

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Hugh McGavock S16948

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Mar 2015.

[The originals of the following two documents are in the [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#), but the online images are not clear enough for transcription.]

State of Virginia County of Wythe, to wit, I Hugh McGavock of the State and County above written, aged sixty nine years, do hereby Certify, that on the latter part of the year, seventeen hundred and seventy nine in the rank and under the Commission of Ensign, I began to recruit men for the Virginia State service. That on the 1st of February of the following year, I was ordered to take my recruits (amounting in number to a Lieutenant's full quota) to Albemarle [Albemarle Barracks, 4 mi NNE of Charlottesville] to join Col Joseph Crocketts [Joseph Crockett, pension application S46377] Regiment; That in the fall of the year 1780 we were ordered to guard the prisoners from the barracks of Albemarle to Frederick Town in Maryland. That on joining the Regiment at the barracks of Albemarle I should have stated, I was put under the command of Capt. Kendly [sic: Benjamin Kinley] who shortly afterwards dying, his station and command were conferred upon Captain Cherry [William Cherry R13143], and it was under his command I acted in our march from Albemarle to Frederick Town. That at Frederick Town the regiment remained through the winter of the year 1780. That according to a regulation appointed for the Ensigns in the recruiting service with me, I having first enlisted a Lieutenants quota, but ranked the others, and this point was settled by a Court Martial at two different times in my favour over the pretensions of an Ensign the son of Major Wales [possibly Thomas Walls (Wales) R18784, son of Maj. George Walls (Wales) R18785], who, supported by his Father, so often contended for seniority, and so often was overruled by a Court Martial. That my rank of Lieutenant being thus settled, on the arrest of a Lieutenant Anderson and his discharge from the Army while at Frederick Town, I, as the Ensign acknowledged to be superior in point of preferment, became entitled to and discharged the duties of that rank in that station in the regiment from which Lieutenant Anderson was discharged. That in May seventeen hundred and eighty one the Regiment was ordered and marched to Pittsburg, from whence so soon as boats could be constructed they decended the river to Louisville (the falls of Ohio) where three of us, Capt. Chapman, Capt. Tipton [John Chapman R13115 and Abraham Tipton R18512, 2 Sep 1781] and I, on a ride to Col Floyds station about six miles from the falls [probably Col. John Floyd's Station 3 mi E of Louisville on Middle Fork Beargrass Creek], were fired on by a party of Indians and Capt Chapman and Tipton the one before and the other behind me were shot down. That my horse having fortunately turned back, on recovering from the fright, instead of forward where for eighty yards, I should have been exposed to their fire, I escaped unhurt. the horse of the fallen Officers having followed mine in safety. That in consequence of the death of these Captains I became entitled to the rank of Captain, to which post however owing to the insulated situation of the Regiment and the consequent difficulty of obtaining Commissions in due time, I did not receive the Commission for that rank to which I had thus become entitled by seniority in the Lieutenancy. That remaining there until the December after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781] the regiment was discharged on the termination of the War [see endnote], the term of enlistment having also about that time expired. That our terms of service and the period of the War having simultaneously expired, we are entitled to and I now claim for myself the bounty in land authorized by the law of Virginia 1779 – 1780 and required from the Governor and Council of this State that assistance in procuring a warrant for land bounty which shall enable me to avail myself of the provisions of the act of Congress of 30th of May 1830.

Given under my hand this eighth day of October 1830.

(Signed) Hugh McGavock

Virginia, County of Fluvanna, to wit:

I, Martin Farris [S8452] of aforesaid residence do Certify that as a private I enlisted in the company commanded by Capt Thomas Young in the Virginia State service on the 4th day of September 1779 & was discharged about the 21 December 1781 and was attached to Col. Crocketts battallion and knew Lieut Hugh McGavock in the same service, but attached to the different companies of Captain Kindly & Cherry at different times and that upon hearing his certificate as before written, read, that, I believe it to be literally strictly correct as to the various incidents therein set forth by him and that the rank in which he at different times served with us is true and correct as far as these circumstances are remembered by me at this day. Signed this 3^d day of Nov. 1830 Martin Faris

