

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McGarity¹ R6713

f34SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/20/09 & 5/25/13

[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.]

State of South Carolina, Chester District

On the 13th day of March 1835 personally appeared in open [court] before me, Peter Wylie, Judge of the court of ordinary now sitting, William McGarity, a resident of state and District aged 79 years 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: volunteer under Captain Robert Patton in December 1775; marched to the Congaree River; there joined Col. James Kershaw, Col. Thompson's [William Thomson's] Rangers, Major Barkley [John Barkley] & Genl. Richardson [Richard Richardson] with their troops; marched from thence to Liberty Hill; there joined Genl. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] of North Carolina & Col. Neal [probably Colonel Thomas Neel] of South Carolina; marched thence to Rayborne's [Raeburn's, Rabun's, etc.] Creek; marched thence to Reedy River and routed the Tories & Indians, when the great snow sail that gave this tour the name of Snowy Camps; and marched from there to a place called the Dutch Fork way or [he was] discharged having served not less than one month and one half.

Tour 2nd: Volunteered under Captain John Nixon he thinks in the fall 1778; marched to Winnsboro; joined Colonel John Winn, Lieutenant Colonel Kirkland [perhaps Joseph Kirkland] & Major Pierson; marched from thence to the ten Mile Spring; there lay some time; from there marched to Puryburg & there joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln] Army. General Moultrie [William Moultrie] & General Rutherford were there; lay there some time; there being a vessel called the *Vigilance* and a tender came up Hazard River burning and plundering. General Lincoln called for volunteers. Declarant & company & still more companies volunteered and marched to Hazard River to prevent them from burning & plundering; lay there sometime then was called back to the Army after the British disappeared; lay there till the defeat of General Ashe [John Ashe] at Briar Creek [Brier Creek, March 3, 1779] in State of Georgia then marched to Augusta, that is Winn's & Kershaw's regiments & joined Genl Williamson [Andrew Williamson]; lay there sometime; [an] express came in that a Fort in the upper part of Georgia that the Fort was besieged; marched under Major Ross [Francis Ross²] to the relief of the Fort; the Fort was taken

¹ A letter in this file indicates that the veteran's claim "was not allowed as proof of alleged service was not furnished in accordance with the requirement of the pension law."

² Died March 31, 1779 from wounds suffered in an engagement with the Indians on Kettle Creek in Georgia

before the company of arrived and the Indians were carrying all the women & children; pursued them to Kettle Creek where the Indians were defeated. Major Ross was killed there. Marched back to Williamson's Army with the prisoners; lay there sometime. Lincoln joined us there again then marched under General Lincoln into the State of Georgia. The British crossed from Georgia to South Carolina; Moultrie retreated before them; General Lincoln recrossed the Savannah [River] below & pursued the British to Bacon's Bridge; thence in pursuit till Stono, skirmishing with them at night when at Stono had a battle with the British. After the battle [he] was dismissed having served at the least seven months.

Third tour: volunteered 1780 (a few days after Buford's defeat at Waxhaws [May 29, 1780]) under Captain John McClure; marched against a party of Tories at Alexander's Fields (now Beckhamville); they routed the Tories at Mobley's Meeting house; thence to the Indian land, lay there until Captain Hook [sic, Christian Huck] had burnt Hill's Iron Works. Being too weak to attack him, then marched & joined Sumter at Clems branch. Huck came up again when Sumter sent a party to attack him which we did at Williamson's and completely routed them killing many & Huck among them [July 12, 1780]. Our officers were Col Richard Winn, Col Hill, Col Lacey, Col Neal, Col Bratton, Major Boner, Major Dixon, Captains Nixon & McClure. Their officers were all present at Huck's defeat; returned to Indian land to Sumter; thence under Sumter we marched against Col Turnbull at Rocky Mount [August one, 1780] and drove them from their works into a house from whence we could not dislodge them; Colonel Neal was killed there & Captain Leaper was killed eight days after; attacked the Tories and British at the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780]; McClure's company of which declarant was one was sent to bring on the action where McClure and 17 of his men were killed and wounded which broke the company. Then declarant joined Captain John Nixon's company; carried our wounded up to Charlotte in North Carolina; General Gates sent some Regulars & some artillery & joined Sumter; marched in took a Fort near Camden called Cary's Fort; then hearing of the defeat [August 15-16, 1780] of General Gates, General Sumter retreated up the country where declarant and some others were sent under Captain John Steele to burn Rocky Mount and therefore returned to Sumter's Army. He [Sumter] was defeated at Fishing Creek [August 18, 1780]. After Sumter was defeated & Gates & the country [was] in the hands of the British and Tories, declarant with others tried to take care of their families and carried them all into the State of North Carolina where declarant's family was carried off. He returned & joined the Army of Sumter and marched to the Fishdam Ford on Broad River where joined by Colonel Taylor where they British attacked [November 9, 1780] us under Wemyss; thence marched to Tyger River to a place called Blackstock's [November 20, 1780] where the British under Colonel Tarleton attacked us where Genl Sumter was wounded. That night Captain Nixon was killed in attacking a house. [We] carried General Sumter into Indian land there continued under Col Lacey until Cornwallis marched after Morgan into North Carolina and went to see after his family in North Carolina; then under Captain Stewart & Colonel Pearson joined General Greene's Army for a short time; then returned with his family to South Carolina having served not less than nine months.

