

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas McClelland S2763

f28NC/PA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/30/09: rev'd 9/9/16

[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.]

[p 6]

Pennsylvania Washington County: SS

On this 13th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County and State aforesaid Thomas McClelland a resident of the Strabane Township County and State aforesaid, aged about 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated viz..

I was born in Ireland sometime in the year 1757, as I believe from the information received from my parents, but have no record of my age, and do not know the day of the month or the month in which I was born. I came to the United States of America when I was about sixteen or seventeen years of age, and settled between Rock Creek and Marsh Creek near Gettysburg in York County, now Adams County and State aforesaid. That sometimes in the summer of 1776 I was drafted for a three months tour of militia duty and marched from York County where I then resided to Philadelphia, by way of Valley Forge, and from thence to Bergen in the State of New Jersey, where we had an engagement with the enemy in which Col. McAllister was wounded and after burying our killed in the action, were marched to Burlington and different other places in the State of New Jersey the detail of which I cannot now recollect and returned to Philadelphia, about the expiration of our term of service, where we were discharged. I do not recollect that I obtained a written discharge at that time -- if I did it has been lost or mislaid. In the above tour of duty, I was marched to Philadelphia, under Capt. Paxton; a Col. Porter having the command of the detachment that went from York County. As I have stated before, we were drafted for 3 months, and served out the whole of the time. After my discharge as above, I enlisted to serve a tour of 9 months in the flying camp, under Capt. George McCarter the Lieut. was of the name of William Gilleland [sic, Gilliland?] the names of the other officers I cannot recollect -- Col. Harkley [sic, Hartley?] was the Commandant of the Regiment and we were under the command of General Putnam; we were marched up the Delaware River into the State of New Jersey after having been in Bucks County Pennsylvania for some time; we were at a place in Jersey called Pluckeman, and during the service of said enlistment or term, was in several small skirmishes or engagements. I am not able to state the particulars of any of them, my memory having greatly failed me, and was also in the battles of Trenton, Germantown and Brandywine and in another engagement in which a number of Hessians were taken prisoners --

the Hessians were removed to Lancaster and from thence to little York. I think John Skeekley was the first Sgt. during the whole of this service. At the end of my term of service, I received a written discharge from Capt. Gilleland who commanded our company after Capt. McCarter was taken prisoner at Long Island -- this discharge has also been lost by me.

After the expiration of the above tour of service I removed to the neighborhood of Salisbury in Rowan County State of North Carolina, and there entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the militia, for a tour of three months, the names of the officers I have entirely forgotten, but think there was a Capt. Gillefalls [sic, Gilbraith<sup>1</sup> Falls] and Col. Davison [sic, William Lee Davidson?] among them the first of whom was afterwards killed at Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780]. We served out the whole of the three months.

My next service, as a soldier, was under the command of Capt. Elijah Moore as a militia man, in the first Battalion, the Regiment I cannot recollect or the person who commanded. I served twelve months at this time and was discharged near Bacon's Bridge in South Carolina, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1782, as appears by the discharge of said Captain hereto annexed, for which said service I never received any pay whatever and have no distinct recollection of any engagement that we were in, but I was in the battle at Camden whether when under Moore's command or not, I cannot now say.

I served for some time as a volunteer in the Dragoons commanded by Col. Washington [William Washington], probably as much as five or six months; was in the engagement at Ramsour's Mill,<sup>2</sup> and had the right of Gillefalls [sic, Gilbraith Falls] Company during the battle, and was wounded badly in both legs, below the knee and have remained lame and crippled to this day from the said wounds. I was removed after the battle to the house of William Stevenson in Rowan County North Carolina and from thence was taken with others of the wounded to the house of Moses Potts, where we were attended by Dr. Isaac Alexander, who extracted several shot out of my legs. Whilst in this service, I was also wounded in a skirmish or engagement with some of Col. Tarleton's Dragoons near Camden and a wound of several inches long made by a Cutlass which would have taken my life but for the thickness of my cap. I acted as Lieut. in this engagement and took the right of the company at the request of Gilleyfalls [Gilbraith Falls] who was killed at my side having received nine balls through his body -- I furnished my own horse and equipment at my own expense: the horse was valued at from \$86 to \$100, and was taken with others and placed in a field with a guard set over them near Moncks Corner;<sup>3</sup> and was taken by the British on a Sunday. I never received any compensation whatever from the United States for this horse, or any part of my equipment. I have no discharge having lost nearly all my papers; I returned to the State of Pennsylvania after the Peace, and settled in the York County and removed from thence to Huntingdon County Pennsylvania where I have lived nine years. I removed to this County in the year 1801 and have lived within two and one half miles of Washington the County Town from that time to the present.