Sir [Benjamin Harrison, Gov. of Virginia] The Regiment I had the honour to command, was discharged at the Falls of Ohio in December 1781, at which time, I directed the Regimental Q Master, to apply to Gen'l [George Rogers] Clark for sixteen of the public Horses; then at that place, for the purpose of conveying provisions, and Baggage through the wilderness. Your excellency will see among the enclosed papers No. 1 Gen'l Clarks order relative to the Horses; when we got to Powells Valley [Powell Valley in southwest Virginia], several of the horses were tired, and there being no Q Master to receive them, I thought it better to dispose of them among the officers & soldiers than to leave them where they must have been lost to the public – A memorandum of which sales, your Excellency will find in No 2. When we got to Montgomery county, the Horses then left, were in a very declining state, & several quite tired; and no Quarter Master in that part of the country to receive them; my orders to the Regimental Quarter Master was to make sale of them at Public Auction for ready money: Advertisements and all other notice was dispersed through the country seven or eight Days before the sale notwithstanding a great number of the inhabitants attended the sale, not one would make a Bid I then directed the Regimental Quarter Master, to dispose of them to the Officers & soldiers (a considerable number of whom being present) they having made a Halt to rest & refresh themselves from the fatigues of the Journey and for the said Quarter Master, to take an order on the pay-master, as I expected our pay would be drawn by general abstract as usual, but that not being the case & my not knowing of any other mode; but by the Executive, of securing to the public (from the purchasers) the amount of sales have taken the liberty of inclosing to your excellency the above state of facts; with the papers in my possession. The Papers now enclosed your Excellency were sent me by the Q Master but a little time ago or I would have sent them to your Excellency sooner I am your Excellencys most Obed't and very Hble Servant
Joseph Crockett

Fort Nelson [at the Falls of the Ohio] 1 Dec 1781

Sir [Mr McGavock] You receive sixteen Horses for the purpose of carrying the baggage of Colo. Crocketts Regiment to Holdston [sic: Holston River]. Its out of my power at this distance to direct you in what manner to dispose of the Horses after your arrival there to the public advantage; but refer you altogether to Colo. Crockett who will pleasto[?] to instruct you I am Sir yr Obt Serv't/ G. R. Clark

No. 1

Mr. McGavock Q Master/ Colo. Crocketts Reg't pr.
Maj. Walls.

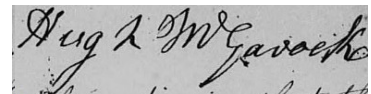
I hereby certify the foregoing to be true copies of papers, bound with others, in a volume filed in this office and entitled "Illinois papers. Returns of Illinois Reg't. Crocketts Regiment & Muster Rolls & Pay Rolls of Companies &c Vol 1. Executive department" and that said letters bear all the marks of original papers
Ro Johnston/ First Auditor

Aud'r Office/ 9th March 1850

State of Virginia }
Wythe County } to wit:

On this 13th day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four, personally appeared, in open court, before the County court of the County of Wythe in the state of Virginia, in quarterly session sitting, Hugh McGavock, Senior, a resident of the said County of Wythe and state of Virginia, aged seventy three years in September next, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, as an Ensign in Colonel Joseph Crocketts Regiment of the Virginia Sate line, in the month of February in the year 1780, according to his recollection of the time. He, together with a number of men, whom he had recruited, after receiving his commission as Ensign from the Government of Virginia, joined this regiment at the barracks in Albemarle County at the time before named, and was attached to Captain Kenley's Company. Captain Kenley died shortly thereafter and Captain William Cherry succeeded to the command of the Company. At the time he was commissioned he resided in the County of Montgomery (now Wythe), and in the neighbourhood in which he now resides. He, at present, only recollects the following officers, who belonged to the troops stationed at the said barracks and under the command of Col'l. Crockett, viz. Major Wills [sic], Captain Chapman, Captain John Carney, Captain Abraham Tipton, and Lieutenant Magill. This last named was an officer of this applicants Company & he thinks his christian name was James [James McGill]. He remained at the Albemarle barracks till late in the fall of the same year (1780), when the troops, stationed there, were marched with the prisoners they were guarding to Fredericktown in the state of Maryland, where they remained during the following winter. In the month of March following (1781) they were marched to Shepherdstown in Jefferson (then Berkely [sic: Berkeley]) County in Virginia, and from thence, with very little delay, were marched to a place called New Store on the Monongahela river about thirty miles above Pittsburg [sic: New Store, now Elizabeth PA, about 12 mi SSE of Pittsburgh], and remained at this place about one month, and were there marched to Pittsburg. They arrived in Pittsburg in the latter part of May or the first of June, according to the best of his recollection, and after tarrying at Pittsburg only two or three days they proceeded in boats down to Louisville, Kentucky; having indeed, entered boats at New Store, above named. The troops were stationed at Louisville from the time they arrived there from Pittsburg, as above, which he thinks was the last of July of that year (1781) until the close of the war, when the troops were disbanded. While at Fredericktown, as above, this declarant was promoted to the Lieutenancy of his company and acted as Lieutenant till the end of his service. At Pittsburg the troops under Col'l. Crockett, as aforesaid, met with General George Rogers Clarke, who took command of the same, and they continued under his command till they were disbaned. This declarant has drawn his half pay, as Lieutenant, under the Act of Congress of 5th July 1832, up to the 5th July 1833, and has lately made application for his half pay under that act for the year ending the 5th day of July 1834, but has received no warrant or draft for the amount due to him for this last named year. He doubts not that he is entitled to the full benefit of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832, and believes that he will be allowed such benefit without hesitation. Having received Half pay, as above stated, to the 5th July 1833, he will be entitled to the same under the act of June 7th 1832 from the 4th March 1831 to the time he has drawn his half pay, as aforesaid, or to the 5th July 1834, if it shall be found that a warrant or draft shall have issued from the Treasury Department for his Half Pay for the year ending on the said 5th July 1834 and to full pay, as Lieutent, from and after the time to which he has drawn, or for which a warrant or draft may have issued for his Half pay. His half pay as heretofore drawn is one hundred and sixty dollars annually. He particularly refers to the Treasury Department for the evidence on which his Half pay has been allowed and paid. Should he be considered entitled to the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832. he, then, hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present; and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid

