

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McFerren R6712

f6VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/25/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

John McFerren Applicant –

I the undersigned John McFerrin [sic], being called on by W. G. Singleton for a Statement of my age & Revolutionary Services, give the following to wit – I am a native of Ireland and emigrated to the United States in the year 1772. In the year 1775 I settled in Greenbrier County and have been in that County ever since. I was forted at Donley's Fort [probably Fort Donnally] nine or ten years commencing in 1775. I then had my mother & sister living with me. I belonged to Captain McKay's Company – he however was not at Donley's Fort – but at another Fort the name of which I have now forgotten – the people of the settlement in which I lived including myself and family were compelled from a regard to our own safety to go into the Fort & live [lived?] there every Summer for nine or ten successive summers – and whilst thus forted we lived pretty much in common – we would turn out altogether and work each other's corn & potatoes "by turns" always detailing one or two of our own numbers to stand as sort of centinals [sentinels] and to give news of approaching danger from Indians this business of working and guarding was done by all the men at the forts by turns – Whenever those who were sent out as spies would return and report unfavorable news – we would leave our work and go in the Fort & remain there until the danger was [indecipherable word]¹ – I was not a spy in any part of my services – nor was I ever out in pursuit of Indians during the time I was forted – in the winter we would disperse and go to our respective cabins. Donley's Fort was attacked only once while I was in it = & that lasted only one day –

In February 1781 [last digit unclear, could be 1783], I was drafted for six months and marched from Greenbrier with several other companies commanded by Major Quirk [probably Thomas Quirk] – my Captain's name, James Armstrong, we was in Englishes Station [English's Station on Dix River SE of Crab Orchard] Kentucky, thence to Logan's Station and then to Harrod's Station at the latter place my time expired – and I returned home, was in service six months, and this is all the regular service I ever done, – I was not drafted or forced to any other service than the six months service last above mentioned – Squire Gillalan [probably Justice of the peace, George R. Gillilan] & D. W. Sleeth² came to my house & wrote my declaration. I told them the same I now tell & swore to my declaration before Gellelan. I agreed to give Gellelan & Sleeth 2 1/3 y's [years] pay. In witness of which I hereunto subscribed my name January 23, 1835

S/ John McFerren , X his mark

Witness

¹  [removed?]

² [David W. Sleeth S6111](#)

Wm R. Wood
no draft for 6 mo³

A Copy W. G. Singleton
Jany 23 1835

A handwritten note in cursive script, likely a copy of the typed text above. The text reads "A Copy W. G. Singleton Jany 23. 1835". The handwriting is somewhat messy and slanted.

John McFerren Virginia Rejected See Mr. Singleton's report (Enclosed)
Let 16 Mar: 35 Co: Clerk
Let to W. G. Singleton Aug. 22 1835

John McFerren
Applicant
Greenbrier County
Not Entitled – may
be to \$20
Suspended case
Entered

Additional memo – this man alleges that he was six months in the Kentucky expedition & also David Williams⁴ went & returned with him – Williams says that they were out 6 months in that expedition – See Report in David Williams' case accompanying this
S/ W. G. S.

[Note: For a thorough examination of the fraud investigation conducted by W. G. Singleton, see C. Leon Harris' transcription of [David W. Sleeth S6111](#).]

³ Leon Harris points out that Singleton often objected that by Virginia law drafts in the militia were limited to three months each.

⁴ [David Williams R11572](#)