

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Morgan <sup>1</sup> W25729

Naomi Morgan f126NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 5]

State of Tennessee Marion County } SS

On the 15th day of February 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting James Morgan a resident of Marion County and State of Tennessee aged about Seventy-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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He entered the Service as a Substitute for David Shelby [could be David Shelvy] for the term of six months in the company commanded by Capt. William Polk and Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Polk in Mecklenburg County North Carolina, was marched from thence circuitously to Ramsour's Mill on the waters of deep River where the Americans had an engagement [June 20, 1780] with the British and Tories they having taken possession of the Mill, in said engagement applicant received a slight wound on the right wrist cutting the leaders [?] about one half. From thence he was marched to Wilmington but before reaching that place in attempting to cross the bridge over Cape Fear River was shot at by a party of British and Tories they attempting to prevent the United States troops from crossing we forced our way of across the River on said Bridge and the British and Tories flying before us, and from thence marched to Wilmington as aforesaid, there the Regiment or Army was divided a part returning through scouring the Country along and a part left to protect the town of which he was one, he remained there four, 5 or 6 months under Col. \_\_\_ Rhodes. From there he was marched circuitously scouting through the Country what was then called the Scotch Settlements to Cross Creek, and to Orange Courthouse taking on the way several Tories. From thence we marched circuitously scouting along to Lindley's Mill on Cane Creek where we were joined by some of the men who had left Wilmington for Mecklenburg as aforesaid they under command of Col. Crump Major Ledbetter [perhaps a mistaken attempt to name Lt. Col. Drury Ledbetter] and Capt. Vestall [perhaps William Vestal, a recruiting officer from Orange County] where another engagement [September 13, 1781] was had between the Whigs and Tories in which applicant received a wound on the right hand between the forefinger and thumb nearly taking the thumb off and another wound on the back part of his head with a broad Sword which has injured him very

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt94517-160-55

much ever since. The Tories was driven from this place and we took possession of the Mill and remained there but a few days from thence he was taken to the Garrison between Haw and deep rivers on the Hickory mountain and remained there under his wounds six or eight months, and when an able for service joined himself to a company of Light Dragoons (his former service having expired) under the last above named officers Col. Crump, Major Ledbetter and Capt. Vestal for and during the War and served neither his term out before receiving the wounds last aforesaid and joining the company of dragoons. From thence he was marched scouting the Country crossing Rocky River and deep River turning our course scouting going up deep River crossing the same to Hillsborough North Carolina thence down Haw River to head of Black Swamp and the Caharas [sic, Coharie?] (passing through a town then called Cross Creek) where we had another engagement with the Tories where he received a wound from a musket Ball in the thigh and had a Brown mare killed in the action by a musket ball valued when he joined the Company of dragoons at \$60, from thence he was carried on a litter and the balance of the Army marched back to Cross Creek where he remained under his wounds about two months (having been a Dragoonsman 3, 4 or 5 months) and was joined by Col. Rhodes Regiment, From thence he was marched to what was then called Pine Tree [Camden] in South Carolina where the British and Tories had possession they evacuated the place on our approach to it and no engagement took place, and we took possession of the town he remained there a few days and from thence was marched to Ninety Six in South Carolina (scouring the Country along) where the British and Tories had fled to from Pine Tree and when they had in possession of Ninety Six at this place we joined the Army of Generals Greene [Nathanael Greene] and Morgan and remained around the town the British still in possession about 2 months when they evacuated the place and we took possession of the town. From thence he returned Scouring the country to Sallsbury [Salisbury] NC and while on the way was in hearing of the Guns at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and the Battle at Guilford Courthouse [March 15, 1781], and in passing along the hollows of the Yadkin attacked a company of Tories commanded by Capt. Spears defeated them and in the engagement killed their Capt., he remained at Salisbury 2 or 3 months, scouting through the Country to Chatham and from thence to Hillsboro and from thence to Raleigh having understood while in Hillsboro that General Cornwallis the British General had marched his Main Army towards the North and pursued by General Greene and Army with the intention of marching to the North and joining the Main Army under General Washington and when he reached Raleigh heard that Peace was made, when he was discharged having served his term of six months as a Substitute and three years as a Light dragoonsman he received his discharge from either Col. Rhodes or Major Ledbetter and do not recollect which and put the same in the hands of his brother John who some years since moved to Alabama Fayette County and has lately understood he is dead -- he knows of no person living he can prove his services by. He entered in the Service in the spring of the year as well as he now recollects in the year 1777 and remained in the Service as above Stated until Peace was declared a term of 3 years and 6 months he has no documentary evidence of his age more than verbally stated to him by his Parents and has kept his age from their statements and supposes was born in the year 1758. He refers to John McGriff, Willis Champion, James Klepper, Samuel Leming, Hinchey Gillum and Isom Gillum who resides in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution. 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. He now resides in Marion County Tennessee and previous thereto he resided in Virginia Kentucky & Alabama where he removed from.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Morgan, X his mark

