

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Isaac McHenry R6732

f26VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

The State of Ohio, Putnam County: SS

On this thirtieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty five personally appeared in open court: before the Hon. George B. Holt President judge of this court of common pleas of the First Judicial district of the State of Ohio and their honors William Cochran Esqr Silas McClish Esqr and Henry Morris Esqr his associates now sitting; Isaac McHenry a resident of Putnam County aforesaid in the said state of Ohio, aged 72 seventy two years on the 27th twenty seventh day of December last (1834) who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits 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. Sometime in the month of March in the year 1780 seventeen hundred and eighty but on what particular day of the said month of March (owing to the great lapse of time, and the advance of age upon the said Isaac McHenry the declarant and the consequent failure of his memory) he cannot tell; he entered the service as an Indian spy, and served as First sergeant in Captain Alexander Maxwell's company of Indian spies, Lieut. George Westfall, under the command of Major George Parsons, Col Benjamin Wilson and Gen. George Jackson of the Virginia Militia. In this company and in this capacity above [he] states he served until the First day of the month of November the next ensuing, serving seven months, when his said term of service ended and he was dismissed, and on the fifteenth day of the same month (November) in the year 1780 seventeen hundred and eighty, he said declarant again did volunteer and entered the service in the same company in which he had served the said term just above mentioned as First Lieutenant, for the term of two years or during the war and served out the term of two years without intermission—as one continued term of service, which ended on the Fifteenth day of November in the year 1782 seventeen hundred and eighty two, making two full years service, when he was discharged, making the whole of his service two years and seven months. That during all this term of service of two years, he had the same captain Alexander Maxwell, he was First Lieutenant himself, Major George Parsons, Col Benjamin Wilson—the First of the said term, but he resigned, and Col Henry Delea [Henry Delay] was appointed in his place who was his Col during the latter part of said term of two years, and Gen. George Jackson of the Virginia Militia was his general commanding officer. That he was a volunteer. That when he entered the service in both the above terms, he resided in what was then Monongahela, now Randolph County Virginia. That during the above named two terms of service he was not in any general engagement or battle, but was frequently engaged in skirmishes. That the whole of the said two terms of

service was performed in the aforesaid county, then Monongahela now Randolph. The spy range included eight Forts (all in said county which was then very large) (namely) Friend's,¹ Wilson's,² Westfall's,³ Cassidy's, Westfall's again, Craughe's [Crouch's Fort near present day Huttonsville, WV], Headen's,⁴ John Warrick's⁵ Forts all these forts were in the aforesaid county and his duty was to pass round from one Fort to another and attend them all. That there were no continental Regiments or companies where he served as his company was in a detached situation –, and in consequence thereof he cannot give the names of any of the officers of the regular army with whom he was acquainted. That there was one militia company stationed at the different Forts alternately above named, as a guard on account of the increased danger from the Indians. This company was marched from the South Branch of Potomac, under Lieut. Pancake, and was commanded after they came in to county of Monongahela by Captain Joseph Friend who was a resident of the county; That he received a commission signed by Gen George Jackson and he also received a written discharge from his last term of service, which was given him by Col Henry Delea [Henry Delay], and he also received a written discharge from his first term of service from Col. Wilson, but that his commission and discharges were all subsequently destroyed by the Indians, who robbed his house in the State of Kentucky after his removal to that place. That he was born in Hampshire County in the state of Virginia on the 27th day of December in the year 1763 seventeen hundred and sixty three. That he has a record of his age at his residence in Putnam County taken from his father's family Bible.

