

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McWilliams R6822

f26SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/27/09: rev'd 9/27/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Mississippi Lowndes County: To wit

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open Court before me Isaac A. Nicholson one of the Judges of the Superior Court of the State of Mississippi & presiding judge of the fifth Judicial Circuit of said State, said Court being holden and now sitting in the Town of Columbus in the County of Lowndes, James McWilliams, of the County of Lowndes and State of Mississippi, aged eighty-six or seven, who being first duly sworn according to law, does on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832:

That he the said James McWilliams entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit  
1<sup>st</sup> under the command of Capt. Francis Ross who was then under the command of Col. \_\_\_\_ Williams, in the month of \_\_\_\_ (in warm weather) in the year of our Lord 1779 to the best of his recollection & left the service of the United States and the command of the aforesaid officers about 4 months after he entered the service as aforesaid -- that while under the command of said officers he was in several skirmishes or engagements, the places not now recollected -- He about 2<sup>nd</sup> year 1780 entered the service of the United States under the command of William Rayney as his Capt., does not now recollect the name of any field officer under whom he served while under the command of Capt. Rayney except Col. \_\_\_\_ Cunningham. That after entering the service of the United States, under Capt. Rayney, he was under the command of various officers whose names are not recollected, except Col. Hamilton & General O'Neal. That he continued in the service of the United States, until peace was concluded between the United States & Great Britain, or England --. That he resided in Lawrence County [sic, Laurens County] State of South Carolina, when he entered the service of the United States; that he entered & continued in the service of the United States as a volunteer; that while in the service of the United States, he was in the battles at the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], at Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-2nd e 19, 1781] & at the battle on the Savannah River & in various other engagements that place is not now recollected --. That while he was in the service of the United States, he marched through States of South Carolina & North Carolina; that he served with various Continental units, he does not now recollect the names of the officers --. That while he was in the service of the United States he was acquainted with Col. Ross (who had been promoted from a Capt.), Col. Hamilton, General Thompson [William Thomson], General O'Neal, General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] & General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] who were regular officers. That he does not now know of any person who is living that was acquainted with him while in the service of the United States. That he has had in possession various written documents such as discharges & furloughs -- which evidenced the fact of his having been in the service of the United States, but all of which from the great length of time are now lost & destroyed --. That [he] has not any

documentary evidence -- & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service in the United States Army. And I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

By the Court

Interrogatory 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born? -- Answer 1<sup>st</sup> that I was born in York County in the State of Pennsylvania I think in the year 1746 or 7.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? -- Answer 2<sup>nd</sup> That there was a record of his age in his father's Bible but he does not know where it is --.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? -- Answer 3<sup>rd</sup> I lived in the State of South Carolina when called into service: I have lived in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee & in Mississippi & now live in the State of Mississippi

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer I volunteered into the service: I was never drafted; & I was never a substitute except one time for 3 months, which was for William Bratcher

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Ans: Col. Hamilton, General Thompson, Col. Ross & General Williamson were some of the regular officers of the Army -- I knew you Williamson's Regiment & Ross Regiment & many others but I cannot call the names of the officers

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans 6<sup>th</sup> I never did receive a final discharge, the reason was that Col. Benjamin Killgore [sic, Benjamin Kilgore] who should have given the discharge deserted<sup>1</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: 7<sup>th</sup> : I am known by Hugh Rogers, Bartlett Sims, Silas McBee<sup>2</sup> & many others in my present neighborhood, who also knows my character for veracity & good behavior. I know of no person who can testify as to my services as a soldier of the revolution.

In testimony of which I have hereunto set & subscribed my name the day & date above written.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this 14th day of May A.D. 1833

S/ Wm Dowsing, Clerk

S/ James McWilliams, X his mark

[David Wright, a clergyman, and William Dowsing gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18 et seq., applicant filed an almost identical application dated October 20, 1834, also in

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<sup>1</sup> In his other application, veteran altered this statement to say that Kilgore 'left the service before he gave my discharge.' I know of no evidence that Kilgore ever deserted the service other than this veteran's statement in his first application.

<sup>2</sup> For what it is worth, it strikes me as odd that this applicant refers to Silas McBee ([Silas McBee S7202](#)) as a character witness but not as a witness to his service in the revolution since McBee also lived in the region of South Carolina that later became Laurens County and served in the Little River Regiment in which it would appear that this applicant served, at least part of his time. Benjamin Kilgore was an officer in the Little River Regiment as was Col. James Williams to whom this applicant may be referring as having served under in his first tour of duty. McBee also filed for a pension as a resident of Lowndes County Mississippi.

Lowndes County]

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Personally appeared in open Court James McWilliams who after being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades (to wit)

1<sup>st</sup> For 4 months under the command of Capt. Francis Ross, I served as a private --

2<sup>nd</sup> for 3 months, I served as a private & substitute in the place of William Bratcher

3<sup>rd</sup> For at least one year & 6 months I served as a volunteer private. And for such services I claim a pension --.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1834

S/ William Dowsing, Clerk

S/ James McWilliams, X his mark