To establish my services and my character for truth I would refer to Samuel Cunningham Esquire present Sheriff of the County, Joseph Henderson Esquire late Sheriff of the County, William Baird, Esquire the Honorable Thomas M. T. McKennan Esquire, John Coilson Esquire, David Morris and the Rev. Boyd Mercer all of the Borough of Washington, who can testify to my

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<sup>1</sup> Nickname, Gilley or Gillie Falls.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)

<sup>3</sup> Declarant appears to be describing either the action between forces under Huger and Tarleton at or near Biggin Bridge on April 14, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/bigginbr.htm> or the action between White/Washington and Tarleton at Leneud's Ferry on May 6, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/leneuds.htm>.

character for veracity and who believe that I was a soldier of the revolution, whose certificate accompany this declaration.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ Thomas Officer, Prothonotary

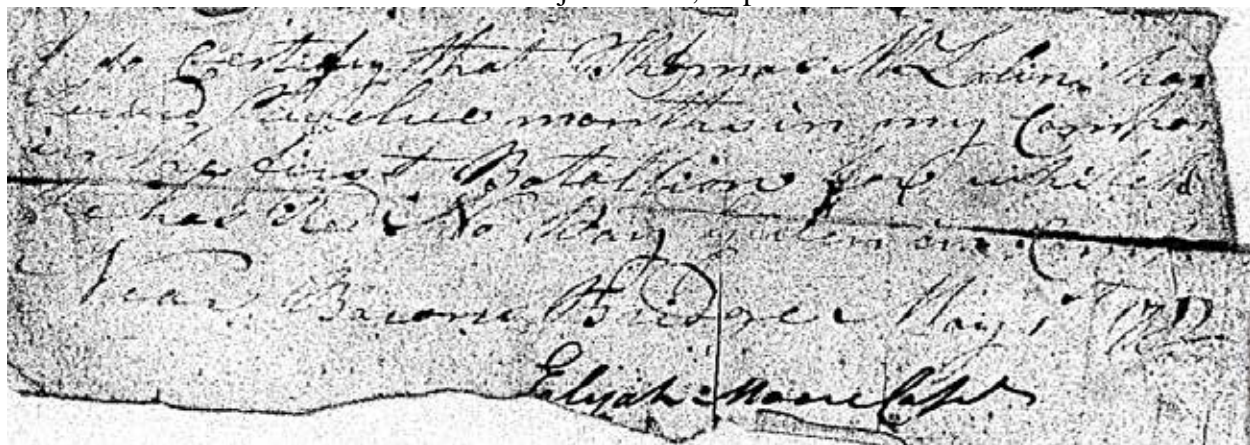
S/ Thomas McClelland, A his mark

[Samuel Cunningham & Rev. Boyd Mercer gave the standard supporting affidavit.

[p 14]

I do certify that Thomas McLalin has Served Twelve months in my Company in the first Batallion for which he has Rec'd No Pay Given in Camp Near Bacons Bridge May 1st 1782

S/ Elijah Moore, Capt.



I do certify that Thomas McLalin has Served Twelve months in my Company in the first Batallion for which he has Rec'd No Pay Given in Camp Near Bacons Bridge May 1st 1782  
Elijah Moore Capt.

