

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James H. Munford¹ W8478 Elizabeth R. Munford f51VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/5/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Virginia County of Nottoway: SS

On this 4th day of August in the year 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Nottoway County now sitting James H Munford a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five years, ten months and twenty days, and a native of the County of Halifax in the State of North Carolina, 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 in the 11th year of his age he removed from North Carolina to his present place of residence where he has ever since lived – the County of Nottoway being at the time of his removal and for some years afterwards a part of the County of Amelia –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: my first tour of duty: I was drafted into the militia service as a private very shortly after I was enrolled which was not long after I obtained my sixteenth year and in the year 1777 the particular day of the month I cannot remember. The commander of the Company was Captain William Watson. We rendezvoused at an old field in the County of Amelia near Millington Roach's Tavern. We were ordered to march to Williamsburg but were stopped on the way by countermanding orders at Barret's Ferry [Barrett's Ferry] on the Chickamong River [Chickahominy River?] – From Barret's Ferry we marched to Petersburg and after remaining at Petersburg some time we were discharged but no written discharge was given to any of us. We were drafted for three months but actually served only six weeks. I recollect a Major Samuel Cobbs who was either in the regular or Continental service I do not know which. The Colonel of the Regiment to which I was attached was Edward (Mr.[?]) Booker [Edward Booker]. The Commander in Chief of the troop I was serving with at that time was, I think, General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg]. I have no documentary proof of these facts, nor is there to my knowledge and individual living by whom I could prove them.

My second tour of service was a short one. It took place in the year 1779. I had then received a Commission of Ensign and served in my father's Company. His name was Edward and he died on the 15th of November 1801, as appears from my family record. We rendezvoused at the same place above mentioned, Millington Roach's and my father marched his company to Colonel Friend's in the County of Chesterfield where it was understood that arms had been deposited. I was ordered to collect and bring on a number of the men belonging to our Company, who had either been furloughed for a short time to enable them to get their clothes &c or from

¹ BLWt51758-160-55

some cause or other had failed to appear on the muster ground. I succeeded in getting 16 whom I marched to Friend's and joined the Company. We then continued our march to Petersburg and in a very short time, in consequence of the alarm of the enemy's approach being removed, we were dismissed about a mile out of Petersburg and returned home. These facts I have no documentary proof of as I have long since lost my Commission. The only person now living who knows anything of my service in this tour is George Kidd whose affidavit is hereunto annexed. The Colonel of our Regiment at this time was Parson Brooking who is long since dead. In this tour I served 17 or 18 days.

My third tour of service took place in the year 1781 – the year in which Manchester was burned [April 30, 1781] – we rendezvoused at the usual place, Millington Roach's. I had received a Commission of Lieutenant and served again in the Company of which my father was Captain. From our place of rendezvous we marched to the Coal Pits in the County of Chesterfield and after a short time were ordered to cross the James River at Tom Randolph's Ferry commonly called Tuckahoe Tom Randolph. Our march was in the night and we could plainly see the light occasioned by the burning of Manchester, which had been set on fire by the enemy. About midnight Baron Steuben with his command passed us and when we reached the Ferry we found that he had crossed. We also crossed and proceeded to Richmond and stacked our arms near the place where the Penitentiary now stands. We then moved to Bacon Quarter Branch, where we encamped. Upon the first day of our arrival at Richmond we were joined by the Marquis Lafayette and 5 or 6000 troops. From here we were ordered to James Town and on our way were joined by General Anthony Wayne and a body of troops under his command. We proceeded on our march nearly to Bottoms Bridges on the Chickahominy. Here we were what was called "regimented" and a number of the Officers were sent back to their homes as supernumeraries, of which number I was one. In this tour the Commander of our Regiment was Colonel Abraham Green; and I served from the last of March until the first of June and consequently for at least two months. I have lost my Commission of Lieutenant as well as of Ensign. I should certainly have taken care of them if I had supposed they would ever availed me anything. But I am able to prove my service as Lieutenant in this tour by the testimony of George Kidd above named, who was a private of our company. He is the only living witness to the facts that I know of. –

My 4th tour was in the South. I was ordered as well as I now remember in the month of May 1782 to join General Green's [Nathanael Greene's] Army in South Carolina but in consequence of a fall from a scaffold which dislocated my right arm at the shoulder and broke my collarbone I was unable to travel until the last of August following. I joined General Greene on the South side of Cooper River at a place called Izard's. – Here I was employed as an assistant to Colonel Paul Carrington, Quarter Master General, was placed in the staff and rank as Captain. My services were here very arduous and constant in procuring provisions for the troops. I continued in this situation until a day after the 4th day of December 1782 when Charleston was evacuated by the British troops. I returned immediately to my present residence. – The persons whose names I remember engaged in what was called Colonel Carrington's Department were Robert Saunders, Robert Munford, and ___ Brevard who acted as Clerks or Accounts (at least I suppose so as they were constantly employed in writing. There was a man who had served in Pulaski's Legion by the name of Paski [?]² who used to be of our family, but I

do not know what was his occupation, Saunders and Munford who were both from Virginia are dead and I do not know what is become of the others. Colonel Carrington has been dead many years. My duties obliged me to be a good deal out of camp and I do not know a living individual who can prove my services in this tour. George Kidd can only prove that I was absent from home during this period and that he knows it was understood in the neighborhood that I was gone on military duty to the South. The time that I was employed in this tour if estimated from the date of my orders was not less than seven months the is from the last of May to the 15th of December: but if from the period of my arrival in the camp at Izard's the time of my service was not less than three months and a half viz. from the first of September to the 15th day of December inclusive.

