

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Bounty Land Claim of Robert McKinly (McKinney) BLWt2107-100  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

PA [sic: NC]

State of Tennessee }  
County of Jackson }

I James McKinley heir at law of Robt McKinley do upon my oath declare and testify, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the said Robert McKinley did enlist in year 1781 or 82 for the term of during the war and served in the Regiment, No. unknown under the command of Colonel Lawrence [probably Lt. Col. John Laurens of South Carolina], & Mjors [James] Hamilton of Penn. & Eggleston of Maryland, and Reading Blunt [sic: Reading Blount] of NC of the N. Carolina line, and that he continued in the service until the war ended. I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to said Robert McKinley on the part of the United States; nor do I believe that he ever received it, or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever; [power of attorney follows]

[signed on 10 May 1834] James McKinly

Robert McKinley, the Soldier referred to in the within Declaration died in Jany 1834, and was in the receipt of pay at the Treasury Dept under the Act of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1828 [application not found]. His proofs of inlistment & service filed in the Treas'y Dept have been examined and found to be full & satisfactory. He states that the Discharges granted to the men of the Comp'y to which he belonged, were prepared in, and sent from, Charleston, So. Car'a. [after the British evacuation on 14 Dec 1782] and the one which he received was improperly filled up with the name of Rob't. McKinney which name he thinks may have been on some of the Rolls, as he was often called "McKinney"

His inlistment and service is corroborated by the testimony of Capt. Wm. Lytle [William Lytle] of the N. Carolina line. Wm. Gordon/ Bounty L'd Office/ April 2<sup>d</sup> 1835

NOTES:

The file jacket shows Pennsylvania as the state from which McKinly served, but it appears likely that he actually served from North Carolina. In 1781 Capt. William Lytle's company was under Maj. Reading Blount in the North Carolina Line, which combined Continental and Militia soldiers. Lt. Col. John Laurens and Maj. James Hamilton commanded three companies of North Carolina light infantry at a skirmish at New Cut on Johns Island SC 12-15 Jan 1782 (O'Kelley, Patrick. *Nothing But Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 4, 2005).

This Robert McKinly may be the soldier listed as Robert McKenny of the 1<sup>st</sup> NC Regiment by J. D. Lewis in his splendid website ([http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_patriot\\_military\\_privates\\_m.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_m.html)) and described as follows: "4/28/1781, a Private under Capt. Griffith John McRee. Discharged on 4/28/1782 (3rd NC Regiment). Sep. 1782, re-enlisted for the duration of the war."

The file contains a copy of the last will and testament of Robert McKinley dated 5 June 1830 and proved in February 1834 with the following provisions: "After the payment of my debts, and Funeral Expences I Give to my Loving Wife Sally McKinly all the houses, plantation Lands, and stock of every Description, whereon I now live, and have, and my negroe woman Priss, and all her children, During her natural life... and at her death, my wish and will is that my negroe woman Priss shall be set free and that she (Priss) may live with either of my Children that she may make choice of.... My wish and will is that my six negroe Children of Priss Viz Ned Dick China Hannah Lewis & Milly be divided between my two Sons James and Josiah... should my negro woman Priss have any more Children That my son Matthew may have the first and if there should be any more I wish it on them to be equally divided between my three sons and my wish is that should Priss have any Children after she is free or after my death, it or they shall also be Slaves and Equally divided among my Three Sons before mentioned – as I

Do not wish for some of her Children to be free and the balance Slaves.... My Will and request of my beloved Children is that These negroes here above mentioned shall be kept if possible in my family among my own Children and never sold to strangers or any Body Else.” Robert McKinly