

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McDonald S18111

f27NC

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

State of North Carolina Rutherford County August 28, 1832

I do hereby Certify that previous to and during the revolutionary War I was intimately acquainted with James McDonald Son of Alexander McDonald who lived in Mumford Cove, & Supported the Character of an Honest Man & a friend to the cause of Liberty that his Son James was an Active & enterprising young man & one among those who Devoted a Considerable part of their time in their country's defense against the British Tories & Indians whose ravages & Incursions Required the utmost Exertion by all that were friends to their Country & more especially those who were exposed to imminent Danger as those were who resided in this section of Country at that period. Witness my hand the day and year as above Stated.

Sworn to before Me 3rd Day of June 1833

S/ Jonathan Hampton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Hampton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. There are some faint marks and a small number "3" written to the left of the signature.

S/ Robert G. Twitty, JP

State of South Carolina Union District, to wit

On this 3rd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Sessions, now sitting for the District aforesaid, James McDonald a resident in Union District aged Seventy-five 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. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. "I entered the service in February 1776 in Rutherford North Carolina under Capt. James McFadden, and Col. Hampton [Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hampton] and marched to Cross Creek (now called Fayette [sic, Fayetteville]) and remaining some time I was dismissed. Afterwards joined the company commanded by Capt. Earle [John Earle], and was stationed at while at Earle's Fort, -- And then moved down to Fortenberry's Fort Station -- and from there to Seneca Fort, there under command of Col. (afterwards General) Williamson [Andrew Williamson] and from thence we were marched home and dismissed. I cannot recollect the time employed in either of those Tours. I afterwards joined the company of Cavalry under Capt. Carruth [John Carruth], in Rutherford and served about 3

months principally in Rutherford, against the Indians as well as the British and Tories. I afterwards joined the command of General McDow [Charles McDowell] in the Company (I think) commanded by Capt. Whitesides [Adam Whitesides], and served about 3 months -- and on this Tour I was Elected an Ensign -- in which commission I served until our return home; I was then elected a Capt. in the militia, and held the commission until the end of the war. I am not certain that I ever commanded as a Capt. in active service though I think I did on one tour to the Nation [Cherokee Nation], a short duration, my command was principally on the frontier, and we were employed at broken periods, as Indian spies, guards to the forts, and on patrols & excursions against the British and Tories, for several years -- and until the end of the war, but my recollection is too much impaired to recollect dates. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

In answer to the interrogatories propounded by the court I answer  
1st I was born on the 29 November 1757 in the State of Maryland as I have been informed  
2nd I have the record of my age which I now exhibit to the court  
3rd I lived in Rutherford when I entered the service, and during the war and have lived, 35 or 6 years in this District.  
4th All my services were as a volunteer  
5th I cannot recollect any Regular officers who served with us.  
6th I did receive a commission as a Capt., which was signed by Col. Grimes -- but it has long since been lost.  
7th I have no documentary evidence of my services -- nor do I know of any person now alive who served with me -- I refer to the Rev. Willis Walker and Christopher Brandon<sup>1</sup> to prove my character for truth and moral deportment.  
Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
S/ Jno B. O'Neill, Pres. Judge

S/ James McDonald



[Willis Walker, a clergyman, and Christopher Brandon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of South Carolina Union District

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace James McDonald and after being duly Sworn Deposeth and saith that by Reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear to the precise length of his service in the Revolutionary war but according to the best of his Recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades.

1776 a volunteer under Capt. James McFadden Commanded by Col. Hampton as a private	1 month
1777 A volunteer under Capt. Earle Col. Williamson	3 months
1777 --Volunteered in the cavalry under Capt. Carruth	3 months
1778 Volunteered under Capt. Whitesides during this Tour I was appointed Lieut. & served	3 months
1779 I was Elected a Capt. made 3 tours over the mountains	3 months
1780 } I belonged to the Flying Camps under the command of Col. McDowell Col. Hampton	
1781 } & Col. Graham [William Graham] in those 3 years I know I was more than	<u>12 months</u>
1782 }	

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<sup>1</sup> [Christopher Brandon S9288](#)

25 months

I served ten months as a private three months as Lieut. and twelve months as a Capt. for which services I claim a pension. Sworn to and subscribed before me the 8th day of June 1833  
S/ John Giles, JP

