

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen McElhenney S21368

f30SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves rev'd 3/19/09 & 5/31/15 & 6/25/22

[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 'indcipherable' 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 27]

State of South Carolina Chester District: SS

On this twenty-fourth day of October [1832], personally appeared in open Court before William D. Martin Judge of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas now sitting Stephen McElhaney a Resident of Chester District in the State aforesaid aged about 66 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 7th, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following officers & served as herein after stated. -- I entered this service on the first of March 1776 under Enlistment in Capt. George Wade's Company & Col. Thomas Sumter's Regiment. In Chester District South Carolina. I marched from Chester to Charleston Barracks from the Barracks to Hatterels Point [sic, Haddrell's Point], Thence back to Charleston. Thence to the Cherokee Nation,¹ where we had a severe engagement with the Indians, between what was then called the middle Settlement & the Valleys. Thence marched back to Ripley's Fort. Thence to Tocaw Swamp [? Tearcoat Swamp? Tuckahoe Bay Swamp?] near Nelson's ferry. Thence to Dorchester about 20 miles from Charleston & thence back to Tocaw Swamp, where I received a written discharge from Col. Thomas Sumter, which is lost. The term of my Service was 15 months. I was next drafted under Capt. Phillip Walker & Col. Edward Lacey & marched from Chester to the Black Swamp, where I was placed under Col. Simmons [perhaps Lt. Col. Keating Simons of the Orangeburgh Regiment]. Thence marched to Dorchester on our way to which we had a skirmish with the Enemy at Dorchester I was discharged & returned home. I next volunteered under Capt. John Mills, Col. Lacey & General Sumter, & marched to headquarters at Clams [sic, Clem's] Branch near Charlotte North Carolina. I thence marched to the Cowpens where we met the Division of the American Army under Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] & Col. Shelby [Isaac Shelby] -- thence to Kings Mountain² & fought in that famous Battle [October 7, 1780], which took place there, with the British, under Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] & the Americans under Williams [James Williams] & thence to Col. Walker's up the Broad River guarding those who were wounded in the fight & thence I returned home after which I returned home. I have no

¹ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

Documentary evidence of my services & know of but one man now living who can testify as to them, Samuel McElhaney³

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to in open Court October 24th 1832

S/ J. Rosborough, CCPLs.

S/ Stephen McElaney [?]

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen McElaney". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

To the Interrogatories⁴ propounded to me by the Court I answer

1st: I was Born in Lunenburg Virginia about fifteen years before Independence was declared

2nd: I have no record of my age. It is burned

3rd: In Chester District South Carolina

4th: I was enlisted, Drafter & volunteered.

5th: To this I cannot answer Positively further than my declaration does

6th: I did from Col. Sumter. It is lost

7th: I refer to the Rev. John B. Davis and William Stringfellow to prove my Character & credibility & touching their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution & to Samuel McElhaney to prove my services --

Sworn to in Open Court October 24 1832

S/ J. Rosborough, CC Pls

S/ Stephen McElhaney

[John B. Davis, a clergyman and William Stringfellow gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 28]

South Carolina, Chester District: I declare on oath that I served with Steven McElhaney while he was under Draft & as a volunteer & that his Declaration of his services as a Drafted & volunteered Soldier of the Revolution is correct.

S/ Samuel McElhenny, X his mark

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³ [Samuel McElhaney W12455](#)

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

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

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.

