

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McMaster R21675

f23SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/24/09 & 1/30/17

[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 '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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Alabama, County of Macon

On this 24th day of April A.D. 1850 in person came before me W. B. Owsley a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Susannah T. Thornton wife of Landford Thornton of the County of Macon and State of Alabama who being duly sworn deposed and saith that her and her sister Martha B. Thornton, wife of Jonathan Thornton of the County of Russell and said State, are the only children raised by William McMaster late of Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina deceased – and that affiant in behalf of herself and sister and as the legal and proper heirs of their Father now makes application to the Government of the United States for a Pension for the services rendered by the said William McMaster in the defense of his Country during the revolutionary Struggle for Liberty – affiant here states upon information which she verily believes to be true she having received the same from her Father William McMaster, who was at all times regarded and esteemed by his neighbors and acquaintances to be a man of strict truth and which statements were generally credited in the neighborhood in which he resided. That her Father William McMaster was born in Ireland – that he came to this Country with his parents at the age of thirteen years – that he entered the War as a volunteer at the age of sixteen years and remained in the service of the Country of his adoption during the nearly the whole of the Seven Years that the same continued – that he served as a private for himself and not as a substitute for another – during a part of the time he served on foot but the most of the time with the light horse Companies – during the time he thus served he resided in the State of South Carolina, Abbeville District – that his residence was near the Savannah River about twenty miles South of Abbeville Court House – the nearest Towns to the same were Vienna and Petersburg -- at which residence he died about the year 1824. That he served as a volunteer principally in said State of South Carolina to nearly the close of the War-- was in eleven General engagements besides skirmishes she cannot at this late period state the several battles, or the order in which they occurred, or who commanded at each but agreeable to her recollection a portion of which was forcibly impressed upon her mind by the relation of her Father – and seems now at times to be fresh upon her memory. She states that he was in the following engagements – the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] and under the command of Colonel Williamson¹ -- some of the other officers were Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby] – a British officer Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was killed, at this engagement Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780] – she thinks was under command of Colonel Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] Black Stocks [sic, Blackstocks, November 20, 1780] – Sumter command, Kettle Creek [February 14, 1779], Siege of Augusta [May 22-June 6, 1781], Eutaw Springs [January 17, 1781], Ninety Six [May

1 Andrew Williamson was not at the battle of Kings Mountain. That battle occurred on October 7, 1780, by which date Williamson had surrendered and taken protection from the British. It is possible that this is a reference to Col. James Williams (1740-1780) who was one of the commanders at Kings Mountain and who died on October 8, 1780 from wounds suffered in that battle.

20-June19, 1781] was under the command of Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens] -- she recollects having learned from her Father that he went over from Carolina to Augusta under the command of Colonel Pickens to aid at the siege of Augusta – where Brown [Thomas “Burnt foot” Brown] commanded the British – at Beaufort she thinks her Father was under Sumter her recollection is that he was also in the Battle at Cowpens and Briar Creek [March 3, 1779] – and in the engagement near Cambridge not far from Ninety Six – in which her father was wounded by a gun shot in the left hip – in this engagement the Americans were defeated – her Father though wounded made his escape from the British – but was taken prisoner next day near Roper's Mills – by the British officer Cunningham and was taken by the British to Ninety Six and put in charge of Colonel Cruger [John Harris Cruger] who commanded the Garrison at Ninety Six – where he was treated by the British surgeon – and subsequently returned to his mother upon furlough the year the war ended – affiant also recollects that her Father was for some time under the command of Colonel McCall [James McCall] and Colonel Anderson [Robert Anderson]. She has often learned from him that he lost all his property or nearly so while engaged in the service of his country – and that he never received one cent for the property lost – or one cent as a Pension or annuity and anyway whatever neither had he made any application or a pension – she has some recollection of hearing that he received from the Government of Carolina some provision of pavement or paper showing that the Government was due him – specifying a small portion of his services but from which he did not realize anything – at this late period affiant is unable to procure any living witnesses as to the services rendered by her Father. She now states that she is fully convinced that her Father rendered valuable service to the Country-- that in the rendition of that service he was rendered a cripple for life and neither him nor his children have received therefore any pecuniary consideration – she admits that she has talked for some years of making application for a Pension on account of the services rendered by him and when she first thought of doing so she believes she could have produced living witnesses who would have attested to the truth of most of this Statement she was however then as she admits in better circumstances pecuniarily [sic] than at this time, owing to misfortune or other causes not necessarily hereto relevant she now finds herself and husband at an advanced age – poor and surrounded by a large family of children – who from their poverty – they are raising without the means at hand to improve their minds in that manner which the Children of a republic like ours should be improved. She feels assured that were her Father in life and to make the statements and showing which she here presents that he would receive from the Government full compensation for all his services she admits the only record proof which she is enabled to produce is from the Comptroller's office of the State of South Carolina – which is forwarded herewith she at the same time would suggest that from the imperfect state of the records of Carolina – upon the showing which she here presents – this application will not be limited – and judged of alone by that small showing of service under Col Anderson. She further suggests that as Justice has not been meted out to her Father that his services should not go unrewarded – and even at this late period – that his children who are now in a situation which requires aid may receive the same benefits which would have been conferred upon him were he in life – with full confidence in the merits of her application affiant hesitates to add any thing further save the hope that the application may meet with that favor which it merits [&] demands.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 24th day of April 1850.

