

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Michael McKinney (McKinny) R6767
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
County of Harrison }

On this 20th day of January 1834 Personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the peace for the county aforesaid now sitting Michael McKinney aged 74 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 was born in the State of Maryland in the year 1760 as he is informed having no record of his age. That in the year 1775 he removed to Western Virginia then West Augusta now Harrison County where he has resided until the present time. That in the Spring of 1777 he volunteered in a company of rangers commanded by Capt James Boothe [sic: James Booth] was appointed first Sargent in said Company was stationed at Edwards Fort [sic: Fort Edwards now in Taylor County WV] on Booths Creek a Branch of the Monongahela River was employed as a spy in traversing the wilderness between the aforesaid River and the Ohio river for the term of nine months. When he was discharged by Capt Boothe —

Again in March 1778 he volunteered under the above mentioned Capt Booth was stationed at Edwards Fort as before mentioned was continued in the Office of First Sargent & employed as before stated for the term of six months was again discharged by Capt. Booth orally as before for the within services [See note below.] he never received any pay altho he was promised a liberal compensation by his officers —

In March 1779 he volunteered in a company of rangers commanded by Capt. Wm Robinson was again appointed first Sargent in sd Company was employed as a spy, while thus engaged, in passing from Powers [Fort Powers on Simpson Creek in Harrison County] to Edwards Fort in Company with Wm. McKinney they were way laid by a party of Indians Captured and taken to Sandusky as prisoners and subjected to the most cruel treatment such as running the gauntlet, &c &c, upon one occasion while running the gauntlet was struck with a club knocked down and the rim of his belly broken which has partially disabled him until the present time, upon another occasion he was severely burned by the Indians the scars of which are obvious at the present time he was captured on the 20th October 1779 and remained a prisoner until near the close of the war when he was taken to Fort Pitt [sic: Fort Pitt at present Pittsburgh] where he received an honourable discharge in writing signed by Col. [John] Gibson which has since been lost by the burning of his house in 1799. He also received a Certificate authorizing him to draw provisions on his way home which was also destroyed at the same time He is acquainted with Daniel Kincheloe & John Cather[?] our delegate in the Va. Assembly to whom reference may be had. He has no documentary evidence by or knows of no one by whom he can prove the above services. 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

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Michael hisXmark McKinny

NOTES:

Capt. James Booth was killed by Indians on 16 June 1778 and therefore could not have discharged McKinney at the time stated. (Withers, A. S. *Chronicles of Border Warfare*. 1831.)

A note in the file indicates that McKinney's claim was rejected as fraudulent, but there is no further detail. Many pension applications of this kind from Harrison County were shown to have been fraudulent during investigation by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton in 1834. On the other hand, Singleton also routinely labeled valid claims for service against Indians as fraudulent. For discussion see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.