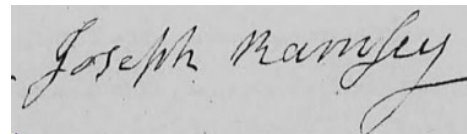
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hugh McGavock". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

State of Tennessee } ss
Davidson County }

This 22^d day of April 1833 came Felix Grundy of the Senate of the United States before me [blank] a justice of the peace for said County and made oath that he is acquainted with Hugh McGavock who resides on Read Creek [sic: Reed Creek] in the County of Wythe, in the State of Virginia, that he knows that the said Hugh is the same person to whom the Government has allowed half pay as a Lieutenant in Col Joseph Crockett's regiment during the revolutionary war. that he is well acquainted with the said Hughs family a brother of the said Hughs and this deponent having married sisters, and the son of the said Hugh having married the daughter of this deponent. The deponent further says that the government first allowed said Hugh pay as an Ensign, and the deponent as a friend to the s'd Hugh was furnished with evidence of his having been a Lieutenant and on his application the compensation was changed from an Ensign to a Lieutenancy, and by this deponents direction a draft or check was forwarded by the proper officer, to the said Hugh McGavock above mentioned. That he afterwards understood from said Hugh McGavock that he had rec'd the above check also the former allowance made to him as Ensign.
[signed] Felix Grundy

State of Virginia } to wit:
Wythe County }

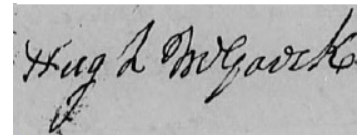
On this 10th day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty five personally appeared in open court in the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for said County of Wythe, before the Honorable James E. Brown, Judge thereof, Joseph Ramsey [S7348], a resident of the said County of Wythe, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath state, that he is well acquainted with Hugh McGavock Senior, a resident of the said County of Wythe, and has been so acquainted with him ever since before the beginning of the War of the Revolution – they having been raised in the same neighbourhood within a few miles of each other, and been intimate associates from their early boyhood to the present time, this affiant being seventy five years of age in December next, and being a few months older than said McGavock – that said McGavock is the identical person who was an officer in Colonel Joseph Crockett's regiment of the Virginia State line in the war of the Revolution, as this affiant verily believes. This affiant was about from the neighbourhood, in the Illinois service, when said McGavock entered service under Col. Crockett. On this affiant's return from the Illinois Country, he found said McGavock about from the neighbourhood, and was told by said McGavock's relations and the neighbours generally, that he had gone into service, as aforesaid; that said McGavock was absent for some time, but this affiant cannot say how long he was in service. That it has always been the reputation of the neighbourhood ever since the revolutionary war that said McGavock was an officer of Colonel Crockett's regiment, as above stated. That he has never known or heard of any other man of the same named, except a son of the said Hugh McGavock. That said McGavock is the same man who has been allowed and has received half pay as an officer of the said regiment, as he has frequently been informed by said McGavock and others of the neighbourhood – that said McGavock is a man of high standing and respectability, and a man of strict truth; and that he has never heard the slightest doubt intimated of the service of said McGavock, as above named.