[p 20]

Pennsylvania Washington County: SS

Before me John Marshel a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally came Thomas McClelland of the same County who on his solemn oath by me duly administered, 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: a tour of militia duty for 3 months as first stated in his declaration already made -- A tour for 9 months in the Flying Camp, as also therein stated -- A tour of 3 months as a militia man in North Carolina -- a tour for one year as a militia man under Capt. Elijah Moore as per certificate attached dated the 1 May 1782 signed by the said Elijah Moore. A tour of duty for at least 5 months as a volunteer in the dragoons commanded by Col. Washington in South Carolina principally -- Since the time of making his declaration before referred to, he has found a paper which is hereto annexed, dated the 10 November 1783, which paper is a power of attorney from him the said Thomas McClelland to William Stevenson to receive the amount therein mentioned -- And from this paper his memory is so far refreshed as to enable him to say that his service in the Dragoons as before stated was at least 5 months -- And since the discovery of said paper, he is enabled further to say that in addition to the service already stated, he served a tour of 12 months as a militia man in South Carolina, the other 12 months specified in the said writing, he thinks and believes, is embraced in his declaration referred to -- That he served a tour for 3 weeks as a minute man under Lieut. Samuel Wason, a 2 weeks tour as a minute man under Lieut. Purviance, and a tour

of one week as a minute man under Capt. James Purviance, for which services he claims a pension. In consideration of the affidavit now made by the said Thomas McClelland, he asked leave to add the affidavit of John Stewart and William Stevenson in relation to his services in the South, which affidavits are hereto annexed.

Sworn & subscribed before me 20 D. December 1832.

S/ Thomas McClelland, X his mark

S/ John Marshel

[The power of attorney referred to by the applicant appears at p 15 and reads as nearly as I can decipher it as follows (with extensive corrections): ]

Gentlemen this is to desire the favor of each of you to give into the hand of William Stevenson Sr. the [?] bounty tickets specie tickets discharges and what ever belongs to me in any of your hands which I have empowered to receive the same from each of you in the hands of Mr. McClelland—two twelve month bounty tickets—a receipt of the 12 months pay and discharge for the time served in the hand of Captain John Reed one specie ticket ? ? for two months service in the Light horse service—in the hands of Lieutenant Joseph Byers a specie ticket for a tour in the Light horse service a 3 week minute tour under Lieutenant Samuel Wason a two week minute tour under Lieutenant Purviance—one week minute tour under Lieut. Purviance—one week minute service under Col. James Purviance in the hands of Robert Stevenson? ? on 2-13-9 to be delivered or paid to me—one colt 3 years old in the hands of John McClelland Senior

witness by hand this 10th of November 1783

S/ John Stevenson

S/ Thomas McClelland, M his mark

[p 22]

State of North Carolina Iredell County

Personally came John Stewart<sup>4</sup> a resident of said County who says he is nearly eighty years of age who being duly sworn saith that in the time of the American Revolutionary war he was acquainted with and some time served in the American Army in company with a man of the name of Thomas McClelland. The said McClelland represented to this deponent that he had served in the Army to the North before he came southward and had been in the Battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] Germantown [October 4, 1777] & others. Deponent says that he was absent on the day of the battle at Ramsour's Mill until evening: That, as McClelland was wounded as he was informed in the Action that day in both his legs with Musket Balls or buck shot that this deponent after the battle frequently saw the said McClelland among other wounded persons at the house of Moses Potts and was present when Dr. Isaac Alexander extracted several shot out of one of his legs. And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed this 12th day of April 1830 before

S/ J. Campbell JP

S/ John Stewart, X his mark

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William Stevenson aged Sixty Six years being also Sworn deposed and Saith that he was acquainted with Thomas McClelland in the Revolutionary War, who for Several years made his home at the house of deponent's father. Deponent saith that McClelland told him that he had Served in the Army of the United States for a long time Deponent thinks two years before he came Southward. Deponent saith that McClelland Served Several tours of duty after he came to live at deponent's Father's – he says he was almost always out, McClelland was wounded in the

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<sup>4</sup> PROBABLY the same man as [John Stewart S7619](#)

battle at Ramsour's as deponent was informed, by musket Shot in his legs – he returned to the house of deponent's father wounded and lay there for some time until he was removed to Moses Potts to be near the Surgeon. Deponent says that he afterwards saw him the said McClelland in the Army in South Carolina, a few days before the Battle at Eutaw Springs and that he was then an eighteen months man. And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn & subscribed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 1830

S/ William Stevenson,<sup>5</sup> X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$84.16 per Annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 5 months in the Cavalry and 19 months in the infantry in both North Carolina and Pennsylvania.]

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<sup>5</sup> Found no federal pension application for this man