

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McConnel (McConnell) S11047

f27NC/f29¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/2/09: rev'd 9/15/16 & 2/7/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 4, 2nd file]

The State of Alabama Marshall County: SS

On this fourth day of June 1838 personally appeared in open Court before the Orphans Court of Marshall County now sitting it being a Court of Record expressly made such by the laws of the State creating it, James McConnell a resident of the County of Marshall & State of Alabama aged eighty years and nine months 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:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated -- In the fall of the year 1779 he volunteered as a minute man for the term of nine months under Capt. Osborne [James Osborn] and served under him with the exception of the time hereinafter stated until after the taking of Lord Cornwallis [Battle of Yorktown, October 19, 1781], During his service under Capt. Osborne that officer several times placed him under the command of other officers once under Capt. David Reed when he went to fight at Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780]² in the State of South Carolina under Colonels Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] & Irvine [Col. Robert Irwin] -- this deponent was engaged in that battle which lasted between two & three hours a force of the Americans at that place consisted of five or six hundred men under the command of Sumter & Irwin the latter of Mecklenburg County North Carolina -- the force of the British & Tories he does not know, these were in a large frame house stockaded round from which the Americans tried to drive them but without success as they were unprovided with cannon. After the Battle & under the command of the same officers he proceeded to Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780]³ in the State of South Carolina where about two weeks after the battle of Rocky Mount was fought the battle of the Hanging Rock -- the British were commanded by Rawdon⁴ this deponent believes and the Tories with them from about the at Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] were under the command of one Bryan [Samuel Bryan] his rank as the officer not now remembered by this deponent. The Americans left the British & Tories on the field of Battle -- the Americans lost in killed & wounded about twenty-five men & took about

¹ For some reason the digital images in what ought to be one file are split into 2 files on Fold3.com. The digital images contained in both of the Fold3.com files relate to the same applicant/veteran.

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

⁴ Lord Rawdon was not at the Hanging Rock engagement. The British/Loyalist forces there were commanded by Col. Samuel Bryan (Tory) and Major John Carden of the Prince of Wales American Regiment.

eighty prisoners the loss of the other party was estimated as much greater at this battle this deponent states that he was wounded in the right arm by a bayonet thrust by which he was much injured in the use of his right hand -- After the Battle of Hanging Rock he was marched back & placed under the command of Capt. Osborne under whom he served until the next fall after the Battle of Hanging Rock, during which time he was out scouting being sometimes permitted to return home for a day or part of a day. In the fall of 1780 this deponent was drafted into the militia company of Capt. McNight [Robert McKnight] who served under Major Graham [Joseph Graham], Col. Irwin & General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] -- he remained in the service as a drafted militia man three months when he was discharged, this discharge he lost when moving from North Carolina to Kentucky more than 30 years ago, Immediately after his discharge from the militia about the month of December 1780 he returned to the company of Capt. Osborne, while with him this deponent in company with ten others were lying in ambush on one occasion at Macampens Creek [sic, McAlpine's Creek?] at Molly Ormonds ford fired upon a body of Tories about one hundred in number who immediately turned & fled leaving eleven killed & wounded -- a few days after this deponent with the same party of ten went to the house of Mr. Wallace in Mecklenburg County who were first rate Whigs for the purpose of hearing the news and of getting something to eat. The British at that time lay in Charlotte and a marauding party of them was expected at the house the next day, this deponent went with his companions the next day & lay in ambush for them near the house -- when the British came they were fired upon and in a few minutes retreated, they were pursued a short distance leaving a good many of their party killed, and next day they left Charlotte before sun up. The next battle in which this deponent was engaged was fought at Cowan's Ford (as this deponent thinks the place was named) on the Catawba [River] when the British were in pursuit of Morgan [Daniel Morgan] some time after the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]⁵ -- the Americans were stationed on one side of the Catawba the British approached on the other the latter rushed into the water and were shot down in great numbers, they fired in return and General Davidson commanding the Americans was killed⁶ -- the Americans retreated and were pursued as far as the house of the widow Torrence [Tarrant's]⁷ on the road leading to Salisbury this was in the early part of 1781 -- As soon as Capt. Osborne had gathered his company which occupied four or five days they marched back to the neighborhood of Charlotte, But a few days after this deponent got home he marched, with the permission of Capt. Osborne, under Capt. Penny⁸ into South Carolina on which tour he was out four or five months and on the 15th day of August 1781 he received three sword wounds two on the back part of his head and one on his left shoulder blade in an engagement near Bacon's Bridge on Goose Creek South Carolina -- the British & Americans met near a bend in the road and were close together before they saw each other -- all were on horseback & used swords both parties rushed on and after cutting through each other's ranks would wheel and pass back again -- this deponent was cut down while cutting his way through for the third time -- after he fell he understood the British fled -- this deponent was carried by some of his comrades from the battleground to a private house in the neighborhood where he remained until he was so far recovered as by slow journeys he was able to get back towards home -- Shortly after he got home news was brought that Cornwallis had surrendered, and

