

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Patrick McElyea S2789

f31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/1/13 & 7/28/14

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Alabama, Jackson County

On the 7 day of October 1834 Personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the County Court now sitting Patrick McElyea a resident of said County and State aged 83 years who 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 the 7th 1832. That on the 10th day of January 1776, he entered the service of the United States as a private volunteer under Captain John Moore and Colonel William Moore and was discharged by his officers after serving two months and ten days was never stationed long at any place but we marched through different parts of North Carolina in quest of the Tories mostly near Hillsborough in North Carolina. He again entered the service on the 25th day of February following as a private volunteer under Colonel Ramsey [probably Ambrose Ramsey] and Colonel Moore and Captain Hubbard [William Hubbard] and after serving two months and ten days Mostly near Hillsborough North Carolina was again discharged by his officers, he again entered as a private volunteer in the spring of the year 1779 under Colonel Arthur Campbell Captain William Edmonson and after serving 21 days was again discharged, he again entered the service on the 5th day of February 1781 under Colonel Preston and Captain James Maxwell and was marched through different parts of North Carolina and the south edge of Virginia and after serving two months & ten days was discharged, in which last Campaign he was in the battle of the Alamance near the line of Guilford County North Carolina in which he lost his horse, saddle & bridle. He resided in North Carolina Caswell County when he first entered the service and just before the third campaign he removed to Virginia Washington County, thence to Montgomery County Virginia. He has no documentary evidence to show his service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any State.

When and in what year were you born?

I was born in York County Pennsylvania in the year 1751 & had a record of my age in a Bible but house and has been burned in my Bible lost

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

I lived in Caswell County North Carolina when I entered the service the first and second times I then moved to Washington County Virginia, thence to Montgomery County Virginia, thence to Surry County North Carolina, thence to Grayson County Virginia, Thence to Carter County East Tennessee – Thence to Montgomery, Tennessee – thence to Davidson County Tennessee, thence to Dixon County Tennessee, thence to Jackson County Alabama about nine years past where he now lives.

[How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute? 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.]

I volunteered when I first entered the service there was no regular officers where I served. I believe I have stated as near as I can from my recollection the nature of my services

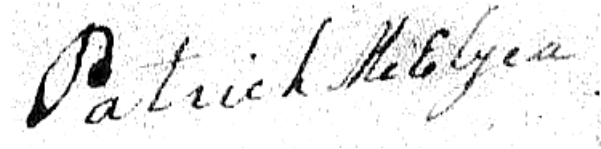
Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

I never received a written discharge for any of my services nor did I follow any civil pursuit in any of the before named campaigns.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution. I am acquainted with Armstrong Donaldson, Jacob Vansant, A. M. Self, Lewis Clark and Brantley Wright, who I believe would be willing to testify to the above.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Patrick McElyea

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick McElyea". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

Test: S/ Thompson M. Rector, Judge of the County Court

[John Williams, a clergyman, and W. P. Robertson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Franklin County

This day personally appeared before me John R. Patrick an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid Patrick McElyea and made oath that he belonged to the Army of the Revolution in the year 1781, that he went into the service about the first of January in that year, that he belonged to Captain James Maxwell's Company, that he was in the Battle on the Alamance Creek near the line of Orange County North Carolina that said Battle took place in the month of March 1781, and was fought between the British & Tories that Generals Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] & Pickens [Andrew Pickens] commanded the American forces in that Battle and that Colonel Washington [William Washington] was also engaged with a corps of Horse, that he belonged to Colonel Preston's Regiment, that this is the Battle he before made oath to being in in the original papers now on file in the War office and that the above battle was fought he thinks about 11 years after the Battle fought by Governor Tryon on or near the same Ground on the Alamance, & that he lost in said battle in 1781 a mare, Saddle & Bridle valued at \$1000 Continental money and that after that battle in the last of March 1781 he was discharged from the service of the United States this being the last battle or service he was in, that he at the time he forwarded his papers claiming a pension, resided in Jackson County Alabama, & that he now resides in the County of Franklin and State of Tennessee.

Sworn & Subscribed to before me this 20th September 1833.

S/ Patrick McElyea

S/ John R. Patrick, JP

State of Tennessee, Franklin County

This day personally appeared before me John R. Patrick an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid [Patrick McElyea] and makes oath the following declaration (to wit) that in his

services in the Army of the Revolution in 1776 & 1777, upon reflection he believes was one month & 10 days each as to the service in those two tours, he must have been mistaken in his former declaration of them each being two months & 10 days for he is now fully satisfied that the Tour of duty 1776 was only one month & 10 days & believes the one in 1777 to have only been the same length of time.

Sworn & subscribed me this 1 December 1837.

S/ Patrick McElyea

S/ John R. Patrick, JP

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State of Alabama, Jackson County: May 21st 1836

Sir I have lately received a note from you informing me that my claim was set aside under the supposition that the Alamance battle that I was in that I gave an account of in my declaration was fought between General Tryon [sic, Governor Tryon] and the regulators. Sir, by comparing this with my declaration you will see at once that you were mistaken. Sir, when the Tryon battle was fought my father and family of which I was one was about moving from Pennsylvania to Carolina we met several of the regulators getting away as we moved. The battle I believe was fought in June. Sir, the Alamance battle that I was in was fought about three miles from Haw River – it was fought with part of the forces of Cornwallis. Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] commanded the party we fought, Wallace [sic, Cornwallis] was then in Hillsborough 8 or 10 miles from the battle ground. Tarleton lay near O'Neal's plantation and we aimed to surround him early in the morning, but was betrayed by a Tory by the name of James Cass and he changed his position, then we was placed on the road which he was expected to march in every advantageous place by a companies & battalions for about three miles and fought as long as we could and then made good our retreat and so we fought them about 3 miles we took four prisoners, Holt the british Commissary, his brothers, two britons, we was commanded by Col. Preston & I believe our General was Greene or perhaps Pickens as their forces had just united a few days before whether both or one of them commanded that day as it was a scattering running fight I can hardly be certain but believe it was Greene at first he was the General I was under before Pickens united with our forces. You have taken that tower [sic, tour] of two months & ten days from the service that I rendered and leaves only something over five months – when my whole service was I believe seven months and eleven days. Sir, the Tryon battle was fought several miles from ours perhaps 8 or 10 I have since been on it and mustered two years in Hillsborough under Colonel Fanning [Edmund Fanning] who commanded under Tryon before the revolution war – and after Tryon's battle. Sir I dislike putting you to so much trouble but take my papers through another examination and you will without doubt see your mistake. I would have written be sooner but having removed some distance from the office and only a short time past got your letter. Please write to me your decision after you get this.

Yours with respect,

S/ Patrick McElyea

Mr. J. L. Edwards

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia.