

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Morrison W17171

Sarah Morrison

f41NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/20/09: rev'd 6/7/17

[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 8]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

On this 28th day of August in the year of our Lord 1832, I Samuel King one of the Justices of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid attended at the residence of John Morrison, in the County and State aforesaid, who from the record of his Bible was born on the 11th day of November in the year 1743: and from his advanced age (now near 89) is so feeble, infirm & imbuile [?], that he is unable to attend at the County Court where he now resides: and whose infirmity is such that his recollection is too indistinct to give a satisfactory statement of the services he has rendered; but it is believed that his declaration is such that he can claim the benefit of the provision, made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered into the service as a volunteer in the year 1777 or thereabouts, in a volunteer Company commanded by Captain Knox, which expedition was not under the command of any Brigade, or Regiment, but was entered into for the purpose of affording protection to the inhabitants living on the head of the Catawba River now Burke County, in the State aforesaid against the incursions of the Indians, and it is not believed embraced more than one month. -- the second tour of service commenced as well as can be recollected in July 1777, as a volunteer in the Brigade commanded by General Griffith Rutherford of the Militia of North Carolina the Colonel's name not recollected -- Captain James Purviance commanded the Company. He was then after passing the Catawba River principally in the Western part of North Carolina, and exclusively within the Section of the Country inhabited by the Cherokee Indians. In this term of service I was not in any skirmish or engagement with the Indians -- they having generally evacuated the Towns we passed through -- this term of service continued about three months, in which tour I lost a horse, that was used as a Pack Horse for the service a valuable Horse for a Plantation.

The third term of service commenced under the Command of Colonel Davidson [presumably William Lee Davidson] the Militia line of North Carolina company commanded by Captain David Caldwell out term of service was principally performed about Charlotte in North Carolina and between that place & the South Carolina line -- in this service we were called Troopers or mounted horsemen, and continued in all about two months. I was in no skirmish. It cannot be distinctly ascertained, but probably before the last described service was performed I was called on as a Militia man to guard the Jail in Salisbury North Carolina, which service did not continue more than two weeks or thereabouts. I was ordered to perform this service by Captain David Caldwell -- under Captain Frost for the purpose of securing a number of Tories that were confined there. The next service was performed in the Militia commanded by the

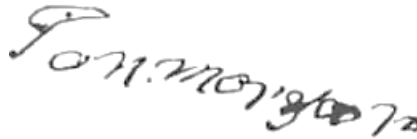
aforesaid Captain David Caldwell who went in pursuit of the Tories in the Forks of the South Yadkin River Rowan County North Carolina: and which perhaps did not continue more than two weeks -- the particular months or year not recollected -- I was also in the Militia service commanded by General Griffith Rutherford, under the aforesaid Captain David Caldwell performing the various marches for the purpose of checking the disaffected to the American cause -- part of which service was performed in the Counties of Rowan, Mecklenburg and Lincoln Counties -- reaching the Battle ground at Ramsour's the evening after the noted battle [June 20, 1780] at that place: Also various other places. I was at Torrence's [Tarrant's Tavern, February 1, 1781], where a little skirmish took place also a second [?] Creek near Salisbury where a slight skirmish took place: and which service collectively included about three months as well as can be ascertained. This narrative may not be entirely correct as to time; but the most correct account has been sought for without subjecting the applicant to too much inconvenience.

This applicant further states that he never received a discharge for either of the above described services: and that he never received anything for his service, or his horse, and that he is not -- nor ever has been on the pension list of any State -- I was born in the County of Lancaster State of Pennsylvania on the 11th day of November 1743: and am now near 89 years of age -- I removed an orphan Boy into North Carolina Rowan County (now Iredell County) where I have uniformly resided, and continued to reside.

Sworn and subscribed before me the day above written.

S/ Saml. King, JP

S/ Jon Morrison



[p 27: John Hall and James Hill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 29]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

I attended at the House of John Morrison on this 9th Day of May 1833, for the purpose of enabling him to amend his declaration -- transmitted to the War Department in August last: and now right the following certificate

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace, John Morrison who being duly sworn, deposed and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as 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 and for such service I claim a pension: -- first service was for one month

	1
2nd Do -- three do	3
3rd Do two do	2
4th Do ½ month	½
5 th Do ½ month	½
6 th Do three months	3

In all 10 months -- 11 as a private.

The declarant, would have obtained the affidavit of a clergyman when his papers were first prepared for the war Department, but, that the clergyman [sic] now in this region of Country are much under his age, and the opinion was then entertained, that it was important, that the clergyman should have had a personal knowledge of his revolutionary services -- he now prays

to be permitted to add the subjoined certificate to his declaration.

Questions propounded to John Morrison, at his residence by Samuel King on his examination out of Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Lancaster County, state of Pennsylvania on the 11th day of November 1743.

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

Ans: I have a record of my age in my family Bible.

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

Answer: -- When I was called into service, I was living in the State of North Carolina, Iredell County (formerly Rowan County) and now reside in the aforesaid State and County.

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

Answer: I have volunteered my service, and served as a private in each campaign or detachment.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- The principal officers under whom I served as well as I can recollect were General Griffith Rutherford & Colonel Davie, who I believe were militia officers, as referred to in my declaration.

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

Answer -- I have no recollection of receiving a discharge, or if I did, I have lost it.

7th 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.

Answer. I have stated in the certificate accompanying my declaration the names of John Hall & James Hill and now add the name of the Reverend Daniel Gould.

Sworn & subscribed before me May 9th 1833

S/ Jon Morrison

S/ Saml. King, JP

[John Gould, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12: On May 15, 1843 in Iredell County, Sarah Morrison, 88, filed for a widow's pension under the 1833 act stating that she is the widow of John Morrison, a pensioner for his services in the revolution; that she married him about the last of December 1771; that her husband died July 9, 1835; that she remains his widow; that she has no record of their marriage but that they were married by the publication of bans and were married by the Reverend John McRory, a regularly ordained minister of the gospel. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: Widow was born June 1, 1755; the file does not contain information as to her maiden name; the veteran and his wife had the following children:

p 7

Thomas born September 25, 1772

Hendry born October 29, 1774

Margaret born ____ 1777

William born March 6, 1779
James born May 23, 1781
John born September 25, 1783

Thomas, Morrison
Was born the
September the 25
1772 Henry
Morrison was
the wife of Henry
1774
Margaret the
wife of Henry
1777
William Morrison
March the 6. 1779
James Morrison
was born May
the 23 1781
John Morrison
was born
September the 25
1783

[p 17: Willis Gray authenticated the above family record saying it is in the handwriting of the veteran and has been in Gray's possession ever since the veteran's death.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]