

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Murphey (Murphy) S9047

f38NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/31/09: rev'd 9/17/17

[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.]

[p 10]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

On the 19th day of September 1832 personally appeared before us Alexander Torrence & William Knox Justices of the peace, James Murphey, a Resident of Iredell County and State of North Carolina aged 85 years 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service as a volunteer in the capacity of Indian spy under Captain James McFaden [James McFadden] who served under Colonel Graham [William Graham]. And to the best of his Recollection he entered the Service in the year 1775. That he was in the Tour under Captain McFadden as an Indian spy for 4 months. That he does not recollect with certainty when he left the Service But that he always marched whenever he was called on. That he was at the Battle at Colstein,¹ where General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was wounded. That at that engagement he served under Captain James Byers. That he does not recollect the date of the Engagement. That General Davidson was the highest in command at that Battle or he that Colonel Francis Locke was also there as a commanding officer. That he was also in the Stono campaign² under Captain Graham [Richard Graham]. That General Butler [John Butler] was the highest commanding officer during the Campaign. That there were under him Colonel Charles McDole [sic, Charles McDowell] and Colonel Hugh Tenon [sic, Hugh Tinnen] and that he was at the Stono battle. That he was a Resident of Tryon County now Rutherford in the State of North Carolina when he entered the service as a volunteer. That he marched from thence to Charlotte where the soldiers rendezvoused for some time from thence to Augusta by the nearest route where they joined the General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. That he served with the South Carolina Continental Troops under General Huger and Colonel Pinckney and That he can prove by James Gillespie³ his service in the Stono Campaign and that he can also prove an 8 or 10 weeks Tour by Adam Torrence⁴ both revolutionary Soldiers -- as to any further particular respecting his services he cannot now recollect. That he was born in Antrim County Ireland in the year 1747. That he has no Record of his age. That he has ever

¹ Sic, Colson's or Coulson's Mill. July 21 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/colson.htm>. William Lee Davidson was shot in the stomach at this engagement. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_colsons_mill.html

² June 20, 1779 http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

³ This MAY be a reference to [James Gillespie \(Gillaspy\) S16827](#) of Mecklenburg County, NC who says he marched to SC at some point of the war.

⁴ [Adam Terrence \(Torrence\) S14663](#)

since the revolutionary War lived in the County of Iredell State of NC which was formerly a part of Rowan County -- where he resides at present -- That he received 2 discharges from the service one from Colonel Tinnen and he does not recollect from whom he received the other and that he does not know what has become of them. But that he served from time to time more than 2 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.

Test: S/ Alex H. McRee

S/ James Murphey, X his mark

[James McRee, a clergyman, and Rufus Reid gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13]

Personally appeared before us Alexander Torrence & William Knox acting Justices as aforesaid James Gillespie who maketh oath that he was a Wagoner during the Stono campaign and that to his own knowledge that James Murphey the above named applicant served during the whole of said campaign.

S/ Jas Gillespy



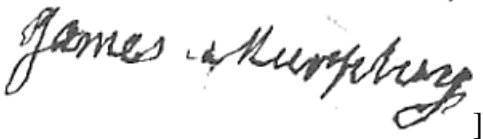
Personally appeared before us Alexander Torrence & William Knox Justices as aforesaid Adam Torrence Senior who maketh oath that he was with James Murphey in an 8 or 10 weeks Tour from this part of the Country to Broad River in pursuit of Tories -- and that he served faithfully in said Tour.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Adam Terrence



[p 16: On May 15, 1833, in Iredell County, NC, the veteran made another application almost word for word as set forth in his earlier declaration, with the same spelling (or misspelling) of names as in the earlier declaration. This application appears to be signed by the veteran as follows:



[p 18]

Personally appeared before Alex Torrence & William Knox, Justices, James Murphy who being duly sworn, deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the particular periods of his service, but that he was engaged in actual service for 3 years from the [time he] entered the service until he was discharged in the militia.

Sworn to and subscribed.

S/ James Murphey

[James Gillespie and Adam Terrence gave the same affidavits they had previously given.]