Tour 4th: volunteered under Captain Robert Hannah, Bratton's Regiment joined General Greene's Army after he retreated from 96 he thinks in August 1781; marched to the Congaree River from thence to Orangeburg; there Greene was joined by General Marion where Greene prepared for battle but the British did not come out they being strongly entrenched; then marched to the quarter house near Charleston being detached from

Greene's Army under Colonel Wade Hampton thence to Bigham [sic, Biggin] Church near Moncks Corner & joined Sumter & Marion; the British retreated after setting fire to the church; we pursued them to [?, looks like "Whemlen" or some such]³ & fought them till we lost 40 or 50 man & then retreated then marched to the high hills of Santee we are dismissed having served at least 3 weeks. Tour of 5 was elected as first Lieut. in Capt. James Crawford's Company Col. Lacey's Regiment marched in the fall of 1781 to Orangeburg their way 3 months when dismissed and then continued to the End of the war as Lieut. and done scalping duty having served as a private 11 months & as Lieut. in actual service 3 months.

Ans. to 1st Int. I was Born in the State of Maryland Cecil County on the 14th day of February 1756

Ans to 2nd Int. I have a record or copy of a record taken from my father's Bible entered in my Bible

Ans. to 3rd Int. I was living in what was called Craven County now Chester District South Carolina when called into Service has lived there ever since the revolution where I now live

Ans. 4 I was always volunteered

Ans. 5 General Lincoln & Moultrie, General Greene, Williamson, General Brandon, General Sumter, Col. Lacey, Hill, Bratton, Neal Williamson, Kershaw & others I have set forth in the declaration as the circumstances of my tours

Ans 6 I never received a discharge but was dismissed

Ans as officer -- I did receive a Lieut. commission signed by Col. Lacey which commission is lost or mislaid so I can't find it

Ans. 7 Joseph Gaston⁴ Esquire, John McDill,⁵ James Harbison,⁶ Esquire, John Brown⁷ Col. George Gill⁸, George Wier,⁹ John Rosborough together with all my neighbors.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity Except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State except as a pensioner of the State of South Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

S/ William McGarity, X his mark

South Carolina Chester District: Personally came before me George Weir one of the Justices of the peace and made oath that as he the said Weir was returning from Orangeburg from a tour of duty as a soldier that he the said Weir met a company of soldiers who said that they were commanded by William McGarity as their officer and it was in the year of 1782 when the said Weir met the said company going to Orangeburg.

Sworn to before me this 27th day of October in the year of our Lord 1835.

S/ Lemuel Jackson, JP

S/ George Weir

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⁴ [Joseph Gaston W23089](#)

⁵ [John McDill S21879](#)

⁶ [James Harbison W17039](#)

⁷ [John Brown S17848](#)

⁸ [George Gill S21229](#)

⁹ [George Weir S9528](#)

George Weir

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South Carolina Chester District : George Weir appeared and made oath that he has been well acquainted with the applicant William McGarity ever since and for some time before the first marshaling of troops in a camp in South Carolina which was about the last of the year 1775 called the Snow Camp at said McGarity was there and was repeatedly in the Service of the country from that time until the end of the revolutionary war and was none to be a staunch friend of his Country that he well believes he was one of the few men that turned out with Capt. John McClure after the State was overrun by the British and not a pastiche of armed force to oppose them in this State. Sworn to & subscribed March 25th A.D. 1835 before me.