State of South Carolina Chester District: SS

On this 17th day of July 1834, personally appeared before me Peter Wylie, a Judge of the Court of Ordinary in and for said District, Stephen McElhenney, a resident [of the] State and District for said age 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 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 on the first day of March with Captain George Wade and served in the second Regiment of the provincial riflemen (said Regiment was afterwards called the Sixth or changed to the Sixth) under the following named officers: Colonel Thomas Sumter, Major Henderson [William Henderson], Captain Wade, 1st Lt. Frederick Kimbell, 2nd Lt. James Coil [sic, James Coiel⁵], [&] Ensign Charles Burnett marched from the Waxhaws State of South Carolina (he says he lived before enlistment in Craven County South Carolina) on through Camden South Carolina to the Ten Mile Spring in ten miles of Charleston South Carolina. They lay there a few days then marched into Charleston Barracks. Laid there about two months then marched to Sullivan's Island, Haddrell's Point. Lay there about six weeks. Then marched to the Cherokee Nation. Remained there about a month. General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] was commander there. From there to Ripley's Fort on Little River. Laid there about two weeks. From thence to Tuckaw [? Tearcoat or Tuckahoe?] Swamp. Lay there about three weeks. From thence to Dorchester to guard the Magazine. Lay there until about 10 days of the expiration of enlistment. From thence back to Tuckaw [?] Swamp where he was discharged having served the full term of fifteen months, the term for which he was first enlisted. In the year 1778 sometime in the summer he was drafted and sent under Lieut. McCulloch but forgets the name of the Captain but was under Major Adare [John Adair] – now General—Adare of Kentucky. Marched to Jacksons Borough [Jacksonborough] South Carolina from thence into the fork of Edisto River where he was discharged having served a term of three months. In the year 1779, sometime in the summer, he was again drafted for the term of three months. He does not recollect his company officers but recollect he was under the command of Colonel Simmons [&] marched from Craven County South Carolina to Black Swamp in said state. Remained there three months where discharged. In the year 1780 the enemy over-ran the country; that regular drafting was abandoned when all that dare oppose them may be said to be in constant service until the British left the State. In 1780, he was under the command of Genl. Sumter. In all, this last term of service Col. Lacey commanded. Sometimes, he was under the command of Capt. McClure and was with him at the Battle of Rocky Mount.⁶ Col. Neal [sic, Andrew Neel] was killed there, then was under the command of same officers at the Battle of Hanging Rock⁷ where his captain, McClure, was killed. Then [he] was with Sumter in what was called his Rounds. Col. Lacey & Capt. Thomas Gill were his officers. [He] was at the skirmish at Right's [sic, Wright's Bluff] Bluff. Col. Hawthorne was wounded there; then he was the Battle of Kings Mountain he thinks under Nixon Capt., Col. Lacey, Col. Williams [James Williams], Col. Hill [William Hill], Col. Campbell [William Campbell], Col. Farr, Col. Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] were there: in this last tour he says he served at least three months. He again entered the Service under Genl. Sumter and went with him what was called Sumter's Rounds. Thomas Gill was then his captain. He was in that Rounds with Sumter at the Siege of Friday's Fort⁸ on

⁵ [James Coiel \(Coile\) S31624](#)

⁶ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

⁷ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

⁸ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_1.html

the Congaree River and at Thomson's Fort⁹ on said River when Sumter tried to storm said Fort then was at the skirmish at a place called Rights Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff]¹⁰ and then returned home after dismissed at this last tour he says he served at least one month. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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, only on that of the agency in the State of South Carolina.

Ans. 1 Int.: I was Born in Lunenburg County in the State of Virginia in the year 1759 or 1760.

2nd: I have no record of my age.

3rd: I was living in Craven County now Chester District State of South Carolina; has lived there ever since the Revolutionary War where he now lives.

4th: I was enlisted, Drafter & volunteered.

5th: I have set forth in my foregoing declaration the names of the officers, regiments & circumstances of my service.

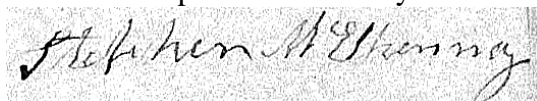
6th: I did receive a discharge from Col. Sumter which is now lost so I cannot find it.

7th: I will mention the names of John Rosborough, Clerk of the Court, John McKee, Thomas McClure, James McClure, Esqr., Joseph Lewis, James Wright, Dr. John S. Bratton, James Boyd.

He further saith that he has heretofore sent a declaration in which there was as he understands a mistake which must have been in the person who wrote & read to him his declaration as he knows he told them he was sixteen years of age when first enlisted.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Stephen McElhenney



S/ Peter Wylie, JC of CD

State of South Carolina, Chester District: Col. George Gill,¹¹ a soldier of the Revolution and a United States pensioner came into open Court who upon being duly Sworn saith upon oath that he has been acquainted with Stephen McElhenney the foregoing declarant from his infancy and through the revolutionary war and been in service therein with said declarant at the Battle of Rocky Mount, Siege of Friday's Fort, Thompson's Fort & Right's Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff] & fully believes his declaration is Just & true.

Sworn to & signed this 17th day of July 1834.

S/ Geo. Gill



S/ Peter Wylie, JCOCD

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the South Carolina militia.]

⁹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thomsons_plantation.html

¹⁰ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_1.html

¹¹ [George Gill S21229](#)

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹² relating to Stephen McElheny (McElhenney, Mcelheny, Mcelhany, McIlhenny] pp 25

Audited Account No. 5031B

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

6/25/22

[Note: This veteran made a claim for a horse, saddle and bridle lost at the action at Wright's Bluff [February 24, 1781, https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_1.html]. I have not transcribed all of the documents relating to that claim since many of them are non-substantive. In addition, the veteran applied for a pension from the South Carolina Legislature. Documents relating to that petition are transcribed below.]

