

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Murphey W1460

Mary Murphey

f72NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/7/09: rev'd 9/19/17

[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 5]

State of Tennessee County of Claiborne

On this 18th day of September in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions, for the County of Claiborne in the State of Tennessee (the same being a Court of Record) now sitting John Murphey, a resident of Jefferson County in the State of Tennessee aged seventy-two years who being first duly sworn according to law, on his oath doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the County of Caswell in the State of North Carolina about the last day of May or the first day of June 1780 he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer, in the militia service, for 3 months, and served 3 months and was honorably discharged. He entered the service under the following field Officers, to wit, General Butler [John Butler], Col. Collier [John Collier] and the following Company Officers, to wit, Capt. John Graves [John Herndon Graves] & Lieut. Major Lea,¹ who is yet alive and whose deposition in relation to declarant's service is herewith exhibited. That at the time of his entering this service he was a resident of Caswell County in the State of North Carolina. This declarant states that he was marched, from the place last aforesaid into the State of South Carolina, and was engaged in the battle fought at Camden, known as Gates [Horatio Gates] defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]² -- in the month of August 1780, and he was afterward on or about, the first day of September 1780 honorably discharged from said service at the Court house in Caswell County in the State of North Carolina by Capt. Graves -- which discharge your declarant states, has long since been lost or destroyed. In a few days after he was discharged as aforesaid, he again, being a resident of said County of Caswell, entered the service as a volunteer (this was about the first of September 1780) under the following Company Officers, to wit, David Mitchell Capt., the name of his Lieut. he cannot recollect, there was no Ensign to said Company, Col. Williams³ was the only field Officer that he can recollect. He states that this

¹ [Major Lea S1549](#)

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

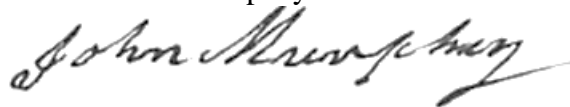
³ Col. James Williams (1740-1780) of South Carolina had received \$25,000 from the State of NC to recruit men in Caswell and surrounding Counties to fight forces under the command of Lt. Col. Patrick Ferguson. He served as a captain under Maj. Andrew Williamson in the First Battle of Ninety Six and rose through the ranks to become the colonel in command of the Little River Regiment of Whig militia. After the fall of Charleston, he challenged Sumter for command of the South Carolina backcountry militia but died from wounds sustained at King's Mountain. His death prevented a showdown between Williams and Sumter to succeed Williamson as commander of the backcountry militia. William T. Graves. *Backcountry Revolutionary: James Williams (1740-1780) with source documents*. Lugoff, South Carolina, Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution Press, 2012

service was for two months and a half, was designed against the British and Tories under the Command of Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] at Kings Mountain and was marched direct from Caswell County to that battle [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780] though this declarant was not in that battle, as he was at the time of the battle and for some time before and after the same sick, this declarant continued in this service for two months and a half after the battle of Kings Mountain, he was engaged in guarding the prisoners taken at the battle until the expiration of his term of service, when he was honorably discharged by Capt. David Mitchell, which discharge he has lost. He states that he performed this tour in the horse service, and he also is herewith the deposition of Harmon Hopper⁴ in proof of said service -- he states that he left the service, in the latter part of the month of November 1780, the day of the month he cannot recollect. Afterwards, he entered the service of the United States, still residing in said Caswell County, in the State of North Carolina, on or about the first day of January 1781 as a mounted volunteer for 3 months -- under the following field & Company officers, to wit, Capt. John McMullen⁵ there was another Company officer -- Col. William Moore was his field Officer in this service, he was associated for about 10 weeks with Cols. Lee [Henry [”Light Horse Harry”] Lee] and Washington [William Washington], and their Dragoons, and was marched from the lower part of North Carolina & some part of Virginia, and at the expiration of 10 weeks he was placed in the infantry service, attached to a Company commanded by Capt. Robert Parks -- where he served out the remainder of his 3 months and on or about the first day of April 1781 he was honorably discharged from the service by Capt. Robert Parks [Robert Park], in Caswell County at the Court house -- his discharge for this service he has lost -- for proof of this service he refers to the deposition of Harmon Hopper. He states he was born in Culpeper County, State of Virginia on the 24th day of January 1760, he has a record of his age at his -- since the revolutionary war he resided in North Carolina, till the year 1797 [could be 1791] -- when he moved to East Tennessee where he has since resided, he now lives in Jefferson County in said in East Tennessee. He has no documentary evidence to prove his Services as above stated. Harmon Hopper & Major Lea of Williams County are living witnesses, by whom he can prove the above services. In the above services in addition to the battle of Gates defeat he was in a battle at a place called Alamants [sic, Alamance] on a branch of Haw River North Carolina,⁶ and also, at a battle at a place called the Reedy fork of Haw River in Guilford County NC. He was also at the Battle at Whitsel's mill [sic, Weitzell's Mill]⁷ in Guilford County North Carolina. During his Service he was acquainted with the following regular officers, to wit, Colonels Lee & Washington, Generals Greene[Nathanael Greene], Gates & Marion [Francis Marion] and with the Baron DeKalb. He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & states that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year first above

S/ Benj. F. Cloud, Clerk

S/ John Murphey



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⁴ [Harmon \(Harman\) Hopper W252](#)

⁵ [John McMullin \(McMullen\) W4287](#)

⁶ This MAY be a reference to the engagement known as Pyle's Defeat. February 215, 1781.