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁶ William Lee Davidson died at the Battle of Cowans Ford on February 1, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

⁸ PERHAPS William Penny (Penney) of the Rowan County NC militia

shortly after this sometime in the close of October 1781 his company was discharged. This deponent then received his discharge as orderly Sgt. of the Company of Capt. Osborne which post he had filled during his time of service with him, This discharge was also lost at the same time with the other mentioned before and in this manner -- when removing more than thirty years since from the State of North Carolina to Kentucky all his papers were destroyed [by] the rain during a long spell of wet weather he having to convey them a great distance on packhorses & having no good method of preserving them. This deponent states that at the time he entered the service he was residing about four miles from Charlotte in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina that he served as a volunteer for the space of one year & ten months as above stated and three months as a drafted militia man & that he marched into South Carolina several times -- that although he never served in the Continental Army he on one occasion acted with them to wit when General Greene [Nathanael Greene] lay in winter quarters at Six Mile Creek Mecklenburg County North Carolina. This deponent knew General Greene Col. Morgan & Col. William Washington of the light horse & has seen Generals Francis Marion & DeKalb and served under Sumter as has been before stated -- this deponent saith that he has no documentary evidence of these transactions. During the time specified as being in the service this deponent saith that he attended to no civil service whatsoever never pretending to raise a crop or do anything but attend to his military duties which required all his time. This deponent says that he was born on the 15th of August 1757 in County Down Ireland that his parents removed to America when he was four or five years of age & settled on Big Saluda River South Carolina thence they removed to Mecklenburg County North Carolina some years before the revolutionary war -- he has no record of his age whatever but speaks from what his parents told him about his age. He lived in Mecklenburg when he entered the service of the United States and resided there after the close of the war until the year 1800 when he removed to Rutherford North Carolina where he resided until 1806 and then removed to Knox County Kentucky where he lived until 1809 -- thence he removed to near Duck River in Tennessee & resided there and in other places in Tennessee until the year 1825 -- then he removed to the State of Alabama in several counties of which he has been residing until January 1838 when he removed to the County of Marshall which he now resides. The first discharge he received this deponent states was given by Capt. Robert McKnight -- the second he received from Capt. James Osborne both of which have been lost as stated. This deponent does not know any living witness by whose testimony he can prove all the facts stated above although he has often made inquiries after his comrades of Capt. Osborne's Company. This deponent further states that John W. Coal of the County of Marshall knew him when he resided in Mecklenburg County North Carolina and that he believes the said John W. Coal will testify to his character for veracity and his belief of this deponent's services in the war of the revolution -- that Thomas T. Doty of Marshall County has known him for some time and will also certify as Mr. Coal. And that Isaac Doty⁹ of Livingston Overton County Tennessee is partially acquainted with the services rendered he having known this deponent when in the drafted militia company of Capt. Robert McKnight.

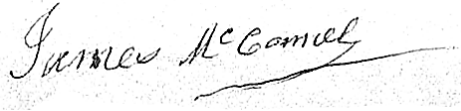
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me in open Court.

S/ Washington D. May, Judge

S/ James McConnel

⁹ [Isaac Doty S38668](#)



[Stephen W. Donathan, a clergyman, and John W. Coal gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

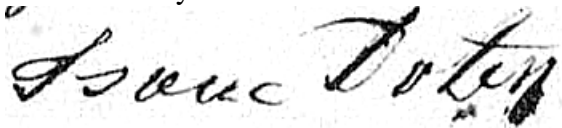
[p 16, 2nd file]

State of Tennessee Overton County

This day personally appeared Isaac Dotey Senior before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County & made oath in due form of law that James McConnel of Marshall County Alabama, is as he believes most positively without a doubt the Identical same James McConnel who was a private in Capt. McKnight's company, who was under General Davidson & John Liddy was quarter master Sgt. at Six Mile Creek the above statements I believe from circumstances detailed by him, which happened in our youthful days the said Dotey has no doubt of his being the same James McConnel above referred to. Sworn to & subscribed before made this 20th of March 1838.

