

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Massey Medaris [McDavis?] S9410

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/5/06 rev'd 5/4/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

State of North Carolina, County of Guilford

On this 20th day of November AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the court of pleas and quarter sessions for the county & state aforesaid (being a court of record) Massy C. Medaris aged Seventy Seven years and then was, a resident of the county of Guilford and state aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doeth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832—that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as follows—Some time in the summer of 1780, he became a volunteer in the county of Chatham in which County he then resided under Col. Littrell [John Littrell] & Capt. Richardson [William Richardson] and was marched from the barracks near Chatham Court house for the purpose of joining the Southern army under Genl Gates [Horatio Gates]. He was marched to Cole's bridge on Drowning Creek where seven men from each of the three companies under Col. Littrell [Luttrell] were detached to remain at that place and collect beef and provisions, and establish a store for the supply of the army. This declarant was one of the seven detached from Capt. Richardson's company, and remained at Cole's bridge till after Gates' defeat at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. The rest of his company went on to the South, and many returned as a company to his knowledge. After Gates defeat, this declarant and the company with him marched back in Chatham County to Ramsay's Mills where they were past under the command of Col. Ramsey [Ambrose Ramsey] & Capt Gregory. From Ramsay's Mills, he was marched by Col. Ramsey, down into the country of Wake & Granville with two hundred & fifty head of cattle and a large number of hogs which Col. Wade had brought on from SC. The object of taking this circuitous route was to prevent these provisions from falling into the hands of the British army which was at that time lying at Hillsboro. In the county of Granville this declarant to posting with the rest of Col. Ramsey's men was joined by Genl. Eaton [Thomas Eaton] with forces going to join the army of Genl Greene [Nathanael Greene], with whom he marched to the High Rock where he joined Greene's Army. From this place this affiant was marched with Genl Greene's army to the old iron works where he was discharged two days before the battle of Guilford [Battle of Guilford County Court House, March 15, 1781].

This declarant volunteering for the term of three months, but actually was in service at this time for upwards of seven months before he was discharged.

This declarant again entered the service of the United States under the command of Genl Butler & Capt Clark [Alexander Clark] shortly after the battle of Guilford. On account

of the British army having passed through this country and during this time of their continuance in the country the Tories became very much insubordinate, and committed a great many outrages. This declarant at this time volunteered for the purpose [of] resisting the Tories and putting an end to their outrages. From Chatham Court house he was marched to Crow's ford on Haw River. The Tories but a short time before had taken the town of Hillsboro, from which place they retired to Lindley's mill on Cain [sic, Cane] Creek. About two hours before day, this declarant marched with two hundred & fifty volunteers with him from Crow's ford to attack the Tories on Cain Creek. In this engagement the Tories to the number of seven hundred were defeated with loss of one hundred men & completely dispersed. The loss of the Whigs being only Seventeen. The success of this attack was chiefly owing to the skill and good management of Col Mebane [Robert Mebane] an officer of the Continental army, who had been previously taken prisoner by the British, and was about this time passing through that section of country to join Genl Greene's Southern army. Hearing of the intended expedition against the Tories, and being fond of the sport, he took command of this expedition which ended as above stated. Shortly after this engagement this declarant went under the command of the same officers in pursuit of a band of Tories who had taken Chatham Court house, and afterwards retired down toward cross creek now Fayetteville. At Rock Fish this declarant and the forces with him joined Genl Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] with fifteen hundred men, and was marched by him down into the low country where he remained for a considerable time in scouring the Raft Swamp, the swamp on Drowning Creek, the Brown Marsh &c. At a place called the Three bridges or Seven bridges, a slight skirmish took place with Tories and the light horse of Genl Rutherford. On account of the considerable forces of Genl Rutherford which very much intimidated the Tories, they were unwilling to encounter him so that no engagement of any note took place. This affiant was involved in excursions of [a] similar [sort] from the time of turning out as above mentioned till the end of this war, with the privilege only of returning home for a few days only.

This declarant was born in Essex County in Virginia from which place his brother after the death of his father moved him to Chatham County NC when he was quite young. He does not know in what year he was born, the family record of his age having been as he has been informed destroyed. About six or seven years after the war this declarant moved into the county of Guilford where he has ever since that time resided.

He never received any written discharge from service at any time that he has now any recollection of.

He is known in his neighborhood to the Rev. Travis Jones, James Nelson, Esqr, James McNeary, Esqr & Philip Jones who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the pursuant and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid

S/ A. E. Hanner, Clk

S/ Massey C. Medaris, x his mark

[Travis Jones, a clergyman, James McNairy [he is named in the affidavit, but did not sign the affidavit], James Nelson & Phillip Jean gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, County of Guilford

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for Guilford County in the State of North Carolina Massy C. Medaris who being duly sworn deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot 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

For 7 months as a private at one time

For 5 months as a private in another tour

and for such service I claim a pension

Sworn to & Subscribed

S/ Massy C Medaris, x his mark

J A Mebane JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the North Carolina militia.]