State of Virginia } to wit:
Wythe County }

On this 14th day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty five, before me, Joseph Kent, an acting justice of the peace in and for said County of Wythe, personally appeared Hugh McGavock, Senior, a resident of the same County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say, as an amendme[nt] to a declaration lately made by him as an officer in Col'l. Joseph

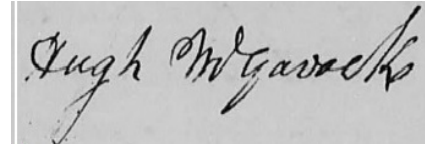
Crockett's regiment of the Virginia state line in the war of the revolution under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 for the benefit thereof, that he received a commission as Ensign from the Government of Virginia late in the fall of the year 1779; very shortly after receiving which he begun to recruit men, and after being engaged two or three months in recruiting, he left the County of Wythe (then Montgomery) on the 8th day of February following (1780) and marched, together with the men he had recruited, immediately to the Albemarle barracks, and there joined the aforesaid Regiment, as is stated in his said declaration. His said Commission he has long since lost and does not know its date, but he is confident he received it as above stated. He thinks he did not say any thing in his said declaration about his said recruiting services, but now insists on whatever allowance for the same that the law may entitle him to. The number of men he recruited he recollects was sufficiently large to entitle him to the rank of Lieutenant, but he did not receive such rank at the time of his entering service because there was not at that time a vacancy in that office. A vacancy did not occur till some time during the stay of the troops at Fredericktown in the state of Maryland, as stated in his declaration, when a certain Lieutenant Anderson (as well as this declaration recollects the name) was tried for some offences and broken or cashiered, and this declarant was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the place of the said Anderson and held that rank to the final close of the war by the conclusion of peace. His services, however, ended in the latter part of December 1781, when the troops were disbanded on the Ohio river, as stated in his said declaration. He cannot state the precise time when he was promoted to the Lieutenancy, but he knows it was during the stay of the troops at Fredericktown, as above stated. He thinks the troops arrived in Fredericktown late in the fall of the year 1780 and left that town early in the March following. He does not recollect the particular period of this stay at Fredericktown when he was promoted as above stated. This affiant would further state, that about one month after he joined the Regiment at the Albemarle barracks he was appointed Quarter Master of said regiment and continued to act as such, as well as Company officer, to the end of his services. He does not recollect that he stated in his said declaration that he had been appointed Quarter Master, as above; but now insists on such allowance as he may be entitled to for the same. He would also state, that he always considered that his services continued substantially to the close of the war, as he was in service till after the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and therefore so stated in his said declaration. He served from the time he received his commission as Ensign, to the close of his services upwards of two years. From the time he joined the Regiment in February 1780 to the close of his services he served at least twenty two months. He served as Quarter Master at least twenty one months.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hugh McGavock". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

State of Virginia }
Wythe County } to wit:

On this 1st day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty five, before me, John A. Sanders, an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County of Wythe, personally appeared Hugh McGavock, above named, a resident of the said County of Wythe, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say (as an amendment to his foregoing amended declaration) that he is unable to state more explicitly, than he has stated in his said foregoing declaration, how long he served as Ensign and what length of time he served as Lieutenant, as named in said declaration. He knows that he served as Ensign and Lieutenant together, from the time he was first commissioned Ensign to the close of his services, a period longer than two years. He knows that he was promoted to the Lieutenancy some time during his stay at Fredericktown, as before stated, but he cannot say precisely when. He knows that the troops left Fredericktown early in March 1780. In order to make it certain that he will not be allowed for more time of service as Lieutenant than he is really entitled to, he would suggest that his services as

Lieutenant be estimated from the time at which the troops left Fredericktown to the time when his services closed. He knows that this would be within the time period of his services as Lieutenant. He knows that the troops did not leave Fredericktown later than the 15th of March 1780, and he knows that the troops were not disbanded earlier than the 15th of December following [sic]. This would make the period of his services as Lieutenant at least nine months [sic]. He is convinced that this period of nine months is shorter than the period during which he really served as Lieutenant, but he would be satisfied to have the period so considered in settling his claim. This would give him pay for nine months service as Lieutenant and fifteen months service as Ensign, which he knows would produce entire justice to the Government. the word “appeared,” and the words, “than he is really entitled to,” on the opposite side of this half sheet, were interlined before this amendment to the foregoing amended declaration was subscribed and sworn to.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hugh McGavock". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[The following are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Wythe County]