[p 8]

South Carolina Chester District }

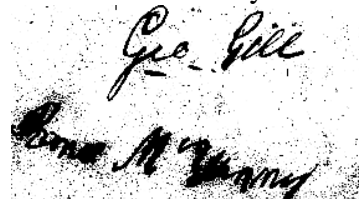
Personally appeared Col. George Gill and James Mcelheney after being sworn as The law directs Saith. That they were both in the Campaign with Gen. Sumter at Rights Bluff [sic] engagement and to the best of their knowledge do believe that Stephen Mcelheney lost his Horse at the action of Rights Bluff. That was appraised by James Gill and James Mcelheney as will appear by an affidavit before Edward Lacey Dated 5th 1783 as Said Col. Gill Saith that he returned home with Said Stephen, not having his Horse. Said James Saith further that he seen Said Stephen tie up his Horse at Said action agreeable to orders, and went into the engagement and came out of the Battle and that he actually Lost his Horse Saddle and Bridle at Said place and further Saith Not.

Sworn to this 21st of October 1817

S/ James Gill, JP

S/ Geo. Gill

S/ James McElhany

Handwritten signatures of Geo. Gill and James McElhany in cursive script.

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I do hearby Certify that Stephen McElhenney was a freind to his Contry in the Revolutionery ware and I do believe that he did lose the mare as within staited.

Given under my hand this 1st day of November 1811

S/ Michael Dickson Major

Handwritten signature of Michael Dickson Major in cursive script.

¹² The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

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South Carolina Camden District We the Subscribers being duly Sworn to appraise a horse the Property of Stephen McElhaney [sic] lost in Action at Rights Bluff do appraise it to be Worth also a Saddle & Bridle – Fifty seven Pounds Ten

Sworn to before me

this 5th 1783

S/ Edwd Lacey, JP

S/ Jas. Gill

S/ Jas. McElhenney

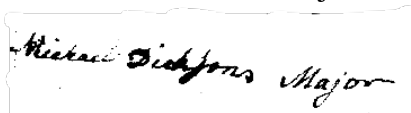
Handwritten signatures of Jas. Gill and Jas. McElhenney in cursive script.

[p 12]

I do hearby Certify that Stephen McElhany was a friend to his Contry in the Reveloutionary ware and I belive that [he] did lose the horse within mentioned

Given under my hand the 11 day of November 1817

S/ Michael Dicksons Major

Handwritten signature of Michael Dicksons Major in cursive script, enclosed in a rectangular box.

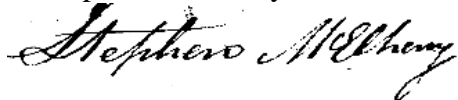
[p 18]

To the president and Members of the Senate and house of Representatives of South Carolina

The Memorial of Stephen McElhaney [sic] Sheweth that your Memorialist was a soldier in the Revolutionary War & was in the following Service (viz.) he enlisted in the Sixth Regiment of Riflemen commanded by Col. Sumter and Major Henderson in Captain George Wade's Company on the 1st of March 1776, he was in the following Services while enlisted Marched to Charleston remained there until Some time in August from Thence to the Cherokee Nation where they had some Skirmishing with the Indians from Thence to Ripley's Fort Saluda Ford Thence to tuckhaw Swamp from thence to Dorchester thence Back to tuckhaws Swamp Near Nelsons Ferry where he was discharged the 1st day of June 1777 from that time until 1780 he was a Tower [tour] to Black Swamp & 1 tour to Jacksonburg under Col. [name written over and rendered illegible] & Col. Simmons then in the year 1780 he was under Col. Sumter at Claws [sic, Clem's] Branch being head quarters at that time he was then at the battle at Rocky Mount & the Battle of Kings Mountain he was under Sumter at Rocky Mount in Captain Pagans [Alexander Pagan's] Company he was under Col. Williams [James Williams] at Kings Mountain & in Captain Mills [John Mills] Company Then on a tour to Granby under Captain Mills & to Col. Thompson's & to Wright's Bluff at the Mouth of Jack's Creek, your Memorialist further Saith that for his Services While enlisted he Received Paper Money of this State & the United States for which he received Scarcely any thing on account of depreciation, he further Sheweth that he Received for his Services in the Militia the above Kind of Money & got nothing nothing of account for it he further Sheweth that he spat [sic, spent?] his youth & vigor in the Service of his Contry [sic] & is now old & infirm & in Indigent Circumstans he therefore hopes that your Body will Take his Case into Consideration & Grant him Such Relief either by placing him on the list

of Pentions of this State or Some other way as you in your wisdom may deem proper & your Memorialists [sic] Will as in duty Bound will Ever pray

