

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Morris (Moris) ¹ W8465 Susan Morris f54NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/17/09: rev'd 6/6/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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 9]

State of Kentucky Madison County } Sct.

On this 2nd day of December 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the James DeJarnette, J S White, & William Hiatt -- Justices of the County Court of the County of Madison aforesaid, now sitting, Thomas Morris a resident of said County of Madison aged Seventy-three years on the 16th day of January next 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 year 1780, he thinks, in the spring he was drafted into the service of the United States a private, from Surry County State of North Carolina for a Tour of three months -- James Freeman was his Captain -- __ Runnals [probably William Reynolds] was his Lieutenant - - General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was the Commandant Colonel or General Caswell [Richard Caswell] was also along as an officer -- we were marched down near Charleston SC & were camped some time near a place called Moncks Corner. Some time before Charleston surrendered [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] we moved our camp some distance to the left Camped in a large open field -- & there remained until Charleston surrendered or about that time. We then moved back up the Country & were pursued by the British -- Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] he understood, commanded them -- at a particular place, he thinks not far from Camden Rutherford & Caswell he is not certain Rutherford was along took the right hand Road & Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford], who was along at that time the left -- Buford & his party were shortly after attacked by Tarleton, defeated [Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] & cut to pieces -- Rutherford or Caswell made for Cross Creek in North Carolina, but in consequence of scarcity of provisions we were compelled to divide into squads & shift for ourselves -- we did this by direction of General Rutherford or Caswell -- who told us he could do nothing better for us. His recollection is that the 3 months Tour was at this time out & had been for some short time --

Immediately after his return home to Surry County NC, he volunteered to be ready to go when called for at a moment's warning. From this time, which was last of May or 1st June 1781, he was almost constantly out in active service -- in annoying the detachments & foraging parties of the British from Cornwallis' Army -- and in checking & watching & fighting the Tories till last September or 1st of October same year. That during this season he was frequently out under

¹ BLWt28526-160-55

Robert Hill as Captain -- Some time under Colonel Joseph Winston & some time under Colonel Martin Armstrong. He was once out under Colonel Preston & Captain Sawyer -- Preston & Sawyer came over from New River to NC after the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] in October he met the Americans, who had defeated Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson], with the Prisoners taken at the Battle, & went with them as one of the guard to the old Moravian town in North Carolina & continued there as one of the Guard for a considerable length of time, according to his recollection between one and 2 months. Immediately after being discharged as Guard he thinks in December 1780, a call was made for volunteers & militia to join General Green [Nathanael Greene]. He forthwith turned out volunteer under Samuel Hampton as Captain, Oliver Charles as Lieutenant & Philip Evans as Ensign Major or Colonel McDowell [Joseph McDowell] was Commandant -- we rendezvoused at Ramsour's Mill -- we remained there some time & then marched & joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. He does not recollect the name of the place where he joined Morgan, but thinks it was near a small River called Pastel or Pacolet -- we continued with Morgan till the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], & was in that Battle -- after the Battle we marched with the Prisoners, by forced marches towards Virginia, being pursued by Cornwallis -- after we got into Virginia we were met by Virginia militia, who took charge of the Prisoners. Soon thereafter we were discharged as he recollects in February or March 1781. On this last campaign he served three months or more, and that during the year preceding March 1781 he was almost constantly with very little intermission and actual service -- In July 1781 he came to Kentucky to Whitley Fort or Station in the now County of Lincoln. He volunteered in Captain John Boyle or Bowles Company & served as a guard to the Fort & on short excursions against the Indians killed the Spring of 1782 - - Colonel Benjamin Logan was Colonel. In the spring of 1782 Captain Bowles or Boyle was stationed at Kennedy or Boyle's Fort & applicant continued in his company regularly enrolled as a volunteer & did duty in guarding said Fort and defending the Country against the Indians killed the fall 1782 when he went under Captain Boyle Colonel Logan [Benjamin Logan] & General Clark [George Rogers Clark] on a Campaign across the Ohio [River] against the Indians -- to the old Chillicothe Towns. He does not recollect exactly how long we were gone, but between one & 2 months. After his return he continued attached to Boyle's company & to do duty as a guard & spy during the balance of the year 1782. Applicant states that he was then in active service as a private during the Revolutionary [war] more than 2 years -- one year in North Carolina as before detailed & more than one year in Kentucky & for such services he claims a pension. He was born in Prince William County Virginia on the 16 day January 1761. He has no record of his age, but obtained his age from his father's record. He removed when quite young from Virginia to Surry County North Carolina, where he was residing when first called into service of the United States. From Surry County NC he removed to Kentucky in July 1781 where he has resided with the exception of 2 years residence in Tennessee & some time in NC ever since. And almost all the time in Madison County where he now resides. The first tour he served in the Revolutionary war he was drafted, after that he volunteered. He does not now recollect the names of other officers & particular either dance that he has stated. If he ever had any written discharges, he does not recollect it. He has now none in his possession. He has no documentary evidence of his services nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure to establish them. He is well-known in Madison County -- Thomas S. Branston a clergyman & Elisha Estill & Daniel Estill all residence of said County, in his neighborhood & have long known him & can testify concerning his character & their belief of his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his

