

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas McElroy R6699

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The file does not contain a pension application. The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote “Monongalia Cty” and “Not Entitled” on the report.]

Thomas McElroy Applicant.

Says he is 83 yr old – a native of Ireland. Came to the U States in 1773. that in 1776 he volunteered in Chester County Pennsylvania for two months & marched to Amboys [Amboy NJ] remained there and on the Banks of the North River for over two months – dont recollect under whom he volunteered – the names of his Captain Colonel or any of the officer nor who commanded at Amboy – dont know that he got a discharge – dont know that any was given.

In July in the same year he Enlisted in same county for six months and went to Fort Lee. retreated from there across the delaware [20 Nov 1776] and on Christmas night he was sentinal on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River opposite Trenton. When Washingtons army took the Hessians at Trenton [26 Dec 1776] – dont recollect under whom he Enlisted nor the names of Captain Colonel or any other officers in this tour.

In the next succeeding year he states that he Enlisted a gain for [undeciphered word] months. States when he marched and counter marched and all that sort of thing – but when hard pushed acknowledged “that on this tour he was a Waggoner [see endnote])

This old man is a shrewd Irishman, & a great imposter in my opinion.

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 30 1834

NOTES:

The Commissioner of Pensions, James L. Edwards, often excluded the service of soldiers who acted as wagoners, contrary to the pension act of 1832. The act of 1832 allowed pensions for claims for at least six months militia service so long as the applicant provided a plausible declaration of service, and two neighbors certified his honesty and reputation as having been a soldier of the Revolution.

On 1 Aug 1868 Joseph McElroy, one of the heirs of Thomas McElroy, assigned power of attorney to pursue the claim, but nothing in the file suggests any action was taken.