First tour as a private (drafted 6 weeks of actual service, 3 months draft. –

Second Tour, Ensign in the militia 17 days, at least.

Third Tour, Lieutenant: – 2 months of actual service –

Fourth Tour – Captain in the Staff – 7 months, or 3 ½ months, at least according to the Declaration.

He hereby relinquishes all 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 and year first aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Knight", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

[John H Knight, WW Harper, and Austin Watkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Virginia Nottoway County: Sct.

Personally appeared before me Hezekiah R Anderson – a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid George Kidd and made oath that he has been acquainted with Captain James H Munford of this County for many years having commenced during the Revolutionary War. The said Kidd further deposes that he has carefully read the Declaration of the said James H Munford hereunto annexed and has a distinct recollection of having served as a private in the Company of which said James H Munford's father was Captain and the said James H was Ensign and that the said James H rendered the services described under the head of his "second tour" in said Declaration – The said Kidd further deposes that he was a private in the same Company when the said James H Munford was Lieutenant and knows that he rendered the services as described under the head of his "3rd tour" in the said Declaration. – The said Kidd further deposes that he was not with the said James H Munford in his tour to the southern country described in the said Declaration as his "fourth tour," but he the said Kidd lived in the neighborhood in which said James H Munford resided at the time (and still resides) and he well remembers said Munford's absence for several months and the report and understanding in the neighborhood was that he had gone to serve in the Army of the South. Said Kidd further deposes that no man in the region of country in which he lives sustains a higher character for veracity than said Captain James H Munford. Given under my hand and seal in the County aforesaid this 3rd day of August in the year 1836.

S/ H. R. Anderson, JP

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State of Virginia Nottoway County to wit

Be it remembered that on the 31st day of August – in the year 1836 personally appeared before me Hezekiah R Anderson a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid James H Munford who is too much indisposed to attend Court and being first sworn in addition to his declaration heretofore made and transmitted to the proper Department Saith – that he is unable to produce any record evidence in support of the claim he has preferred: No department in the State of Virginia can supply him with any – nor was it probable from the nature of the services performed that any register of them should have been kept – As he has already stated he cannot supply the deficiency by parole evidence – time has left him but one single witness within his knowledge who can give testimony respecting the services or any portion of them rendered by this declarant & (whose testimony has been given) that he acted as assistant commissary or Quarter Master he can prove by no witness, nor show by any record proof more than he has already done: It is shown that this declarant was in the South, and upon military duty and his unqualified affirmation in the most solemn form, that he was engaged in performing the Services heretofore set forth, must be received as the best and only evidence now to be adduced and on which he can rely for his country during the Justice intended to be done to the remaining survivors of the Revolutionary War –

The Auditor's office has been thoroughly examined, and Mr. Heath the Auditor, can discover nothing in regard to this inquiry – This declarant further states that Commissions at that day and under the then existing circumstances were very irregularly issued, and less carefully preserved; it was the practice of the proper Department to transmit to the County lieutenants such number of Blank Commissions as he might think the service required with authority to insert the names of such persons as he might think would make useful officers – In this instance these Commissions were sent to Colonel Vivian Brookings [Vivian Brooking] who believing that this Declarant deserved it, the stowed an appointment upon him, under which he acted while performing the services heretofore mentioned. – After the service was over the Commissions were deemed of no value, and like most of his Brother officers it was permitted to be lost – It conferred upon him the title of Captain while in service which was recognized by all who had any knowledge of him from the day to this.

As to the inquiry why this Declarant has so long delayed this application – He can only say – and says with the utmost frankness that it was entirely owing to his ignorance. He has been before stated, as an aged man, and a very infirm and deceased one – The consequence is he seldom or never leaves his farm, mixes not at all with those who would be most likely to have information about public matters & is therefore ignorant of such concerns – he never read or heard that Congress had enacted such a law until recently – and not knowing that such a provision had been made as the Act of June 1832 contains, he could take no step to obtain its benefits.

This Deponent having made a full and honest representation of all the Circumstances relating to his military services – and a deuce to the only remnant of proof now in existence – He trust it will be deemed satisfactory.

S/ Jas. H. Munford

[p 11: On September 5, 1854 in Nottoway County Virginia, Elizabeth Munford, 68, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of James H Munford, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him September 30, 1807 and that he died June 10th, 1838.

Elizabeth R. Munford]

[p 8: On May 7, 1856 in Nottoway County Virginia, Elizabeth R Munford filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of James H Munford stating that she married him in Warren County North Carolina in 1807; that her maiden name was Elizabeth R Power; that her husband died in Nottoway County Virginia June 10, 1838.

Elizabeth R. Munford]

[p 5: Copy of a marriage bond issued in Warren County North Carolina and dated September 29, 1807 given to James H Munford and Thomas Power conditioned upon the marriage of James H Munford to Elizabeth R Power.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 5 ½ months and a Lieutenant for 2 months in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned at a like amount.]