

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McWhirter R6818

Transcribed by Will Graves

f16NC

rev'd 11/24/16

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6]

State of Tennessee, Lincoln County

On this 12 day of January 1833 personally appeared before us Elijah Bagley, Asa Holland & David McGahey acting justices of the peace in & for said County James McWhirtera resident of said County of Lincoln & State of Tennessee aged Eighty-three 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 7, 1832.

I first entered the service of the United States under the command of Captain George Davidson in Rowan County State of North Carolina, that part of said County that has since been stricken off & at present is called Iredell County in the fall season of the year 1775, month or day not at present recollect. Colonel Alexander Martin being our Colonel, our principal headquarters was at Rayburn's Creek, not far from Enoree River. I was at skirmish with Tories at a place called the Golden Grove in South Carolina. I was then marched to Fayetteville in North Carolina by way of Salisbury where we continued some time & we were occasionally employed in suppressing the depredations of Tories thereabouts and were finally discharged there some time in the spring of the year 1776 after having been in service six months. During which term of service I served in the capacity of orderly Sergeant to the company I belonged to.

Immediately on my return from the preceding campaign I was appointed Lieutenant in a Company under Captain David Caldwell as twelve months men, & continued our services as such for three years, having reviewed our engagements as such, as our terms expired. During which service I was at the battle of Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780] – I was at the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] under Colonel McDowell [Joseph McDowell] – I was at the battle or skirmish at a place called Deaton's Bridge¹ between Fayetteville & Wilmington in North Carolina under Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell] – and I was at the battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] under a Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] all commanded by General Greene [Nathanael Greene].

I was afterwards engaged in several short tours of duty in what was denominated Tory hunting but the term to thereof I have no distinct recollection. I was two or three tours after a distinguished Tory by the name of Bryant [Samuel Bryan].

From all of the above tours of duty I received regular discharges, but have lost them all, having had the misfortune to have them burnt.

1 Because of the applicant's statement that the Whigs were led by Richard Caswell, Patrick O'Kelley suggests that this is probably a reference to the skirmish now known as the skirmish at Rockfish Creek which occurred on August 2, 1781. For a description of this skirmish see Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Three: 1781*, (N. p.: Blue House Tavern Press, Booklocker.com, Inc., 2005) 306-7.

I was born in Rowan County State of North Carolina and, agreeable to the record of my birth, on the 16th day of January 1750. And continued to reside there until the commencement of the revolutionary war where I entered the service & continued there for three or four years after the close of the same, when I removed to the State of Kentucky and lived there something like 14 or 15 years when I came to the State of Tennessee, Lincoln County, where I have continued ever since. I entered the service in each time as a volunteer & the names of the Officers with whom I served so far as I can recollect is embodied in the statement of my tours. As a Lieutenant I was commissioned signed by Governor Caswell, but I lost it at the same time I lost my discharges.

I am known I presume to the citizens of my neighborhood generally some of whom will appear [to] certify on oath to the same. There being * living witnesses to prove my service.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Before

S/ Elisha Bagley {Seal}

S/ James McWhirter, X his mark

S/ Asa Holland {Seal}

S/ David McGahey {Seal}

Justices of the Peace

[Temson Chesser & William McAdams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 2]

State of Tennessee, Lincoln County

On this 20th January 1834 personally appeared before me David McGahey an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County James McWhirter a resident of the said County of Lincoln & State of Tennessee now Eighty-four years of age, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following explanatory or additional declaration in order to attain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

In the service, I served as Lieutenant under Captain David Caldwell as twelve-months men, as stated in my original declaration, they were raised under authority of the State of North Carolina as State troops for a term of twelve months & our term of service was renewed as soon as expired for three successive years and during these terms of service I was not engaged in any domestic employment, further than an occasional visit to my family residence of short duration and one tour I was absent the full term of Twelve months a part of which time I lay sick in Chatham C. H. [Court House].

In addition to the services I rendered as stated in my original declaration, shortly after I lay sick as above stated at Chatham C. H. & before I entirely recovered my strength – we were dispatched under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in a tour against the Cherokee Indians. Immediately on our return from the Indian tour we rendezvoused at Charlotte under Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] for the purpose of going into South Carolina – our companies not being full, the Lieutenants of each company, myself among the number, were sent back to raise recruits to supply the deficiency which when procured, we followed & joined our respective companies near Camden – from there we were dispatched to join Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & were at the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781].

As to the commission I received, it was signed by Governor Caswell [Richard Caswell] & the authority he had issuing it was understood at the time I received the commission & acted under it conceiving myself fully authorized to do so – but it, and the discharges I regularly received at the expirations of my several terms of service, I lost, by having my chest in which they were contained burnt.

At the time I made my first declaration, by an inadvertent omission in the fourth line from

the close thereof at the place marked (*) the word “no” was omitted; thereby making me distinctly understood as knowing of those who were witnesses of my services; which is not the case. When I made that declaration, I knew of no living witness who could testify to any of my services; but the accompanying certificate of John W. Crunk [?]² was accidentally procured at that time I did not know where he was. But as to my services afterwards as Adjutant, I have no knowledge of an individual now living who could certify the same.

I will just say that the record of my age was in my father's Bible which one of my sisters got but where it now is I cannot tell; my own memorandum thereof being a copy of it.

The certificate of a clergyman was not procured in my original declaration for the reason there was none convenient. The certificate that accompanies this I hope will satisfy on that point.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written.

S/ David McGahy {Seal}

S/ James McWhirter, X his mark

Justice of the Peace

[Henry Talley, a clergyman, and Josiah Brooks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

² [John Walter Crunk S38646](#) There is no such certificate among the papers in this file.