

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Forbis (Forbes) <sup>1</sup> W25591      Mary Forbis      f54NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves      rev'd 1/2/08 & 3/1/15

[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.]

State of Kentucky, Laurel County: Sct.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 appeared in open court before the Justices of the Laurel County Court John Forbis a resident of said County aged 74 years <sup>as he believes lost report [sic]</sup> being sworn according to law upon his oath made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

That he enlisted in the service of the United States in the County of Burke North Carolina, on the Catawba River under a Mr. Clark for the term [of] ten months in what was called the "State Troops Services." He was marched by Clark to South Carolina & rendezvoused on Broad River at the mouth of Congaree Creek and there joined Colonels Hampton & Middleton from South Carolina. He was then placed under Captain Read, a Mr. Campbell was Lieutenant & he marched under these officers, Middleton Col to McCord's Ferry. He was in a little engagement against Lord Rawdon at what was called the Juniper Springs<sup>2</sup> on the trace [?] from Charleston to 96 District. He was also at the battle of Eutaw Springs<sup>3</sup> and received a severe wound in his left leg by a bayonet. He served out his enlistment and received a discharge which he has lost. He marched after the battle of Eutaw Springs to what was called the "White Church," from there to a place then called "Pine Tree" [now Camden, SC] from there to the Virginia line as a guard to the Prisoners taken at the Eutaw [Springs]. He was discharged within about one mile of McCord's Ferry – at Colonel Middleton's house who married a daughter of Colonel Thompson's who lived at the Ferry. He served as a Sergeant all his enlistment & belong[ed] to the light horse State troops. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Forbis

[attested by as being a true copy of the proceedings held in the court named above]

S/ Lot Pitman, Clerk

[p 21]

State of Kentucky Laurel County: Sct.

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt26083-160-55

<sup>2</sup> June 18, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/junipersprings.htm>

<sup>3</sup> September 8, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

On this 4th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Laurel County Court John Forbis a resident of said County who for the purpose of amending his original declaration for a pension made on the 7th of January 1833 made oath in due form of law that he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, and served as stated in his original declaration; but he cannot recollect the date of the year, that he knows it was in the month of June and about three months before the battle of the Eutaw Springs and that he left the service some time the next spring.

And he will further state in addition the following service, which was left out of his original Declaration by the neglect of the draftsman (to wit) That just before the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780], he volunteered in the County of Burke State of North Carolina, out of Captain Holmes [John Holmes] Company of Militia and joined Colonel McDowell [Joseph McDowell] and marched into South Carolina, and joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] at a place called Quinby Moore's Cross roads; and from thence to Kings Mountain<sup>4</sup> and was in the Battle Rutherford was not there. Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] and Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Colonel Williams [James Williams] were there & Williams was killed, and after that they marched to Burke Court House there they hung up prisoners. He was then discharged by his Colonel and returned home. He was in actual service this Tour not less than two months, in the same fall or fore part of the winter after, he was drafted out of the same company in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina, and went out under Colonel McDowell and Joined General Morgan at the Grindal Shoals Pacolet River South Carolina & marched up the country and Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] pursued them to the Cowpens, and there they had a battle,<sup>5</sup> in which Tarleton was defeated, and he marched with the prisoners to the Virginia line and was Discharged by his Colonel, at this place, Having served three months, in actual Service –

And in answer to interrogatories propounded by the Court, He says he was Born in Shenandoah County Virginia in the year 1759 on the 25th of August, His father had his age recorded in his Bible as he has been informed, He can neither read or write a word in letters or figures, He lived when he entered the service in Burke County North Carolina He has lived since the Revolutionary War in Virginia & Kentucky 17 years in the former and the balance in the latter State where he now lives in Laurel County & State aforesaid, He was well acquainted with Colonel Washington General Green [Nathanael Greene] General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] Clark [probably Elijah Clarke] & Pickens [Andrew Pickens], He has no documentary evidence, he received his Discharges from two last Tours; but they are lost, And he knows of no person by whom he can prove the before mentioned Service, or any part thereof Except what he can prove by Jacob Galberd [Jacob Gabbard<sup>6</sup>] who together with the Reverend David Weaver can testify of his character and Service, As in his original he hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Forbis

[David Moore, a clergyman, and Jacob Gabbard gave the standard supporting affidavit... “And the said Gabbard further states, that he was present, and saw the said John Forbis entered the service, in the revolutionary war, under Captain Clark, in Burke County North Carolina, and that he

<sup>4</sup> October 7, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kingsmtn.htm>

<sup>5</sup> January 17, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowpens.htm>

<sup>6</sup> [Jacob Gabbard S30431](#)

entered the service for 10 months and he saw him rendezvous, and marched off, as stated, in his the said Forbis former declaration, that he knows he [was] gone from home long enough to have Served his 10 months, that he came to [indecipherable word], further a few days after he came home from the Army in April, Just before the April musters, that he understood he had served out his time as Sergeant, that witness had a brother who was in the service, and who he has often heard speak of the service of said Forbis, and that he served out his Time faithfully and served as a Sergeant, that his brother was very old the last as could be heard from him, and that he has not heard from him for many years and has but little doubt that he is dead that he (Witness) is now 71 years of age that he has known the said Forbis ever since they were both small boys He further states that he has heard his said brother speak often of waiting upon the said Forbis while he was laboring under the wound received at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, and that he knows that the said Forbis was gone two other tours in the service once drafted and once volunteered under Colonel McDowell, as he understood, and was in the Battle of King's Mountain, and also at the Battle of the Cowpens when General Morgan defeated Tarleton as he was informed, and he understood, that the said Forbis served out both tours, he does not know how long they were.”]

[p 10: On February 11, 1854 in Laurel County, Kentucky, Mary Forbes, 70, filed under the 1853 Act for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of John Forbes a pension of the U.S. at the rate of \$91.66/annum for his services in the Revolution; that she married him in Clay County, Ky on \_\_\_; that her name before her marriage was Mary Hines; that her husband died in Laurel County, Ky on January 30, 1854. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 33: On February 11, 1854, in Laurel County, Ky, Robert Forbis, 29, and Elizabeth Branstater, 62, gave testimony as to the marriage of Mary and John Forbis and their living together as man and wife.

. The relationship, if any, of Robert Forbis to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.]

[p 52: On February 13, 1854 in Laurel County Kentucky, William Forbis aged 60, gave testimony that he has known John Forbis for the last 50 years past; that John Forbis was a revolutionary war pensioner; that John Forbis and his wife Mary lived together as man and wife for the last 30 years and their marriage was never questioned; they had several children who were well known to the witness; that John Forbis died in January 1854 leaving Mary his widow. His relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated.

[p 12: On March 10, 1855, Mary again filed for a widow's pension in Laurel County, KY, appointing Alfred Smith of Mt. Vernon Rockcastle County, Ky as her attorney to pursue her claim.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$91.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry for 5 months and a Sgt. in the cavalry for 10 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]