

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McDill S21879

f46SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/10/09 & 10/7/16 & 12/31/21

[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' 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.]

The State of South Carolina, Chester District

On this Second day of April in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the said District and State, now sitting, John McDill a resident of Chester District and State of South Carolina aged Seventy-one years, who first being 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 from the year 1778 to the year 1782 as herein stated -- "I was first drafted and called into service under the command of Captain Alexander Turner and Major Brown [perhaps John Brown] -- we commenced our march about the first of December 1778 to near Moncks Corner, where we fell under the command of Brigadier General Richardson [Richard Richardson], lay some time there and then marched to within about 7 miles of Charleston from thence across the Country through Jacksonborough and Pocotaligo to Purrysburg, we then fell under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and lay there until our time of service had expired. I knew a Captain of General Lincoln's regulars whose names I think was Boys [sic, Boyd, Boyce or Boise?]. I remained at home a short time, and was again called out with all those who were liable to do duty and on or about the 18th of March 1779, we marched across the Country under the command of Captain John Nixon -- we crossed Broad and Saluda Rivers, marched to near Augusta in Georgia, where we encamped and remained near six weeks, our field officers were Colonel John Winn and Brigadier General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], if I remember correctly, there were two captains of the regular Army at that encampment whose names were Moore and Miles-- we crossed the Savannah River into Georgia and marched towards the city of Savannah for several days -- a considerable distance below Augusta we re-crossed Savannah River into South Carolina and marched rapidly towards Charleston -- crossed the Edisto River and arrived at Bacon's Bridge where I obtained a permit to go home on account of my Father's family being nearly all sick. I got home on or about the 27th May."

"After the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], when the Country was overrun by British Troops and Tories, I joined General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] under the command of Captain Samuel Adams and Colonel Lacey [Edward Lacey], we marched to the Congaree Fort and besieged it for some time, was forced away and marched towards Charleston, on our route we met a party of British Troops, attacked them -- took and killed nearly the whole party and captured a number of wagons. Afterwards we crossed the Santee River and attacked a troop of British soldiers -- we were obliged to retreat having a number of our party killed and wounded and taken prisoners. I lost my horse, saddle and bridle.

Those of our party who escaped marched to Kings-tree on Black River from thence home – I cannot be positive of the time I joined General Sumter.”

“In the month of March or April 1781 I was again called out under the command of Captain Adams, and General Sumter, we were ordered to the Indian land. Our Colonel was, at this time, a Prisoner – I remained at that place until I was dismissed.”

“In the month of May 1781 I was again ordered out by Captain Adams, we scouted at the Wateree and procured some provisions for General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army afterwards we were ordered to the Congaree Fort mentioned in the foregoing part of this statement, the Fort surrendered to Col Lee [Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee] – we were dismissed and I returned home.”

“I was again ordered out – I think in June 1781, under the command of Captain Adams and Colonel Lacey who had just been exchanged; we joined General Greene's Army and marched to Orangeburg, where we left General Greene, and under the command of General Sumter marched to a British Garrison, I believe it was called Biggin's Church, a party of us was ordered to cut down a bridge to prevent the enemy from retreating – after we had destroyed the bridge, we were attacked by a party of British Dragoons. We killed two or three and took seven of them prisoners. The enemy burned the Garrison and retreated. We pursued them and our advance took about sixty prisoners. The enemy sheltered themselves in a range of houses where we attacked them, we had no cannon and could not dislodge them-- a number of our men were killed and wounded – I recollect a Colonel Campbell, belonging to Genl Greene's Army.”

“I was drafted (I believe in the month of February 1782) under the command of Captain Cooper, Major Wallis and General Henderson [William Henderson], we marched to Orangeburg where we were ordered to guard the Jail which contained a large number of Prisoners, how long I remained at Orangeburg, I cannot say – this was the last of my Revolutionary Services.” I now live in the same neighborhood that I lived in during the Revolutionary War.

Deponent further says he has no written discharges and hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State except the State of South Carolina from which he has received a year's pension which is Sixty Dollars.

S/ John McDill [sic]



Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ J. Rosborough, JQ [?]

The State of South Carolina, Chester District:

I, George Gill, Sr., aged 72 years do hereby certify that I was personally acquainted with the above named John McDill in the time of the Revolutionary War and believe his statement to be true.

S/ Gee Gill



Interrogatories prescribed by the War department, and administered to John McDill, by the Honorable Richard Gantt, presiding Judge of the Court of General Sessions and Common

Pleas, for Chester District, Spring Term 1833.

First – Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Ireland in the year 1762 and emigrated to Charleston in 1772 and immediately came to this District.

Second – Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it?

Answer – I have no record of my age – my information was derived from my father, who has been long since dead.

Third – Where were you living when called into service, where have you live since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer – I was living in this District (Chester) when I first entered the service. I have since the Revolutionary War lived in this District, and now reside on a part of the tract of land that I occupied at that time.

Fourth – How are you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer – I was first and at several times drafted – I was also called out several times in the Militia with all those liable to do duty. I was never a substitute.

Fifth – State the names of some of the regular officers or with the troops where you served; such cotton on and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general to work with stances of your services?

Answer – I recollect General Greene, General Lincoln, Colonel Campbell, Captain Boys, Captain Moore and Captain Miles. I recollect Colonel Kershaw's Regiment and Colonel Henry Hampton's Regiment. I was first attached to Colonel Winn's Regiment, afterwards to Colonel Lacey's Regiment and refer to my statement of facts for the general circumstances of my service.

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

Answer – I never received a written discharge from the service – it was usual to discharge the soldiers verbally.

Seventh – 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 of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer – Reverend Mr. Davis, James Harbison, Esq., Thomas McClurken,¹ John McCreary, Sr., Joseph Gaston² Esq. and my whole neighborhood will testify to my veracity and belief of my revolutionary services.

S/ John McDill [sic]

Sworn in open Court

S/ J Rosborough

S/ R. Gantt, P. J.

[J. Le Roy Davies, a clergyman and George Gill³ gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

South Carolina Chester District

William White⁴ makes oath that he was personally acquainted with the within mentioned John McDill at the time of the American Revolution, having served with him before Orangeburg, and at other places which Deponent at this time cannot recollect.

Sworn to this 27th of June 1833

S/ G. W. Coleman, QU

S/ William White, X his mark

¹ [Thomas McClorken \(McClurken\) W21792](#)

² [Joseph Gaston W23089](#)

³ [George Gill S21229](#)

⁴ [William White W8995](#)

South Carolina Chester District: Amended declaration of John McDill

Personally appeared before me Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions for the District and State aforesaid John McDill, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: – For two months I served under Captain Turner, I was drafted in the year 1778 – For two months and seven days I served under Captain Nixon being ordered out in the year 1779 – For one month and Seven days I served under Captain Adams as a volunteer in the year 1780-81 – For Seven days I served under Captain Adams as a volunteer in the year 1781 – For fifteen days I served under Captain Adams as a volunteer in the year 1781 – For one month I served under Captain Adams as a volunteer in the year 1781 – For one month and fifteen days I served under Captain Cooper – I was drafted in the year 1782 and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed this 6 July 1833 before me

S/ Rosborough, QU and Clerk

S/ John McDill

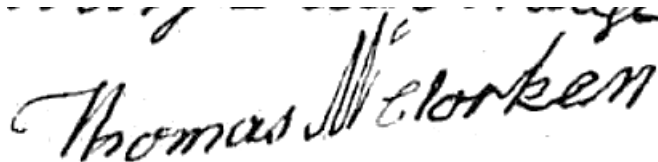
South Carolina Chester District

Thomas McClorken makes oath that he was personally acquainted with the above named John McDill having served with him in the campaign at Purrysburg and Orangeburg.

Sworn to and subscribed this 6 July 1833 before me

S/ J. Rosborough, Clk.

S/ Thomas McClorken

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas McClorken". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ Thomas McClorken".

[Facts in file: Veteran died November 3, 1848; the file contains no information regarding his wife or children, if any]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 21 days in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁵ relating to John McDill

pp22

Audited Account No. 5006B

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/31/21

[p 2]

[No. 275 Book L]

Mr. John McDill his Account of 93 days Militia Duty Amounting to £8.2.10 ¼ Stg [Sterling]

⁵ 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.

Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]
J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 3]

State South Carolina to John McDill	Dr.
for service Done [and] Colonel Lacey's Regiment	
to 21 Days at £1 [old SC currency] per Day Horseman's duty	£21
to 10 Days at 10S [10 shillings old SC Currency] per day footman's duty	5
to 20 Ditto	10
to 42 Ditto	<u>21</u>
	<u>£57</u>
Total	£8.2.10 ¼

I Do hereby Empower John Turner Capt. to receive an Indent for the Amount of my Account against the public of South Carolina whose receipt shall be a Sufficient Discharge from Gentlemen your very Humble Servant

S/ John McDill

January 24th 1786

To the Commissioners of the Treasury
of the State of South Carolina

Signed and acknowledged before

S/ James Craig, JP

I John McDill

do Hereby Authorize & Empower the bearer John Cooper to Receive the Amount of the Interest due on Two Indents Both No. 231 the one for 29 Dollars thirty-five cents at six percent the other for \$23, no cents

1801

S/ John McDill



I do Certify I saw John McDill Sign the above power to John Cooper to the purport therein contained Signed before me this [illegible] 1801

S/ John McKown, JP

[p 4]

Received the ___ full satisfaction for the amount of the within Account in an Indent No. 275 Book L By order

S/ J. Turner



[p 5: Printed form of Indent No. 275 Book L dated October 13, 1784]

[p 6: Reverse of the above Indent bearing several endorsements one of which is by the veteran by which he used a portion of the proceeds to pay for the purchase of 200 acres of land on

February 11, 1790.]

[p7]

The Report of the Committee on Pensions on the petition of John McDill
Senate, December 1, 1827

Resolved that [undeciphered word or words] to the report

Ordered to H. R. For concurrence

S/ Job Muter, C. S.

[p 8]

The committee on pensions to whom was referred the petition of John McDill praying for a pension –

Report that your committee are of opinion that the prayer thereof ought to be Granted and recommend that he be placed on the pension list.

S/ E. Benbow, Chairman

[p 12]

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of John McDill of Chester District, Humbly Sheweth;

That your Petitioner was a true friend to his Country & a Soldier in the Revolutionary War. That altho' he was but young at the commencement of the war, yet he engaged in it as soon as capable of bearing Arms, & an opportunity offered. In the latter end of the year 1778, in his 17th year, he went a campaign under Captain Alexander Turner, Major Joseph Brown Captain afterwards Colonel Brown late of this district deceased. Encamped some time near Moncks Corner. Then removed near the Quarter house; & then to Purrysburg, which was called the Purrysburg Expedition. And returned home in the month of February. And then was called on again in the month of March, & went out under Captain John Nixon, Colonel John Winn; marched to Augusta, Joined General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] which was called the Augustine campaign. Was then marched into Georgia, Joined General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] marched towards Savannah; then crossed the River back into South Carolina; marched towards Charleston. Lay sometime at Bacon's Bridge, From thence he was dismissed to go home in the latter end of May.

That after the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] when the Britch [so spelled throughout the petition: sic, British] invaded the Country; he turned out under Captain Samuel Adams, & Joined General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] marched to the Congaree Fort, lay round it some times & then proceeded on to what was called the Rounds with General Sumter.

Was at the defeat of a party of the British & taking a number of Waggons below Colonel Thompson's [sic, William Thomson's], that was loaded with supplies for their Army. And then returned to the attack on the Fort, at that place. Then proceeded on across Santee, and was at the Battle of Whites Bluff [Wright's Bluff] where he lost his Horse, saddle & Bridle. Then marched on to Kingstree; and from thence turned towards home till the Army separated and afterwards met again in the Indian Land.

The next was still under Captain Adams, and Colonel McGriff, across the Wateree River, guarding Waggons & procuring provisions for General Greene's [Nathaniel Greene's] Army. Then returned home & shortly started for the Congaree Fort; & was there until its surrender. – The next was the Campaign down the Country, under Colonel Lacey, with General Sumter, near to Orangeburg, then to Biggin Church. Was sent out once Guard to destroy some Bridges; was attacked by a party of the British dragoons; which was repulsed, & two of the party killed, &

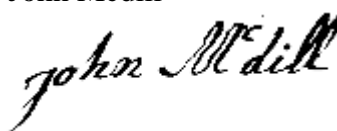
seven taken prisoners. Then went on the pursuit of the British the next morning after they had Burnt the Church & destroyed their stores. The rear Guard was taken; but the main body took shelter in a range of Houses, where a smart Scirmish [skirmish] ensued, & several of our men was killed & wounded; but could not dislodge the Enemy for the want of Artilry [Artillery]. And then returned & crossed Santee, & lay some time at a Large Pond. And thence proceeded home – the next was the following Winter, the Campaign to Orangeburg, and returned home, he thinks in the month of April 178[last digit missing] Which was the last time he was called on, as the war was then near the Close, & the Independence of the Country fully obtained.