[Morgan Mullins, a clergyman, and William Champion gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The Supplemental or amended to an original Declaration of James Morgan made on the 15th day of February last past in order to obtain a Pension according to act of Congress passed for the relief of Surviving officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

That he entered the Service as a Substitute for David Shelby under Capt. William Polk, Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Polk in Mecklenburg County North Carolina for the term of 6 months. From Mecklenburg he was marched to Wilmington under as well as he recollects General Cleveland, where he was stationed 3 or 4 months, in order to keep the British and Tories from taking possession of the town. They in their shipping lying in the harbor at the mouth of Cape Fear [River]. From there he was marched back to Mecklenburg County under Col. Polk and Col. \_\_Locke [perhaps Francis Locke], directly after reaching Mecklenburg news arrived that the British and Tories had taken possession of Ramsour's Mills where he was marched and where they attacked the British and Tories and had a warm engagement in which applicant received a wound across the wrist of the right arm by a musket ball. From thence he was marched up the Catawba River to Mecklenburg continuing on the River Yadkin to Salisbury where he was stationed rendezvous in 2 or 3 months, and the time he left Wilmington until he was stationed at Salisbury was about one month. From thence he was marched under Capt. Vestall, Major Joseph Crump and Col. Ledbetter and Col. Locke to which he had attached himself as a volunteer his former service having expired and of which they were called Ranging dragoonsmen or minute man, having to be ready to perform service at a moment's warning. From Salisbury he was marched to Lindley's mill on Cane Creek which empties into Haw River where Col. Fanning [David Fanning] the British General [sic] was stationed & where an engagement was had in which applicant received a wound between the thumb and forefinger nearly cutting the thumb off and another wound on the back part of his said both of which were with a Broad Sword, the Whigs were successful and drove the British General from the Mills and took possession of them. This Battle was fought in a few days after marching from Salisbury. From thence he was carried to a Garrison on the Hickory mountains where he remained under his wounds 5 or 6 months. Here applicant would state that the officers with whom he acted was under the Command of Col. Thomas Polk. From thence he was marched under command of Capt. Vestall by Cross Creek town now called as he is informed Fayette [sic, Fayetteville], to the six runs [?] of the Caharas [sic Coharie River?] where he had an engagement with the British and Tories under command of Col. \_\_ McDugall and in the engagement the Tory Col. was killed; and applicant's mare of which was valued when he volunteered in the service at \$60. The Whigs drove the British and Tories from this place, and in this action also applicant received a wound from a musket ball through the thigh which engagement was had in one or 2 weeks from the time he left the Garrison on Hickory Mountain. From thence he was taken to Cross Creek and remained there about one month unable from the wound in the thigh to be moved further and from thence was taken to the Garrison on the Hickory Mountains where he was confined war unable to do duty 2 or 3 months. From thence orders arrived from General Cleveland or Col. Polk for all those in Service to Pine Tree where the British and Tories had possession and where they were reinforced by Col. Bryant with as was said 2500 Tories before the Whigs reached Pine Tree the British and Tories evacuated the place and fled for Ninety Six he was continued on the