name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Thomas Morris, X his mark

[Thomas S Branston, a clergyman, Elisha Estill & Daniel Estill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 23: On November 12, 1844 in Madison County Kentucky, Susan Morris, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Morris, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him on January 5, 1786 in Surry County North Carolina shortly after which they moved West and have lived in Madison County Kentucky for the last 21 years; that her husband died August 4, 1842 and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 35: On February 7, 1845 in Madison County Kentucky, Elias Pinkstone gave testimony that he was married to Eleanor Morris February 5, 1805; that his wife is the eldest child of Thomas and Susan Morris; that his wife will be 58 years of age in September next; that he has heard his father-in-law speak of leaving his book of family records in the dwelling house of Captain Thomas Townsend and that the record was burnt by accident.



]

[p 36: On February 7, 1845 in Madison County Kentucky, Ennis Morris, aged about 32, gave testimony that he is the youngest son of Thomas and Susan Morris; that the family record showing their marriage was burnt by accident in the home of Captain Thomas Townsend of Madison County Kentucky.



]

[p 41: In an affidavit dated August 17, 1848 filed in Madison County Kentucky, the widow states that she has 7 children the oldest of which is about 61 years of age. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 45: On August 30, 1849 in Madison County Kentucky, Jane Goodridge a resident of said County gave testimony that she is the daughter of Thomas and Susan Morris; that she is 44 years old; that her parents had 9 children of which she is the next to the youngest.



]

[p 26: On August 31, 1849 Mary Franklin gave testimony that she is the daughter of Thomas and Susan Morris; that she is 49 years old as of February 28 last; that her oldest sister Elenor Pinkston is 62 years old; that Elenor has one son (not named) who is in his 45th year; that her mother had 9 children after she was married to Thomas Morris and that the affiant is their 6th child; that her brother Lewis Morris is 15 months younger than than her sister Elenor; that

Sampson Morris, the affiant's 2nd brother, is nearly 3 years younger than Lewis Morris; that her sister Patsy Morberly [could be Mosbesly?] is two years and 6 months younger than her brother Simpson; that her sister Margaret Easters it is between 2 and 3 years younger than her sister Patsy; that the affiant is the next child; that her parents were married 4 or 5 years after the revolution; that they were married in a Tavern; that 10 months after their marriage the affiant's sister Elenor Pinkston was born.

Mary Franklin]

[p 27: On August 31, 1849 in Madison County Kentucky, Jesse Franklin gave testimony that he married Mary Morris, daughter of Thomas and Susan Morris; that according to the family record his wife was born on February 28, 1800.

Jesse Franklin]

[p 18: On May 24, 1855, in Madison County Kentucky, Susan Morris, 87, filed a claim in which she states she is the widow of Thomas Morris; that she married him January 5, 1784; that they were married by a Mr Stover, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Susan Appleton that her husband died at his residence in Madison County Kentucky August 4, 1842; and that she remains his widow. This application was made to obtain her bounty land entitlement. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 6: Copy of a certificate issued in Madison County Kentucky by Jesse Thomas in which he certifies that he joined in marriage Elias Pinkston and Eleanor Morris on February 7, 1805.]

[Facts in file: widow's father was John Appleton; she and her husband had 9 children

Eleanor, born Sept. 1787, married Feb. 7, 1805, Elias Pinkston

Lewis Morris

Simpson Morris

Patsy married a Morberly or Mosbesly

Margaret married a Easters

Mary born Feb. 28, 1800, married Jesse Franklin

Jane, born Aug. 1805, married a Goodridge

Ennis, the youngest son, was about 32 in 1845

[the name of the 9th child is not given in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 13 months and 15 days in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]