

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Murrah W1063

Lucy Murrah

f60NC/SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/2/09: rev'd 12/14/17 & 8/25/20

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 8]

State of Kentucky County of Logan Sct

On this 19 day of September 1832 personally appeared before me Tilghman Offutt a Justice of peace for the said County of Logan, and one of the Justices of the County Court, being a Court of record, for the said County, Joshua Murrah a resident of said County of Logan in the State of Kentucky, aged sixty-eight 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 7th of June 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: that in the spring of the year 1781 he enlisted in the County of Burke in the State of North Carolina for ten months in the company of Captain Godfrey Adams, that he marched with his said Company to Camden in South Carolina -- where he joined the Army of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], designated and known as General Sumter's State troops of South Carolina: that after joining the said Army at Camden, Captain Adams was considered a supernumerary officer, and the said Murrah with others was attached to the company of Captain Francis Moore in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Middleton [Charles S. Myddelton] -- the names of the Majors of said Regiment on not recollected, but said Murrah thinks that Major Buford [William Buford] or Major Moore commanded one of the battalions. The said Murrah recollects that John Adair, now a member of Congress from Kentucky, was a Major in General Sumter's Army, but he does not recollect the Regiment. The said Joshua Murrah further saith that he marched with the Army from Camden to the Congaree River, and encamped in Brown's old fields -- from whence they marched down the country, and having joined the Army of General Greene [Nathanael Greene], he the said Murrah & the troops of General Sumter were engaged in the battle at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781],<sup>1</sup> but said Murrah understood that General Sumter himself was not there. The said Murrah farther saith, that before the battle of Eutaw Springs he was engaged in a skirmish with the enemy just above the Juniper Springs [June 8, 1781]<sup>2</sup> & below Ninety Six, which place was then besieged by General Green [Nathanael Greene], the siege was shortly afterwards raised [Siege of Ninety Six, may 21-June 19, 1781]. That after the battle at the Eutaw Springs, he was engaged in a skirmish at Orangeburg with the Tories said to be under the command of Colonel Cunningham;<sup>3</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_mydeltons\\_ambuscade.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mydeltons_ambuscade.html)

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps a reference to an action at Hell Hole Creek in October 1781

having served his full term of 10 months, he was discharged in February or March in the year 1782 at Four Holes bridge about 40 miles from Charleston: The said Joshua Murrah farther saith, that shortly after he was discharged as aforesaid & came home to Burke County in North Carolina he again entered the service, in the spring of the year 1782, as a volunteer for 3 months on a campaign against the Cherokee Indians on the Catawba River: that he served in the Company of Captain Joseph McDowell, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph McDowell, and the Colonel and the Captain being of the same name & relations: that the troops serving on this tour of duty were divided & stationed on different points of the frontier for the purpose of protecting the inhabitants against the depredations of the enemy; and that he the said Murrah, with others of his Company, was stationed at John McDowell's on the head of Catawba River, where he served out his 3 months, and was then discharged. He farther saith, that immediately on the expiration of his last mentioned term of service, & without going home, he again entered the service in the summer 1782 as a volunteer for 3 months as an Indian spy in the company of Captain Martin Davenport, acting under the orders of Colonel Joseph McDowell of Burke County -- that he served as an Indian spy during said term of 3 months, on the frontiers of North Carolina on the Head waters of Catawba River, and was discharged at the home of Thomas Davenport in the said County of Burke. That said Joshua Murrah farther saith, that after the expiration of his last mentioned term of service, he again, sometime in the month of September 1782, entered the service as a volunteer for 3 months, to go on a campaign against the Cherokee Indians -- he joined the Company of Captain George Blair, who was Lieutenant of a militia company at home in the said County of Burke, but acted as Captain on the Campaign in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph McDowell -- Major Joseph McDowell (the same who was Captain in the first mentioned tour) commanded as Major in said Regiment on this campaign. General Charles McDowell was commander in chief of this expedition & Colonel James Miller of Rutherford County & Colonel Benjamin Herndon of Wilkes County also commanded regiments. The said Joshua Murrah marched into the Cherokee nation with the Army, which destroyed some of the cabins & corn of the Indians, took some prisoners & finding no enemy to make a stand against them, returned, and the said Murrah was discharged from the service at the head of Catawba River.

The said Joshua Murrah in answer to the interrogatories<sup>4</sup> prescribed by the war department saith: that he was born in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia, according to the best of his information & belief on the 15th day of March 1764 -- that he hath

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[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_hell\\_hole\\_creek.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hell_hole_creek.html)

or the action at Moore's Surprise on November 13, 1781.

[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_moores\\_surprise.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_moores_surprise.html)

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

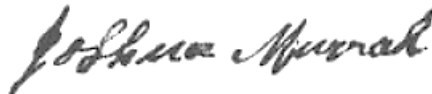
no record of his age, but what he has made himself in his own family Bible, which he took from the record of his age in a church prayer book of his father's which he believes to be correct. He has now no knowledge of that prayer book: That when called into service he lived in Burke County in the State of North Carolina -- that after the revolutionary war he removed from the said County of Burke to the County of Wilkes in the said State of North Carolina, where he lived until about 25 years ago when he removed to the County of Logan in the State of Kentucky where he has ever since resided & yet resides -- the 4th question is answered in the previous part of the declaration, -- that besides the officers already named, he recollects that Colonel William Washington was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs & was wounded in the action -- he also recollects that General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] of South Carolina, commanding militia, was at the said Battle -- that his discharge for his first term of service of 10 months was furnished to him by his Captain, & whether it was signed by any other officer he does not recollect -- that said discharge has long since been lost, the said Murrah's pocketbook which contained it having been stolen that he does not recollect whether or not he obtained the written discharges for the other tours of duty if he did they are lost. In answer to the 7th question he names Fielding Gatewood, Henry P. Brodnax, Thomas Gunn a preacher of the Gospel, John Littlejohn likewise a preacher of the Gospel, Richard Bibb Junior & Senior, John Bibb, Gabriel Lewis & his neighbors and general -- any of whom he is willing may be called on.