route to Ninety Six being reinforced by General Cleveland and Col. Polk at Pine Tree when at Ninety Six they joined the Main Army under General Greene, General Morgan and Col. Washington where he remained 2 or 3 months except performing daily duty as scouring the country and preventing a reinforcement of the Tories -- and until they evacuated and left the place. He was then marched with part of the Army under command of General Morgan until near the Catawba River where he was separated and the corps to which he belonged say about 300 men. General Greene marching as informed to the Cowpens where an engagement was had, and he was marched under command of Col. Ledbetter, Major Crump & Capt. Vestall to the Hollows of the Yadkin [River] where he news was said that a large body of Tories had commenced depredations, from the Hollows down the Yadkin to near the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin where he had an engagement with a company of Tories commanded by Capt. Spears and in the action the Tory Capt. was killed and took 15 or 20 Tories prisoners. This was about one month from the time he left Ninety Six. From thence he was marched to Salisbury and scouting through the country and while performing that duty was in hearing of the Battle of Guilford. And would state that he was also in hearing of the Guns at the Battle of the Cowpens after being separated from General Morgan. From thence he continued his course down the Catawba towards Pine Tree, then turned up deep River and came to Hillsborough, from the action had with the Tories commanded by Capt. Spears was about 2 months, at Hillsboro the company to which he belonged rendezvoused and scouted through the Country around about the place 2 or 3 months. From thence he was marched to Raleigh where the news of Peace having been heard and where he was discharged. He received his discharge signed with the name of Thomas Polk by Capt. Vestall -- the discharge stated his services to have been 3 years and 6 months but the length of time so great from the Revolutionary to the present and his present enfeebled state of mind prevent him from giving that he would wish, he is certain he was in service of his country 3 years and 6 months, though the precise time in marching to and from the different places in his being stationed is beyond his power to give. He would state that generally in the corps he belonged was not less than 100 nor more than about 300 men; at the Battle of Ramsour's Mills there was on the American side about 600 men commanded by Col. Locke and Col. Polk, at the Battle of Lindley's Mill there was about 100 dragoonsmen and perhaps 100 regulars, at the engagement on the Coharie there was on the side of the Americans about 150 dragoonsmen, at Ninety Six General Greene, General Morgan and Col. Washington with all under their Command does not know what number. His daily discipline was to Scout and Spy the Country keeping down the Tories and cutting them off and their supplies as they would rise, that he knows of no person he can prove his services by now living, and previous to making his original Declaration he started from home to procure the testimony of his brother John Morgan as to his services but on the way about 40 miles from his home heard of a near relation of his death, that he has forwarded several letters to him but has received no answer, and that he believes he is dead, and this is the only one to which he has any knowledge he could prove his services by. Applicant is now about 79 years of age from his wounds received in the Revolutionary war in his head and thigh and infirm age prevents him from seeing personally whether his brother John is dead or not though it is the general reasoned opinion and to which he concurs that he is dead, that the distance from applicant to wear his brother live is about 300 miles.

April 23rd 1836

S/ James Morgan, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Marion County: On this 23rd day of November 1836 personally appeared in

open Court before the Honorable the Judge of the Circuit Court of the County aforesaid now sitting James Morgan a resident of Marion County State of Tennessee aged 78 or 9 years who being 1st duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That applicant after receiving the wound at the Battle at Lindley's Mills has an indistinct recollection of joining a company or transferred to a company commanded by Capt. Walker and that he was during his services was appointed a Corporal in which capacity he acted until wounded in the thigh from which he was unable to perform duty for about the term of 6 months and was then attached to a Light Horse or Dragoons Company in which he was continued during the war that during his service as a soldier of the Revolution was about daily placed under command of different officers his manner of duty being to scout through the Country in order to suppress the Tories at the different points as news would reach the American Army of their being embodied and the distance of time consequent loss of memory by age and of wounds received during his service prevents him from giving that minute detail of his services he otherwise perhaps could do.

Test: S/ S. Hicks

S/ James Morgan, X his mark

[p 30 et seq. yet another full application, this one dated August 1, 1836, filed in Marion County, Tennessee. It appears to largely echo the earlier application as supplemented and as transcribed above except at the end of this one, he answers the 7 Interrogatories in narrative form as follows: "This applicant states that he was born as well as he recollects [in] Anson County North Carolina on the 1st of April 1758; that he has no record of his age, that when he 1st entered the service was living in Mecklenburg County NC, from thence removed to Caswell NC from thence to Washington County Virginia, from thence to Lee County Virginia, from thence to Knoxville Tennessee from thence to Pulaski County Kentucky from thence to White County Tennessee from thence to Franklin County Tennessee and from thence removed to Marion County Tennessee where he now lives, that he substituted for David Shelby to perform the 1st tour of service, and that he enlisted to perform the 2nd tour of service; that he knows none of the officers in the Service except those above stated, and that he has already stated what has become of his discharges, this applicant states he is acquainted with and refers to the Reverend James Simms, Reverend John C. Everett, Burgess Matthews Esquire, Lewis Bible, Esquire, William Champion, Esquire, John K. Tate Esquire, some of whose can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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."]

[Morgan Mullins, a clergyman, John K. Tate and Burgess Matthews gave the standard supporting affidavit for this application.]

[p 37: veteran applied for a transfer of his pension benefits to Coffee County Tennessee to which he had recently removed from Marion County Tennessee.]

[p 9: On June 21, 1858, in Tippah County Mississippi, Naoma Morgan, 67, filed for a widow's pension the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of James Morgan, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$30 per annum; that she married him in 1806 [could be 1816] near Monticello and the County of Wayne State of Kentucky; that she has

no record of their marriage; that her husband died October 12, 1851 and that she remains his widow.]

[p 15: On April 21, 1874, Nancy Kincade filed in Tippah County Mississippi, stating that she is the only legal heir at law of Naoma Morgan widow of James Morgan; that Naoma was her mother and died in Tippah County in 1865.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]