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/pyles.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_haw_river.html

⁷ March 6, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/weitzell.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html

State of Tennessee Claiborne County

Be it remembered that upon the 17th day of September in the year of our Lord 1832, came Major Lea, of the County and State aforesaid, aged 90 years before the undersigned a Justice of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County in the State aforesaid (the same being a Court of Record) at the house of the said Major Lea, (he being too aged and infirm to go to the Court house in said County) and being first duly sworn upon the Holy evangelist of Almighty God deposeseth and saith -- That he is aged 90 years in the month of August past, that owing to his great age and infirmity he is unable to go to the Court house in his County, that he is well acquainted with John Murphey of the County in the State aforesaid. That during the revolutionary war he was engaged in the service of the United States, as a volunteer, in the Militia service of the United States of America, from the State of North Carolina -- and that he acted as a Lieut. in a company of volunteers, commanded by Capt. John Graves in the Regiment (the number not recollected) commanded by Col. Collier -- under the command of General Butler -- in this service he was engaged 3 months -- going from Caswell County in the State of North Carolina in the year 1780, he was engaged in the service during the battle near Camden in which General Gates and the American forces under his command were defeated by the British & Tories. And he further states that the said John Murphey served in his Company, during the said 3 months tour of duty as a private soldier, and that the said John Murphey was honorably discharged from said service.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year first above written.

S/ Wm Harris, JP

S/ Major Lea, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Claiborne County} SS

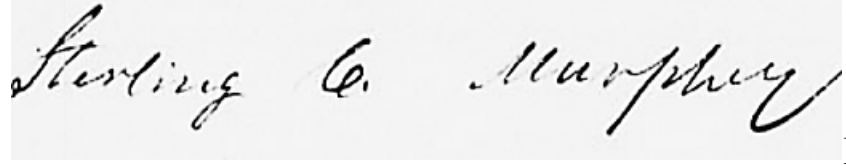
Be it remembered that upon this 18th day of September in the year of our Lord 1832, came Harman Hopper, of the County and State aforesaid, into open Court (the same being a Court of Record) for the County and State aforesaid, at the Court house in Tazewell in said County, And being first duly sworn upon the holy evangelist of Almighty God deposeseth and saith -- That he is aged about 72 years last April, that he is well acquainted with John Murphey of the County in the State aforesaid. That during the revolutionary war he was engaged in the service of the United States as a volunteer in the militia -- of the United States of America from the State of North Carolina -- And that he acted as a private soldier in the company of volunteers commanded by John McMullen in the Regiment commanded by Col. William Moore under the command of General ~~Greene~~ __-- in this service he was engaged 3 months -- that he and the said John Murphey did not serve this tour in the same company but that they knew each other. And he further states that the said John Murphey served at the same time in the same Army during the said 3 months tour of duty as a private soldier. And the said Harman Hopper further deposeseth and saith that he was afterwards engaged in the service of the United States of America 2 tours of 3 months each as a private in the Regiment of __ commanded by Col. Moore, General Butler and in the company commanded by Capt. Dickson [sic, possibly Tilghman Dixon of Caswell County] and that the said John Murphey was also again engaged in the service as a volunteer for a tour of 2 months and a half (which was about the first of September 1780). That the said John Murphey served under the following Company officers to wit, David Mitchell Capt. -- and that the service of the said John Murphey was performed in the cavalry.

That after which the said John Murphey entered the Service of the United States, on or about the first day of January 1781 as a mounted volunteer for 3 months -- that this term of service was faithfully performed by said John Murphey. And that the said John Murphey was honorably discharged from the service at the end of each tour named in this deposition -- And

that the last mentioned tour he served in the same Company with the said John Murphey.
Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year first above written.
S/ Benj. F. Cloud, Clerk

S/ Harman Hopper, X his mark

[p 38: In a letter dated June 15, 1841 postmarked from New Market, Sterling C Murphey states that Mary Murphy married John Murphey on September 4, 1754 and would have been married 47 years had he lived until the next September; and that they were married in Caswell County North Carolina. His relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sterling C. Murphey". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first name "Sterling" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, followed by "C." and "Murphey". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border, with a closing bracket "]" at the bottom right corner.

[p 9: On November 2, 1843 in Jefferson County Tennessee, Mrs. Mary Murphy [sic], 78, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of John Murphey stating that she married him September 4, 1784; that her husband died February 16 1839; and that she has remained his widow ever since his death. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12: On April 2nd, 1855 in Jefferson County Tennessee, Nancy Daily, 55, filed a claim stating that she is the daughter of John Murphey, a pensioner at the rate of \$28.33 per annum; that her father was entitled to an increase in his pension prior to his death and she seeks the arrears due him under the 1832 act. She states that her mother Mary Murphey died in New Market in Jefferson County Tennessee September 9, 1848, survived by the following children William Murphy, a resident of Claiborne Tennessee, Abraham Murphy a resident of Johnson County Tennessee, Sara Goings, a resident of Jefferson County Tennessee [and presumably Nancy Daily herself although not named]. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 ½ months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

[Facts in file: John Murphey married Mary Fitch in Caswell County, NC according to an affidavit given by William Hooper, 68, a resident of Claiborne County Tennessee in November 1843.]