S/ Doak H. Capps, JP

S/ Isaac Dotey



[p 17, 1st file]

The supplemental declaration of James McConnel a revolutionary soldier now a resident of the County of Marshall State of Alabama to his original declaration made in the Orphans Court of said County & State on the 4th day of June 1838

The State of Alabama Marshall County

On this sixth day of August 1838 personally appeared in open Court before the Orphans Court of Marshall County now sitting it being a Court of record expressly made so by the act of assembly of the State by which it was constituted James McConnell a resident of said County & State aged about eighty years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make this supplemental declaration to his original declaration made in the Orphans Court of said County & State on the 4th day of June 1838, in order to obtain a pension for revolutionary services and to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That in addition to the statements contained in the said original declaration the said James McConnel further states that he was engaged in the tour of service during which the actions of Rocky Mount & Hanging Rock were fought for the space of one month. That the reasons of his not applying to the Department at an earlier period for a pension are as follows That about fourteen years ago he applied to Judge Harris of Giles County West Tennessee for instructions and assistance in his application for a pension, who informed this deponent that in order to procure a pension under the then existing laws it would be necessary to obtain the testimony of witnesses other than himself to the facts stated in his declaration -- that in pursuance of this instruction this deponent made continual exertions to find out someone of those with whom he served during the war of the revolution but ineffectually until in the month of January 1838 he accidentally heard of a man by the name of Doty as residing in Marshall County -- this deponent further saith that he called on said Doty & found that he was the son of the person of that name

with whom he was acquainted during the revolutionary war, and that the latter then obtained the affidavit accompanying this declaration supplemental,

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Washington T. May, Judge

S/ James McConnel

[p 18, 1st file]

I John W. Coal residing in the County of Marshall State of Alabama do hereby certify as supplemental to my certificate appended to the original declaration of James McConnel an applicant for a pension for revolutionary services and who has subscribed & sworn to the above supplemental declaration also, that I first became acquainted with the said James McConnel in Mecklenburg County North Carolina where we then resided in or about the year 1793 at that time I lived also in the same settlement and was well acquainted with the character of the said James McConnel, which was that of an honest credible & upright man, he was then reputed & believed to have been a soldier of the revolution in the service of the United States and held that character without any imputation -- that I have often heard his neighbors speak of his wounds as having been received while fighting for the Independence of these United States -- that after he removed from that settlement I saw him for a short time some four or five years afterwards -- and never again until he came to my house some time in the spring of 1838, I recognized him immediately and knew that the same James McConnel now making application for a pension is the same who in Mecklenburg County North Carolina forty-three years ago enjoyed the reputation of a soldier of the United States in the revolutionary war.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John W. Coal

S/ Washington T. May, Judge

[p 26, 2nd file contains the following site summary dated August 9, 1933]

"James McConnel was born August 15, 1757, in County Down, Ireland. When he was 4 or 5 years of age he came to America with his parents (their names not given) and settled on the Big Saluda River, South Carolina. Some years before the Revolution he moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

"While living in that County, about 4 miles from Charlotte, he enlisted in the fall of 1779 and served until late in October, 1781, amounting to twenty-five months in all, as private and orderly Sgt. with the North Carolina troops under Captains James Osborne, David Reed and Robert McNight [sic, Robert McKnight] and Col. Irwin. He was in the battle of Rocky Mount; he received a bayonet wound in the right arm during the battle of Hanging Rock; he was in the battle of Cowan's Ford; on August 15, 1781, during an engagement near Bacon's Bridge on Goose Creek, South Carolina, he received 3 wounds, 2 on the head and one on the left shoulder blade; he also was in the areas skirmishes with the British and Tories.

"He stated that in 1800 he moved to Rutherford, North Carolina, in 1806 he moved to Knox County, Kentucky, in 1809 he moved to near Duck River in Tennessee and lived there and in other places in Tennessee until 1825 when he moved to Alabama and lived in several counties in that state until January, 1838, when he moved to Marshall County, Alabama.

"He was allowed pension on his application executed June 4, 1838, at which time he was living in Marshall County, Alabama. He was living there in 1840.

"The papers in this pension claim contain no further data relative to the soldiers

family."

[p 15, 1st file]

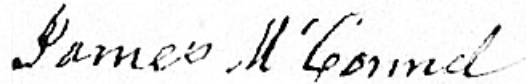
State of Alabama Marshall County

Be it remembered that, on this day being the twenty ninth day of February in the year 1840, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County, personally appeared James McConnell who on his oath, declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Capt. David Reed in the Regiment commanded by Col. __ Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in the United States services: that his name was placed on the Pension Roll of the Mobile Agency but that he resides within the agency at Huntsville, in said State, where he intends to remain and wishes his pension to be there payable in future. He resided in said County of Marshall when he made his application for a pension.

Subscribed and sworn before me this the day and year aforesaid.

S/ George Chennault, JP

S/ James McConnel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M'Connell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested in Marshall County Alabama on February 29, 1840]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$26.66 per Adam commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the North Carolina militia.]