S/ W. B. Owsley, J. P.

S/ Susannah T. Thornton



not stated) gave a supporting affidavit in which he identifies the claimants as children of the veteran and relates the veteran's reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.

210
Boyer Horton

1

[p 13: SC Comptroller's certificate]

Comptroller Genl's Office
 Columbia S.C. July 18. 1850

A. 220
 Book P

Debted the fifteenth day of April 1785 to
 Mr. William Master for Forty three
 Pounds eighteen Shillings & six pence, three
 farthings Sterling for militia duty done since
 the reduction of Charleston & for sundries
 lost in militia in 1781 for balance as per
 account audited

Principal £43:18:6 3/4 - At 36 Annual interest £3:1:5-

no 220 A036
 Book P

Mr. Wm. McMaster
 his acct. of militia duty as
 private per Col. Audusson's return done alternately
 before and since the reduction of Charleston
 and for sundries lost in militia in 1781 the whole
 amt to Sty £50:14:3/4 -

State of Carolina D^r To Wm. McMaster
 for duty done per Col. Audusson's return 7 terms viz £29.

80.10
 12 --
 32.10
 11 --
 48.10
 14 --

£ 307.10 2

2 saddles, gun & Bridle lost in Dec: 1781 £27 - -

1 saddle, Bridle & gun lost by Wm. McMaster 20.10 47.10

Carry £ 335.2.2

Sty £ 50.14 3/4

Rec^d full satisfaction for the within in sum Audited per

220P (signed) W^m McMaster -

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be
a true copy taken from the Records
of this Office

For Comptroller Genl
James A. Black

(No seal of Office)

As to "Anderson's Return" see 4th No. Statutes at
Large of South Carolina page 718.

[p 22]

I do certify that I was well acquainted with William McMaster a Revolutionary Character of Abbeville District -- South Carolina, often heard my Father and Mother talk of him, as such, that he was wounded in the service, and I felt the Bullet lodged in his groin, said to be received in the Revolutionary war, McMaster said so, my Father Isaac Matthews said so, That my Father was present when McMaster received it, and waited on him when wounded William McMaster was married to a Miss Townes, and they had two daughters, I think their names was Martha and Susannah they both married 2 brothers by the name of Thornton, and moved to the State of Alabama I believe them to be the true representatives of William McMaster, according to the laws of the United States they are entitled to their father's pension. Certified by
S/ Joseph Calhoun Matthews, of Abbeville District South Carolina

Joseph Calhoun Matthews

Elder of the Presbyterian Church at Hopewell
13th of April 1850 Abbeville District South Carolina