

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

Pension Application of Patrick McCan (McCann) S18502
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

PA

[The file contains a certificate issued on 12 Oct 1833 to Patrick McCan of Lewis County VA for a pension of \$95 per year for at least two years service as a Private and Sergeant in the regiment of Col. Daniel Brodhead. Written on the certificate is, “dropped from roll Mar 16, 1835 Fraud.” A note in the file states that McCan’s pension application was sent on 9 Aug 1834 to US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. The following is Singleton’s report on McCan.]

Lewis county.

Patrick McCan. Pensioner

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] aged 74 yrs has known Patrick McCan for 49 years. at that time to wit in 1785 he McCan settled in this county then a lad of 12 or 13 yrs old. that McCan cant be older than sixty two years. [see endnote]

Wm Powers [S18164] aged 91 yrs. has known Patrick McCan since 1785. in that year he McCan lived on a place belonging to Power’s Father. that he was then young, entirely too young to have been in the Revo. war. Powers says McCan is fond of talking and especially about himself. Never head him say that he served in the R. war – that McCan is an Irishman, & had a brother killed in the Rev. War.

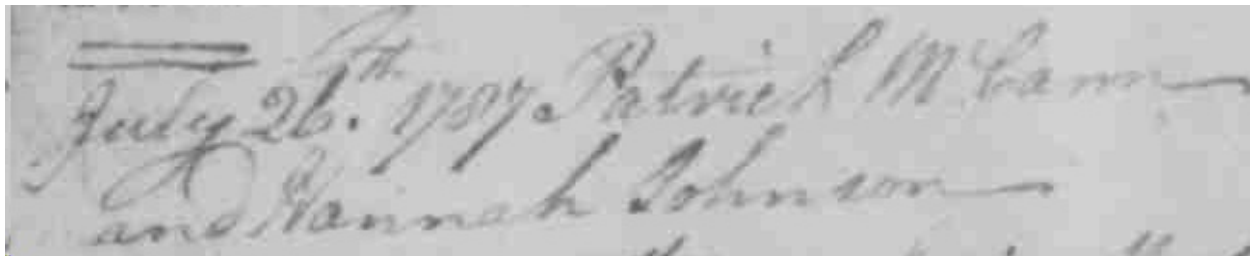
Adam Flesher [S18403] aged 72 yrs. fully concurs in the statement above made by Wm Powers in reference to McCann. Respectfully Reported/ W. G. Singleton/ Special Agent/ July 1834

NOTES:

Daniel Brodhead became Colonel of the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment on 12 Mar 1777 and served to the close of the war.

Patrick McCann married Hannah Johnson in Harrison County VA (from which Lewis was formed in 1816) on 26 July 1787. He was then only 14 or 15, if Nutter, Powers, and Flesher are to be believed.

http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_view.aspx?Id=39278&Type=Marriage



The 1810 federal census for Harrison County lists Patrick McCann as over 45. The 1820 federal census for Lewis County also lists Patrick McCan as over 45. The 1830 federal census for Lewis County lists Patrick McCann as 60 to 70. These are the only census records I could find for Patrick McCan.

In the file is a letter to the Commissioner of Pensions by Joseph M. Kellogg of University Club, Urbana IL dated 6 May 1915, responding to a letter from the Pension Office stating that McCan had been dropped from the pension roll because the US district Attorney had found him to be “not more than 12 or 13 years old in 1785.” Kellogg’s letter reads in part as follows: “This information seemed somewhat strange to me at the time and since then I have been making some investigations along this line. I find that Mary McCann, my great grandmother, who was a daughter of said Patrick McCann, was born in

Lewis County, Virginia, June 22, 1788, and as far as one can trust family tradition, she was not the eldest child by any means of said Patrick McCann and Hannah his wife. It would of course be impossible for her to have been the child of one Patrick McCann who was not more than 12 or 13 years of age in 1785. Further; I had an interview with one Mrs. Mary Bennet Hagler of Milton, Iowa, who remembers old Patrick McCann well as living at her mothers in Randolph County, Va. during the years 1850 to 1855, when he was a very old man indeed, over ninety years of age at any rate. (She gives a conservative estimate. Others speak of him as being over 100, etc., but probably that is an exaggeration) Mrs. Hagler is a great granddaughter of Patrick McCann.”

Patrick McCann (McCann) was a legendary Indian fighter. See for example the article by Michael J. O'Brien entitled "Patrick McCann, Hero of the Border" on p 79 of *The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society*, Vol. 21 (1922).