S/ Joseph Gaston, JQ

S/ Geo. Weir

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South Carolina Chester District: I do hereby certify to all Whom it may Concern that I have been acquainted with the applicant William McGarity since the year 1778 and at that time served in the same Company and in the same Regiment in the next year in May we were in another Campaign for 3 months in the same Company & Regiment after Charleston was taken he joined the few that joined General Sumter and was with him or in the service under John McClure till the battle of the hanging Rock when the Capt. was killed and shortly after General Sumter was defeated when the said McGarity joined another company commanded by Capt. Samuel Addams & was in the service until the End of the War I served in 4 campaigns in person with said McGarity and knew him to be a firm friend to the State and a soldier when put to the trial as I was in different Engagements with him and know him to be a man of courage when put to the trial. Given under my hand this 9th day of June 1835

S/ James Harbison

'35 *James Harbison*

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South Carolina Chester District: Personally came Col. George Gill into Open Court who upon being duly sworn Saith that he was well acquainted with William McGarity the annexed Declarant during the Revolutionary War & always understood him Declarant to be a friend of the United States and further saith that he this deponent feels satisfied that he has saw William McGarity the declarant in Service in John McClure's company & fully believes the declarations made by said declarant in his annexed Declaration just & true.

Sworn to & was signed this 4th day of May 1835 in open Court.

S/ Geo Gill

Geo Gill

S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

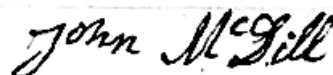
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South Carolina Chester District: Personally appeared John McDill before me the Subscribing Justice and being Duly Sworn according to law on Oath Saith that he was well acquainted with William McGerrity [McGarity] in the time of the Revolutionary War that he done Military duty under said William McGarity as Lieut. under Major Wallace in the Militia service at Orangeburg in South Carolina in the Spring of the year 1782 and was acquainted with him at Different times & knew him to be out in different Campaigns besides the one above mentioned.

Sworn to & subscribed the 24th day of March 1835 before me.

S/ David Jamison, JP

S/ John McDill\



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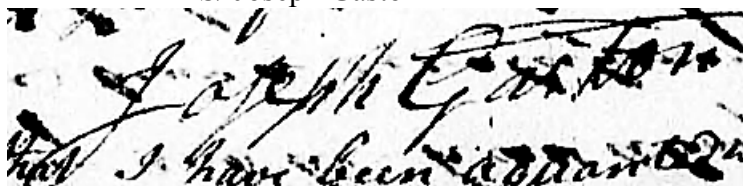
South Carolina Chester District

I, Joseph Gaston one of the Justices of Quorum do hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with the applicant William McGarity ever since and for some time before the revolutionary war that he was a true friend to his Country through the worst times of that revolution; he was one of that Spartan band of 32 men that turned out with Capt. John McClure a few days after Col. Beauford's [sic, Abraham Buford's] defeat when there was not a man in the State but themselves armed against the British. They first routed the Tories at the place now called Beckhamsville [or Beckhamville¹⁰] in this district then defeated them at Moblies [Mobley's¹¹] in Fairfield District and as soon as General Sumter made known that he had received a commission McClure joined him and continued with him until the fight at the Hanging Rock on the 7th of August A.D. 1780 where the Capt. and 17 of his men were killed and wounded.

I further certify that I was with said McGarity at the fight at rockemount [sic, Rocky Mount] Eight days before the above fight also at Blackstock's where their General was wounded and am convinced that he was a faithful Servant to his Country from the first commencement of the war in this State, and has ever been of good character is very aged and feeble and fully merited the support of his Country.

Given under my hand this 20th of M^r A. D. 1835

S/ Joseph Gaston



N. B. I James Harbison Esquire do certify that I have been acquainted with the above William McGarity since the year 1778 and knows that the above statement is correct as I also served the most of the above mentioned Campaigns with said McGarity and in the same company. Given under my hand and seal this 24th of March 1834.

S/ Jas. Harbison

¹⁰ June 8, 1780. Capt. John McClure vs. Col. Houseman. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/bechamville.htm>

¹¹ Mobley's Meeting House. June 10, 1780. Maj. Richard Winn vs. Col. Charles Coleman. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/mobley.htm>