Revolution, including the three Tours before Stated was Something like Thirteen months - Perhaps it would be well to state that this Declarant cannot be positively certain whether it was in the year 1780 or 1779 that he first entered into the army with the state troops of Virginia has he has before observed but thinks it was in 1780. And he would also wish to be understood that it may be possibly that in some things he is mistaken for he feels that his memory is treacherous and the time so great that it is almost impossible for him to be certain as to time and dates. –

This Declarant would also state that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services by, he now being in Caswell County in the State of North Carolina – and at the time of the Revolutionary War he lived in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia – He therefore has to rely upon his own oath, and such Testimony as he can produce of his being a man of truth and credit –

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state --

Interrogatories, propounded by the Curt to the applicant, and answers

Question 1<sup>st</sup> - Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December 1760.

Question 2 – Have you any Record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer – I have no record of my age in my possession now. – My age was recorded on the Big Church Bible in Prince Edward County Virginia and having seen it often, I remember it

Question 3d – Where were you living when called into Service

Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live - ?

Answer – I was living in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia, when I was called into Service & until some fifteen or Twenty years after the War, when I moved to the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina, where I have live[d] ever since and where I now live.

Question 4<sup>th</sup> – How were you called into Service, Did you Volunteer or were you a Substitute, or were you drafted, and if a Substitute for whom?

Ans. – The first two tours which I served I was drafted – and the last Tour, I Volunteered as I have before stated –

Question 5<sup>th</sup> 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?

Answer – Genl. Washington, Genl. Green, Baron D Kalb, Genl. Stuban, & others were with the troops where I served, though I cannot now particularly remember them all. I was very little with the regular troops and it is only the Generals that I can call readily to my mind – I was with Col. Holcombs Regiment & Col. Skipwith & Col. Tuckers Regiment of the Militia & others – The general circumstances of my service I have before endeavored in some degree to detail –

Question 6<sup>th</sup> – Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans - For the first Tour which I served, I received no discharge. But for the two last tours, I did receive discharges, the first from Captain Archer and the other from Col. Holcomb, both of which I have long since destroyed, expecting never to have any use for them. –

Question 7<sup>th</sup> - State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, who can testify as to your character for Veracity and good behaviour, your services as soldier of the Revolution.

Answer – Having lived long in this County and being generally Known, I presume any or all of my neighbours will testify and prove my character for Veracity and good behaviour. I will mention Stephen J. Chandler, John P. Harrison, & Robert Martin whose character are known abroad and whose statements I expect no person will deny. – I know of no person by whom I can prove services as a soldier in the Revolution, that live in this Country if any live at all, and have therefore to rely upon my own oath, and the character which will be given of me by persons known to me. –

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Josiah Morton  
his mark

Test Paul A Haralson Clk

[Usual testimony by Stephen J Chandler a clergyman and John P Harrison]