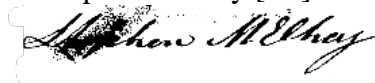
S/ Stephen McElheny



South Carolina Chester District} Stephen McElhany the foregoing petition are came before me & made oath that the facts Set forth in his petition is Just and true, Sworn to and Sutserted [sic] this 22nd day of November 1826 before me

S/ P. Wyley, JQ

S/ Stephen MEhey [sic]



[p 20]

South Carolina Chester District} Archibald Brown A Whig of the Revolution Came before me and made oath that he was acquainted with the above named Stephen McElhany during the Revolutionary war & was Enlisted in the Same Regiment with him & Knoweth that the Services Set forth while Enlisted are true & he knows he the petitioner was at Clams Branch head Quarters & he further Saith that he believes the Remaining Services mentioned to be Correct & further Saith said McElhaney was a firm friend to his Contry, Sworn to and Subscribed this 22nd day of November 1826

Before me

S/ P. Wyley JQ

S/ Archibald Brown



South Carolina Chester District} Samuel McElheny¹³ A Whig of the Revolutionary War Came Before me and made oath that he was acquainted with his Brother Stephen during the Revolutionary War & Saith that he the said Stephen was a firm friend to his Contry the United States of America & he this deponent was with his Brother at Back Swamp [sic, Black Swamp] at Clames Branch [sic, Clem's Branch] & at the Battle of Kings Mountain a [sic, at?] Subpera [?] Bridge¹⁴

Sworn to and Subscribed this 22nd day of November 1826

Before me S/ P. Wyley, JQ

S/ Samuel MELheny, X his mark

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South Carolina Chester District} David Morrow,¹⁵ A Whig of the Revolutionary War came before Me & made oath [undeciphered word or words] he was acquainted with Stephen MELheny during the Revolutionary War & belives said Stephen was a firm friend to his Contry in their Struggle full Independence & he further Saith that he Recollects to See said Stephen in he [sic,

¹³ [Samuel McElhany W12455](#)

¹⁴ 

¹⁵ [David Morrow S7253](#)

the?] Militia Service & Believes that all the facts Contained in said Stephen's petition are Just and true

Sworn to & subscribed this 24th

Day of November 1826

S/ P. Wyley, JQ

S/ David Morrow



South Carolina Chester District} William Lewis A Whig of the Revolutionary War Came Before me and made oath that he was acquainted with Stephen MELhany during the Revolutionary war & knew him to be a firm friend to his Country in their Struggle full Indepency and believes the facts in his petition are true & Recollects to be in the following Service with the said Stephen MELheny at Clams Branch, Battle of Rocky Mount, Wright's Bluff & at Col. Thompson's.

Sworn to and Sign this 24th of November 1826

S/ P. Wyley, JQ

S/ William Lewis



[Note: The veteran was put on the South Carolina pension roll as of June 4, 1828 at the rate of \$60 per annum. The last such annuity paid to him by the State of South Carolina was dated 29 May 1834.]

[Note: See also South Carolina Audited Account 5030 regarding a claim by James and Stephen McElhenney for horses lost in the service.]

[p 23 of that AA]

To the Honorable the President & Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina

The petition of James & Stephen McElheney, humbly Sheweth,

That your petitioners were among the first that turned out to defend their Country under Gen. Sumter, Col. Lacey's Regiment, when invaded by the British in the Revolutionary War. That each of them lost two horses of their own property while in actual service, viz. Two while they lay at Clams Branch [sic, Clem's Branch] in the Indian Lands and the two others killed or taken by the Enemy in the attack Gen. Sumter made on Wright's Bluff.

That their accounts for their services & loss of their horses, was returned in due time in Captain Mills's pay Role [sic], by Captain William Tate the proper returning Officer.

That they have received part of their Indents, and have understood that the balance, (which is supposed to be for the horses) remains, as not being properly certified.

Your petitioner's therefore request that their case may be referred to Comptroller General to examine the Original Documents, & report thereon to the next Session of the Legislature (if he cannot before) when your petitioners will be properly prepared to establish their claim &c

And as in duty bound will ever pray

November 1814

S/ James McElheny

S/ Stephen McElheny

James M. Elbery
Stephen M. Elbery