The said Joshua Murrah furthers saith, that he has now no documentary evidence of his service & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service in the 3 last mentioned tours of 3 months each, and no person who can testify as to his service in the first mentioned tour of 10 months except Leonard West,<sup>5</sup> whose testimony is taken and accompanies this Declaration. The said Joshua Murrah 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 & year aforesaid before me.

S/ Tiln. Offutt, JP

S/ Joshua Murrah



[Thomas M. Smith, a clergyman, and Henry P. Brodnax gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Kentucky, Logan County Sct

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Leonard West & made oath, that he, the said Leonard West, served as a soldier in the Army of the revolution, having joined the company of Captain Godfrey Adams in the State of North Carolina; that he marched with his said company to Camden in South Carolina where he joined the Army of General Sumpter; that after joining the Army of General Sumpter at Camden, he became acquainted personally with Joshua Murrah, now of Logan County, Kentucky, who belonged to & served in the same Company; that after reaching Camden, Captain Adams was considered a supernumerary officer, & he, the said Leonard West, and also the said Joshua Murrah, were attached to the company of Captain Francis Moore in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Middleton. The said Leonard West further maketh oath, that he

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<sup>5</sup> [Leonard West S16574](#)

served in the said Company 10 months, the term of his enlistment, and that said Joshua Murrah likewise served during the time aforesaid of 10 months. The said West recollects said Murrah the more distinctly, because they frequently messed together during the said term of service. He further states, on oath, that after having served out the said term, they were discharged at Four hole bridge about 40 miles above Charleston or at New Market, the affiant cannot be positive which in February or March 1782. The Army to which they belonged was designated as General Sumpter's State troops of South Carolina.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 3rd September 1832.

S/ Leonard West



S/ Wm H. Wilson, JP

[p 15: On December 1, 1838 in Robertson County Tennessee, Lucy Murrah, 68 (to be 69 on June 19 next) filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Joshua Murrah, a pensioner at the rate of \$66 per annum; that he departed this life on July 12, 1835. She signed her application with her mark.

[p 52 On July 13, 1839, Lucy Murrah filed an amended application in Robertson County, Tennessee in which she states her husband died July 12, 1836; that the age of her "first born, William Murrah was just 9 months and 6 days after we was married Therefore now we was married November the 29<sup>th</sup> in the year of our Lord 1786.]

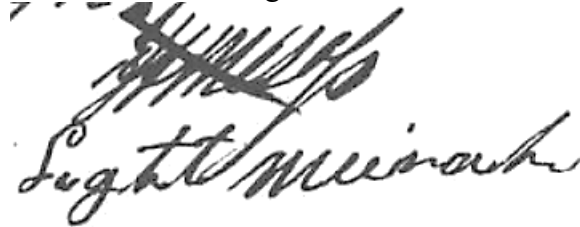
[p 53]

Roberson [sic] County State of Tennessee: Personally appeared before me Benjamin Gambrel a Justice of the peace in and for the said County James Doss & Light Murrah after being duly sworn according to law deposeth [and] saith That the foregoing is a true and exact transcript of the family record of Joshua Murrah Deceased a revolutionary Soldier & pensioner and now in the possession of Lucy Murrah the within applicant for a pension and is as follows – The D} Joshua Murrah was Born the 15 day of March 1764 his wife} Lucy Murrah was Born the 19th day of June in the year of our Lord 1771} There [indecipherable word] born} William Murrah was Born 5th of September in the year of our Lord 1787 Nancy Murrah was Born on February 20th in the year while Lord 1788 Margaret E. Murrah was Born the 9th of January the year of our Lord 1790 Sally Murrah was Born December the 15th in the year while Lord 1791 Joshua Murrah was born in the year while Lord 1793 the 31st of September All Murrah Deceased was born 2nd of December in the year of our Lord 1795 Jane Murrah was born September the 19th in the year while Lord 1798 Emanuel Murrah was Born the 14th of March in the year while Lord 1799 Joseph Murrah was born January 28 in the year of our Lord 1801 Jeremiah Murrah was born February 13 in the year while Lord 1803 John B. Murrah was born the 24 day of April in the year while Lord 1805 Abraham Murrah was born the 30th day of March in the year while Lord 1807 Light Murrah was born 29 of December in the year of our Lord 1808 Lucy Murrah was born 29th of March in the year while Lord 1810 Robert J. M. Murrah was born 29 of March in the year of our Lord 1812 -- In the same Big Bible we see the Death of the said Joshua Murrah recorded by his son Joshua Executor to have deceased on July the 12th 1836 aged 72 years 3 months and 27 days the deponent further saith not. Sworn to and subscribed before me the 13th of July 1839.

S/ Benjamin Gambell, JP

S/ J. Doss

S/ Light Murrah

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Light Murrah". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background. There is a faint, larger, and less legible signature above it, possibly a crossed-out one.

[Light Murrah testifies that the Bible record is in the hand writing of his father Joshua Murrah.]

[pp 5-7 transcription of the family record cited above with the following additional information:

Grandchildren

Robert Murrah was born the 31st day of March in the year while Lord 1828

Light Murrah was born the 19th day of January in the year while Lord 1829

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$63.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 19 months in the South Carolina and North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]