

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McCanlass S1695

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

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State of Tennessee Giles County: November term of the County Court held at Pulaski for said County in the year 1832

On this 19 [could be 17] day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the justices of said Court now sitting & holding said Court John McCanlass aged Seventy Eight years since the 10th day of June last, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. -- when he first entered the service in the Revolutionary War he resided in Orange County North Carolina, where he continued to live during the whole war except when absent in the defense of his Country. He first volunteered & entered the service in Capt. William Norris Company of Mounted troops -- in General Butler's [John Butler's] Brigade said General Butler resided in the said County of Orange. This term of service only lasted three months, & was entirely performed in the said State of North Carolina. During which they did very little except to take a number of Scotch Tories, who resided in different parts of said State of North Carolina. He went into service next as a volunteer in the Cavalry under Capt. James Adkison [sic, probably John Atkinson?] -- he was marched through various parts of North Carolina having entered said last service in the said County of Orange. He was then stationed at Cross Creek, where he and his associate troops, remained during the rest of this term of service, which was in all six months. The object of this Expedition was to guard Campbell Town by intercepting the Highland Scotch Tories so as to prevent them from crossing Cape Fear River at the said Campbell town for the purpose of joining the British forces. He next volunteered as a light horse man, for another six months tour & went into service under Capt. George Hodge & he was ordered back again to guard Campbell town where they performed the same service which he had in the former expedition under Capt. Adkison. He was principally at the ferry on Cape Fear River near Campbell town General Butler was again their Superintending officer -- from whom they received general orders. General Butler had then his headquarters in Wake County in North Carolina. He was there discharged & again joined the service of his Country in Capt. James Guinn's [probably Capt. John Gwinn's?] Company of light horse -- in which he served for the term of three months -- during which he was engaged in scouring the country -- to effect which they marched through the Dutch settlements in Chatham County & various other parts of the Country & was engaged in quelling the Tories. They then returned to General Butler's

headquarters where they were discharged. He next went into service under the command of Capt. Coble in his Company of Cavalry in General Armstrong's Brigade for the term of three months -- as a volunteer -- in said troop. During this term they marched through North Carolina into South Carolina. On nearing Camden where the British forces were then lying -- he was under the immediate command of Col. Kanyon [sic, Kenan?]. He was in no important battles during any of the above services -- But they had many skirmishes & took a number of Tory prisoners.

The next & last expedition in which applicant served during said War, he was under the command of Capt. William Williams -- he was marched this term principally through North Carolina. The object of this expedition was to intercept the Tories and prevent them from stealing and carrying off horses to the British. During this expedition upon this march from Dan River to Hillsboro in North Carolina at Pains Tavern [also spelled Paine's or Payne's] Applicant was taken prisoner by the British -- and was kept sometime as a prisoner in Hillsboro whither he was conveyed after he was taken. During the term that he was with the British as a prisoner, he was in hearing of the battle at Guilford [March 15, 1781] -- At this time he & other American prisoners were put up in high pins [pens] & guarded -- Still at the places where the British would successively stop as they marched through the Country. He received several paroles & discharges which he well remembers -- but has lost or mislaid them all, -- He yet has in his possession the Oath of Allegiance which he took in the United States in 1778 which is marked A & herewith transmitted to the War Department. He resided some time after the war in the said County of Orange North Carolina thence he moved to Williamson County Tennessee where he lived four years, he thence removed to Giles County & said State of Tennessee, where he then lived for that he last twenty years or upwards & where he now lives. Applicant further states that he was an orderly Sergeant in all & every tour of the above service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State and that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove the above facts, whose testimony he can obtain. Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid
S/ German Lester, Clerk

S/ Jon McCanlass

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon McCanlass". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Questions required to [be] put by the war department

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the year 1754 June 10th in New London County in the State of Pennsylvania

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I had a record of my age in my family Bible, but my grandchildren sometimes since tore it out & it has since been lost.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I have fully answered this question in my declaration

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

I volunteered in all the service above set forth.

5th 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.

I have answered this question as fully as I can in the said declaration

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

I have received several discharges but lost them all as set forth in my said declaration

7th 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: Major Nathan Farmer, Robert Gordon, Thomas B. Gordon, Richard Briggs, Harrington L. Field, John Wilson and many others.

S/ John McCanlass, X his mark

[John Wilson, a clergyman, and Nathan Farmer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$90 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant in the North Carolina militia for 18 months.]