S/ James McDonald

South Carolina Union District

James McDonald personally appeared before me and deposed as follows in order to give more Satisfaction & Explanation to his application for a pension under the Act of June 7th 1832. Saith that he entered the Service as a Volunteer under Capt. McFadden in Rutherford County North Carolina in February 1776 & served a tour of duty of at least one month commanded by Col. Hampton & marched to Cross Creek now Fayette[ville] I again volunteered in 1777 under Capt. Earle & Col. Williamson & marched from Rutherford to Bayles Earle's [Baylis Earle's] on Pacolet and from there to Fortenbury Station near the Indian line on the head waters of Tyger River South Carolina, & from there up to Seneca Fort on the Indian boundary, where I remained some time & was discharged out at this time 3 months at least, I again in 1777 volunteered under Capt. Carruth in a Company of Horse principally in the County of Rutherford North Carolina against the Indians as well as Tories & British and served a tour of 3 months more. In 1778 I again volunteered under Capt. Whiteside, Col. McDowell and was elected an Ensign and served as such at least 3 months and believe more during this Tour we were principally on the frontiers from Pacolet to Burke County North Carolina. In 1779 I was elected Capt. and was under Col. Porter [perhaps Robert Porter], Major Richard Singleton and our services was principally confined to the frontier from Pats [Potts?] Fort up to Davidson's Fort in Burke County North Carolina near the head of the Catawba -- & from Pats Fort down to Russell's Station. I remained in the office of Capt. some considerable time, and think I served as such one tour of 3 months. I again volunteered under Col. McDowell, Hampton & Grayham [sic, William Graham], served in what was called the flying Camps, and for 3 years 1780, 1781 & 1782 at broken periods I was from Pats Fort to Davidson & down to Russell's Station as a spy or guard to the frontier (as the frontiers had to be well guarded) and during these 3 years I know that I did serve at least 12 months, at different times -- Service -- from the loss of memory this deponent cannot say with certainty but believes that he served as much as 25 months in all his Services during the Revolutionary War, and thinks more.

Sworn to and subscribed before me November 29th, 1833

S/ JJ Pratt, Judge of the Court of Ordinary

S/ James McDonald

South Carolina Union District

James McDonald personally appeared before me and deposed from a great loss of memory that he is not certain of having served but one Tour of 3 months out of the 12 as Capt. and one tour of 3 months within a few days as Ensign and not as Lieut. as set out in his last declaration which was drawn through mistake by the person making out the same -- which office is now called 2nd Lieut. which may account for the same and I have come to the recollection of these facts by talking with William Dalton<sup>2</sup> on the subject of the Revolution. Said Dalton was under my command from the best recollection of this deponent --

S/ James McDonald

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<sup>2</sup> [William Dalton S8295](#)

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 30th of July 1833  
S/ John Giles, JP

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared before me John Logan one of the Justices of the peace for said County Anthony Dickey<sup>3</sup> and William Dalton and after being duly sworn according to law saith that they are well or was well acquainted with James McDonald in the time of the Revolutionary war that he held the commission of a Capt. of the Militia for several years before the end of the War that he was believed to be a Brave Soldier during the whole of [the] Revolutionary War that he was thought to be a credible man and fought bravely for his Country.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and year first above written  
S/ John Logan JP

S/ Anthony Dickey

S/ Wm Dalton



State of South Carolina Spartanburg District

Personally appeared George Hughey<sup>4</sup> we now of the State & District aforesaid, but formerly of the State of North Carolina County of Rutherford and made oath before me that he was well acquainted with James McDonald then of the same State and County last mentioned, but now the District of Union and State of South Carolina during the Revolutionary war that he knew of the said James McDonald's having been actually engaged as an active and efficient Soldier in the Service of his country, in an expedition against the Indians from Rutherford County to Mumford's Cove that he knew him personally in the said Service at a Fort in said County called Potts Fort, that he this deponent was engaged for the term of 3 months in said Service at the said Fort that he found him the said James engaged in the Service at that place when he went there and left him there when he came away that this deponent was there about 3 months, that he the said George soon after heard that the James McDonald rose to fill the office of a Capt. in the Service of his country during the said war that he has ever since passed as having such Capt., that this deponent has not any papers in his possession by which he can fix the date of said service and cannot from age speak with any certainty as to the time only that it was some considerable time before the battle of the Eutaw Springs, that this deponent is now 75 years old last July and believes the said James is about the same age, that he thinks said James is a man of character and that due faith and credit may and right to be given to his Declaration on oath.

Sworn to before me 24th of September 1832.

<sup>3</sup> I could not find a federal pension application filed by anyone of this name in HQ.

<sup>4</sup> [George Hughe \(Hughey\) S21306](#)

S/ George Hughey, X his mark

S/ Jno B. O'Neill, Presiding Judge

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County

August the 27th day 1832 this Day came William Harriss before me John Bradley one of the Acting Justices of the peace for said County and maketh oath and say that Capt. James McDonald he Harriss says that he is well acquainted with the said McDonald and also says that he was with him [indecipherable word] to the Indian nation In the Indian war near the close of the war Revolutionary war in several scouts along upon the frontiers of North Carolina under the command of Joseph McDowell.

Sworn to before me and subscribed before me date and day above written.

Attest: S/ John Bradley, JP

S/ William Harriss, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the South Carolina militia.]