That he is now in his 71st year since September last period is very infirm & unable to labor. And particularly by reason of and infirmity, or pain in 1 of his thighs, which has followed him for a number of year; & as white reduced his Strength, as well as by the effects of old age. – That he has a plantation that is very much worn out, & is unable to clear more. That he has no Slaves; & but one That Lives with Him, Which Is Now 26 Years of Age & Can Leave Him at Any Time He Pleases, & Then He Would Have No Person to Depend on for a Support. He Therefore Throws Himself upon the Benevolence of His Country, Supposing the Wall to Make for Persons in His Situation; & Prays to Be Placed upon thePention list of the State; that he may have something permanent to support on in old age when all other sources fail him.

Annual Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

November 1831

S/ John Mcdill



In addition to his Land above mentioned, he makes the following Schedule or Statement of his property; that is, he has also a small stock; Two horse creatures & about ten or Eleven head of cattle, Big & little; and some Hogs. With common Plantation tools, & House hold furniture, such as a common poor man would have. But would be extremely difficult for him to put a precise value on them. And must therefore leave it to the better Judgment of the Gentlemen Representatives, who are no doubt well acquainted with poor man in Such common circumstances. And is now humbly submitted.

S/ John Mcdill

[p 15]

South Carolina Chester District} John McDill appeared before me the Subscribing Justice, and being duly Sworn on his Oath Sayeth, that the within Contains, according to the best of his knowledge & memory, a Just & true Statement of his Services in the Revolutionary War.

And also a true general statement or Inventory of the property he is possessed of.

Sworn to this 22nd day of November 1831

Before me

S/ James Harbison, JQ

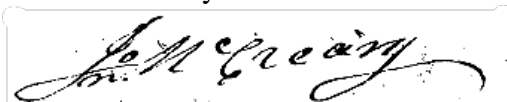
S/ John Mcdill

I do hereby Certify, that I am well acquainted with the Petitioner John McDill & that I was with him in the Revolutionary war, into of the Expeditions mentioned; that is, the one to Biggin Church, & the last one at Orangeburg. That he is a man of truth, & a good moral character. And was a true friend to his Country in the most trying times. And that I believe all of the statements that he here made to be Just & true.

Given under my hand

this 18th of November 1831

S/ Jno McCreary⁶



[p 16]

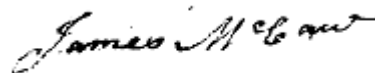
South Carolina Chester District} Personally came James McCaw⁷ Before Me and Being Duly Sworn Sayeth that he was Acquainted with John McDill in the Revolutionary War and was in camp with him at Orangeburg In the Year 1782 and that he Believes him to Be a firm friend to the Cause of our Country [:] heard of other Campaigns which he had been In But was Not in the same Company at the time and further sayeth that he the petitioner is a Man of good standing in society and always supported the same.

Sworn and subscribed

Before me this 19 Day of November 1831

S/ James Harbison, JQ

S/ James McCaw



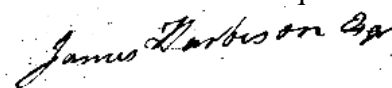
South Carolina Chester District} Personally came James Harbison⁸ Esquire Before Me and Being duly Sworn saith that he was Acquainted with the petitioner from a Boy of 8 or 9 years old and Can Certify that he was known to be a true friend to his Country and that he went out in the service at the time he mentions as I am his Neighbor and knew all the times when Men were Called out and that we were in the same Company and served three Campaigns together I am still a Near Neighbor and Believes that the Statements in the petition is as Near the truth as Can be obtained. November 22nd, 1831

Sworn to and Subscribed

before me

S/ William Strong, JP

S/ James Harbison Esqr



South Carolina Chester District} personally appeared William McGarity⁹ and made Oath that during the Revolutionary War he was well acquainted with the petitioner John McDill of Chester District, that he the said John McDill Served in the Same Company with the deponent under Captain John Nixon of Chester District at Augusta under General Williamson for the Space of three months in what was Known by the name of the Campaign of 1779 that again in the year 1781 Said John McDill was out with the deponent and was at the fight of Biggin Church in the Company Commanded by Captain Samuel Adams who was promoted after the death of Nixon. That in the year 1782 said McDill was in the Said Company the deponent then was a Lieutenant at Orangeburg about three months that during all the time – Said John McDill was a faithful Soldier – and done his duty to the Satisfaction of his officers.

Sworn to and Subscribed the 23rd November 1831 Before me

S/ D. G. Stinson, QU

S/ William McGarity, X his mark

⁶ [John McCreary SC2335](#)

⁷ [James McCaw S18117](#)

⁸ [James Harbison W17039](#)

⁹ [William McGarity R6713](#)