That since the revolutionary war he has lived in the following places, namely he removed from Virginia to Green County Kentucky he thinks in 1786 and from Kentucky to Pickaway County Ohio in 1807, and resided there until about five years ago when he removed to his present residence in Putnam County where he now resides. That he names William Boman, Abraham W Cochran, and Henry Foster to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, who can testify as to his character - for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution whose certificate or deposition is hereto attached. He also states the name of Lemman Cochran as Clergyman or clergyman of his vicinity who will also certify to his character, for honesty and veracity and his belief of his revolutionary services - He here states that all the above named persons reside in Allen County, which immediately joins Putnam - the county in which he resides and are in his immediate vicinity and remain his nearest neighbors and are as necessary who have been the longest acquainted with him, this with the additional reason that the part of the county in which he resides is so thinly settled he has very few neighbors in his own county and those only he says with whom he has very recently acquainted, is the reason why he has not named persons in his own county. And his residence is very near the line of Putnam County adjoining Allen County. But he names Caleb Goshill and Josiah Crawford who reside in his own county (Putnam) who certify to his character for truth and veracity, and their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution,

¹ A small fort erected by Jonas Friend, at Maxwell's Ferry, on Leading Creek, Randolph County.

² This fort was located about half a mile above the mouth of Chenoweth's Creek, on the east side of Tygart's Valley River, Leadville District, Randolph County. This was an important early frontier post erected by Colonel Benjamin Wilson.

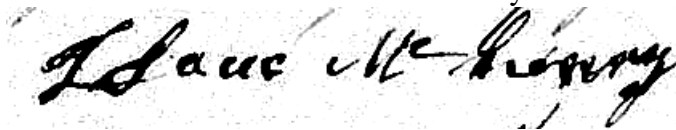
³ A stockade fort erected by Jacob Westfall in 1774, located on the southern border of the site of Beverly, Randolph County, near mouth of Files Creek.

⁴ Probably a reference to Hadden's Fort, a small fort erected by John Hadden, near the mouth of Becco's [sic, Becky?] Creek, Randolph County.

⁵ Small fort erected by John Warwick at the forks of Deer Creek, near Green Bank, Pocahontas County.

but he is not acquainted with any clergymen in his county which name he can give, but has given the name of one in Allen county whose affidavit is hereto attached. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can provide who can testify of his service, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension - roll of this or of any state.

S/ Isaac McHenry

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaac McHenry". The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Daniel W. Gray. Clerk P.T.

[Caleb Gashill and Josiah Crawford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Ohio Allen County: SS

Personally appeared in open Court Isaac McHenry of Putnam County who being duly sworn according to law says that in a declaration made & sworn to by him at the last Term of the Putnam County Court to avail himself of the benefit of the Act making provision for Revolutionary Pensioners, he stated, that a commission issued to him from General George Jackson to fill a Lieutenancy in the Company to which he was attached, which in the estimation of the Department for a reason assigned is considered an objectionable feature in the declaration. Said McHenry states, that such was the fact according to the best of his recollection. A lapse of fifty years, so eventful as the last fifty years have been, it may be well supposed, may render his recollection imperfect, of some of the minor events & the less conspicuous detail of that agitated period, when he casts himself into the dangers of the Revolutionary Struggle. It may be that General George Jackson had no authority to issue such a commission yet the recollection of said McHenry, that he did, should not destroy his declaration, if said Jackson happened to act without authority. If affiant be mistaken as to the Commission having issued in the formal manner that he has stated in his declaration, it has arisen from the fact, that said Jackson did sanction the election of said Affiant and gave him the requisite authority to act in the capacity alluded to. It might have been a mere verbal authority, or a sanction of the election of said affiant expressed in a less formal manner, than affiant stated in his declaration. If an apparent error or discrepancy has inadvertently crept into his declaration, he cannot but believe, that however rigid may be the rules by which the Department is governed, now that he has aided to defend his Country, & in the trying period of the revolution came up to the aid of our infant Republic, & standing on the close of that existence, that has been so much identified with the existence of his Country, the frailty of his memory (if such be the case) in relation to one particular fact, should not deter [?] him from the enjoyment of that provision which was made for those who periled the [their] lives in defense of the Republic.