[p 31]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

On the 21st day of December 1833 personally appeared before us Alexander Torrence & William Knox Justices of the Peace, James Murphey, a resident of Iredell County & State of North Carolina who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service as a volunteer & a private under Captain James McFadden, who served under Colonel Graham, that he was stationed at a Fort on Broad River in Tryon County, from which place they made various excursions to watch & pursue Indians that he was engaged in said service for the space of 5 months, including the summer of 1775, upon leaving which he received no written discharge. That he was next in the Stono Campaign (as it was then called), that he was a volunteer and private in the militia, in Captain Graham's company, which belonged to General Butler's Brigade in which Colonel McDowell & Colonel Hugh Tinnen were also officers. That in said expedition they rendezvoused at Charlotte in North Carolina, marched thence to Augusta, Georgia at which place they joined the regular Army under General Lincoln, with whom were also Generals Huger & Pinckney, -- that they continued in service and marched to the vicinity of Stono where the Battle took place between the Americans under General Lincoln & the British, -- this engagement was in the summer of 1779, -- That he was in service at this time 5 months, which might probably have been half expired at the time of the Battle -- that he received at the close of his service a written discharge under the hand of Colonel Hugh Tinnen, which is now lost -- That he next volunteered as a private in a company of militia under Captain George Davidson, General Rutherford & Colonel Francis Locke were highest in command, in the spring of 1780 -- we assembled in what was then Rowan County and marched South with the object of joining General Buford [Abraham Buford] -- we entered South Carolina & found that Buford had been defeated⁵ -- that his service continued for the space of the month as best as he can recollect & was dismissed without any written discharge in May or June of 1780.

That he next volunteered as a private in Captain James Byers' company of militia -- General Davidson & Colonel Locke were commanding officers. He marched against the Tories, from Rowan, and had a battle with them at Colstens Mills [sic, Colson's Mills], when General Davidson was wounded. This was in the summer of 1780 -- That he performed a tour of 3 months service & received a written discharge from Colonel Davidson which is now lost -- That he then immediately entered as a volunteer & private in a company under George Davidson & Colonel McDowell & marched from Rowan to Broad River, against Colonel Ferguson & the Tories. That he engaged for 3 months & he not actively employed for that time was not discharged until it expired which was towards the close of 1780 -- That he then immediately entered under the same officers & marched on an expedition of the same time -- they marched to Broad River, thence to Burke in the Western part of NC to check the Tories -- were absent 10 weeks & at the close of 3 months, was discharged -- That he can prove by James Gillespie his service in the Stono Campaign, & by Adam Torrence, his last Tour of 10 weeks on Broad River. But has no proof of the rest of his services.

⁵ May 29, 1780 http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_waxhaws.html

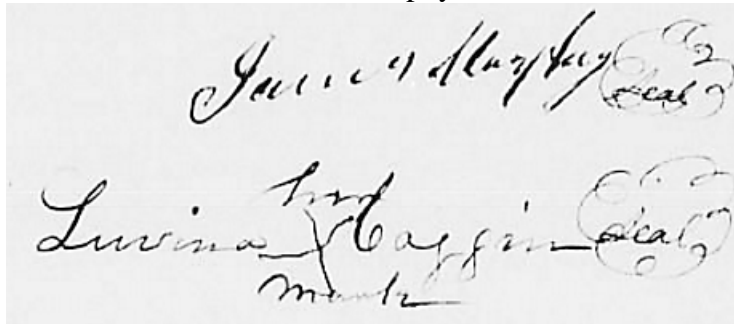
That he received but the 2 discharges, already mentioned, which are not now to be found -- & has no other documentary evidence -- he was unable at first to recollect, have upon reflection occurred to him & any in accuracy of the other declaration in this way occurred -- That by reason of old age and its infirmities he would not swear positively to the term of service as herein mentioned stated as to the length but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than those periods. That he always served in the militia as a private & a volunteer. That he was nearly always on some service or other which if it could now be recollected would make more than 2 years, but as his memory of it is so indistinct, he has not pretended to state it.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Test: S/ Geo. F. Davidson

S/ James Murphey, X his mark

[p 7: Power of attorney dated January 26, 1853 executed in Franklin County North Carolina by James Murphy and Lavina Coggin in which they state they all the surviving children and heirs at law of James and Rebecca Murphy, both deceased.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "James Murphy" followed by a circled "2" and a circled "1853". The bottom signature reads "Lavina Coggin" followed by a circled "1853". There is a small mark below the name "Coggin".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia for 17 months.]

[Facts in file: Veteran was married to Rebecca (last name not stated); that the widow Rebecca married a man named Pinnion, who was deceased as of __ ; that Rebecca was survived by at least two of her children, James Murphy, 58 (in 1853) and Luvina Coggin, both of Franklin County, NC and both children of the veteran.]