Thorn Spring [in present Pulaski County VA]/ December 26, 1834

Sir [Thomas J. Boyd, attorney] I received your letter of yesterday requesting me to certify in relation to the character and credibility of Mr Hugh McGavock, who is about to petition the General Assembly as you inform me, “for a balance of full pay due him for services in the revolution. In reply to which I have to state that I have known Mr McGavock for more than twenty years, personally, and by reputation for thirty; He has always borne the character of a very upright citizen and an honest man, whose [undeciphered word] statements on oath are entirely to be relied upon, that he is entitled to this character I have no doubt, and believe, and no statement of his ought to be questioned

Respectfully your obt servt

John Floyd [son of John Floyd of Floyd’s Station; Governor of Virginia 1830-1834]

To the General Assembly of Virginia:

The petition of Hugh McGavock a resident of the County of Wythe in the state, aforesaid would respectfully represent, that he was an officer in the war of the revolution attached to Colonel Joseph Crocketts regiment of the Virginia State line. He was first commissioned Ensign, and subsequently, while in service, promoted to the officer of Lieutenant. After having recruited a number of men, he, together with the men he had recrutaed, joined said Regiment early in February 1780 and continued in active service in that regiment till late in the month of December 1781, when it was considered that hostilities were substantially ended and the regiment was disbanded. About one month after he joined the regiment he was made Quarter Master, and, from the time of his appointment to that office to the close of his services, he discharged the duties both of Company Officer and Quarter Master. He was promised, and believes, by the laws on the subject, he was entitled to, full pay for services in each capacity. He also entered the service under the legal promise of a bounty in land and of Half pay during life, both of which last he has lately been allowed and received. But a very large portion of his full pay for actual services, as above stated, he has never received. He has lately instituted an enquiry to ascertain whether he would be allowed this balance o full pay through the proper officers of the state; but they think, that from lapse of time and some circumstances, relating to this balance, that have arisen since the close of the revolution and which are hereinafter spoken of they would not be warranted in allowing it. YOur petitioner is therefore driven to lay his claim before your honorable and enlightened body; and he flatters himself that his claim will receive an attentive consideration, and that justice be extended to him which the original contract between his Government and himself and the circumstances of his case call for. The balance of full pay due to your petitioner for services in the revolution appears by a

certificate of the Auditor of the state hereto annexed, to have been two hundred and ninety one pounds and eleven pence. Your petitioner thinks it quite probable, that this sum was the correct balance due to him at the close of his services. He, however, has not the means of ascertaining the precise sum but feels convinced that at least that amount was due – the pay as Quarter Master having been equal to, if not greater than, that of Lieutenant.

[The petition continues for several more pages, with supporting documents, not transcribed here because they do not contain new information about McGavock's service. The petition was certified in court in December 1834 (date undeciphered). Notations on the petition indicate that it was rejected on 19 Feb 1835.]

NOTES:

McGavock considered the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown to be the close of the war. For purposes of issuing bounty land and half-pay for life, however, Virginia and the United States Pension Office considered the war to have closed in 1783 with the ratification of the peace treaty. McGavock received bounty land but not half-pay for life. He did, however, receive a United States pension under the act of 1832.

On 13 April 1835 Joseph Kent, 70, stated that he became the brother-in-law of Hugh McGavock, Sr. about 50 or 51 years previously, and that while he lived on the road leading east from Wythe County about 50 miles from his present residence, he saw McGavock with his recruits on his way to join the troops and also saw him when he returned. Kent also stated that Joseph Crockett, his uncle, had told him that McGavock was in the service. He added that the only others named Hugh McGavock were a son and a nephew of Hugh McGavock, Sr.

On 21 April 1835 David McGavock, about 72, of Davidson County TN, stated that he was the eldest brother of Hugh McGavock, and that a son of Hugh McGavock married the daughter of Senator Felix Grundy, whom he met while traveling to and from Washington.

On 26 Aug 1846 Randal McGavock, 43, executor of Hugh McGavock, stated that the latter died on 2 April 1844, "leaving no widow (his wife having died before the death of said Hugh McGavock), and nine children, whose names are as follows, to wit, Joseph McGavock, Jacob McGavock, Robert McGavock, Hugh McGavock, Randal McGavock (this affiant), Polly Cloyd wife of Thomas Cloyd, Eliza Ewing wife of Andrew B. Ewing; Sally McGavock; Margaret McNutt wife of Samuel H. McNutt, the said Margaret having since died, leaving her husband and several children, and James McGavock, who died prior to the death of his father, the said Hugh McGavock, leaving a widow and several children." Randal McGavock successfully applied for an increase in his father's pension, having learned that his father had been a Quarter Master in the Army of the Revolution for about 22 months.

Not all the 134 pages in the federal file are transcribed here.