It is further objected that affiant did not make application at an earlier period. It will be perceived, that affiant lived in Putnam County for five years, during that time said County was not organized. He lived remote from the County-seat of the nearest organized County, & being poor & much afflicted by a chronic affliction, the melancholy result of exposure & privations in the earlier part of his life, he was prevented from making an earlier application.

S/ Isaac McHenry

[Attested November 10, 1835]

[Simon Cochran, a clergyman, and William Boman, Abraham W Cochran and Henry Foster gave a supporting affidavit.]

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The State of Ohio Allen County: SS

On this Eighteenth day of November in the year A.D. 1837 personally appeared before me H. D. V. Williams – a justice of the peace in and for said Allen County, Isaac McHenry a resident of Putnam County of Ohio aged as stated in his original declaration, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration, amendatory to his original declaration now on file in the pension Office at Washington City, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

And that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated.

Sometime in the month of March A.D. 1780, (the precise day this Declarant cannot state, it having been so long since, and his memory having failed him in some considerable degree; but is certain it was as early as March as the 10th day of March in the year 1780) He entered the service of the United States as an Indian Spy, in Captain Alexander Maxwell's Company of Indian Spies ^{as a [indecipherable word or words interlined]} Sergeant and served as first Sergeant in said Company till the first day of November then next ensuing (1780) when he was dismissed, but [one or more words overwritten and illegible] recollect of receiving any written discharge, if he did it is lost or destroyed long since, but he is satisfied in his own mind he received none. During this tour he had for his officers Captain Alexander Maxwell, Lieutenant George Westfall for the Company, and Major George Parsons, Colonel Benjamin Wilson, and General George Jackson of Virginia ^{our officers}. This tour was seven months and twenty-one days, it being a tour for that season.

On the fifteenth day of February then next ensuing A.D. 1781 he again entered the service of the United States as an Indian Spy for the term of nine months in the same company which he had served his former Tour, commanded by Captain Alexander Maxwell, and in the same Regiment – Commanded by Major George Parsons, Colonel Benjamin Wilson, and General George Jackson of Virginia, and served in said company as a private till the 15th day of November A.D. 1781, when he was dismissed but received no written discharge. And on the fifteenth day of February then next ensuing A.D. 1781, he again entered the service of the United States as an Indian Spy for the term of nine months, as in the last preceding term in the same company in which he served his former tours, still commanded by Captain Alexander Maxwell, and in the same Regiment commanded by Major George Parsons, Colonel Benjamin Wilson having resigned the Command of the Regiment during this tour devolved on Colonel Henry Delea [Henry Delay] General George Jackson was still the Commanding officer and served in said Company as a private till the 20th day of November A.D. 1782 – when he was discharged and received a written discharge which was destroyed in the manner set forth in this Declarant's original declaration to which this is an amendment.

This declarant here states he rendered the services (in the two last named tours ^{and did the duties}) of Lieutenant: and so considered himself as he so stated it in his original Declaration, but having been informed by the Department that his authority to act as Lieutenant was not regular or legal, he [indecipherable word or words] becomes a private and he so states his

service in this amended declaration. And in his original declaration he has stated his last term of service to be for two years and to have commenced on the 15th day of November 1780. This he did including his time continuously and including the intervening time between the expiration of each tour or term of service, and dismissal, – and the entering again into actual service in each of the two next tours of nine months each as above stated.

This declarant is assisted in the recollection of the times when the two last terms of service commenced from the circumstance of the murder of a family by the Indians by the name of Canly in February 1780 and Colonel Wilson having stated that fact at the expiration of the first term of service, and said the first of March in the succeeding campaign would be too late as the Indians had committed that murder before March, it would be necessary for them to turn out sooner and fixed on the middle of February – for all other matters and proves this Deponent refers to his original Declaration now on file of which this is made part.

S/ Isaac McHenry

Sworn to and subscribed before me a justice of the peace in and for the County of Allen and State of Ohio aforesaid this 18th day of November A.D. 1837

S/ H. D. V. Williams, JP