

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William McFerren (McFerrin) S2791

Transcribed by R. Neil Vance
[Original spelling and punctuation retained]

March 10, 2013
Source: Fold3.com VA

[p. 3]

State of Tennessee
Tipton County

Court of pleas & quarter sessions June term 1833

This day it being the 7th day of June in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty three William McFerrin¹ personally appeared in open court before the said Court of pleas & quarter sessions now sitting. The said William McFerrin [sic] being a resident of the county of Tipton & state of Tennessee aforesd & being about the age of seventy seven 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 went into the army of the United States as a volunteer in the year seventy six [1776] & the month of august - commenced the line of march under Captain Lyle William McCutchen Lieutenant² from the state of Virginia Augusta County on a two months tour[sic] against the Cherokee[sic] Indians on Holston River - and on our march from Augusta County we crossed James River at Andersons Ferry - then New River at Englishes Ferry below the [] then across the mountains to the head of Holston thence down Holston to James Bryants fort - from thence to Blacks fort from thence to Shelbys fort - thence to Lewneys [?] fort from thence to the Block house - During the said two months tour we passed & reported to the above named forts guarding the frontiers - untill government ordered a draft & sent out a Regiment of Militia [sic] commanded by Col Christy [William Christian] - to which the company that I belonged was attached at the Long Island in order to march into the Indian Towns over the Tennessee River we crossed the Tennessee at Choto [Chota] an Indian Town thence to Chilhowa [Chilhowie] - upon our approach the Indians fled - we burnt the town, distributed their goods, eat[sic] their cattle & potatoes - whe then marched to Tilico [? probably Tellico] - the Indians fled - we treated their town and goods in like manner - we then marched into little Carpenter an Indian Town and treated it as we had the others.

Then we marched into Dragon Canoe then to Tapell [?] and so on until we laid in waist[sic] all these towns - we then returned up to Choto Town at which place Canestato[?], an Indian chief, mett Col. Christy & they formed a treaty. Col. Christy then discharged us and I arrived at home a few days before Christmas having performed a tour as a soldier of at least four months[.]

In the year seventy seven - (to the best of my recollection it was in the spring season) there was a draft of about seventy men (among others I was one of them) to go out against the Shawnee Indians Capt Ewen commanded and James McClary Lieutenant - we ranged thru Greenbrier settlement & returned home after a two months tour - I served as a private soldier [.]

¹ This application has William McFerren as the primary spelling, McFerrin is probably the better choice. The file (p. 32) contains a letter from John B. McFerrin who states that the soldier was his ancestor (Collierville, Tenn. Sept. 18 1922)

² [William Alexander S1785](#) was on this campaign and states his officers were Capt. John Lyle, Lt. William McCutcheon, and Ensign Joseph Long.

In the year seventy eight I left my father in Augusta County Virginia and moved on Holston near Abingdon for the purpose of making a crop for my farther [sic father] – shortly after I got my corn planted –there was a call for men to guard the forts in Powells valley - Captain Newell commanded and Lieutenant Blakemore[.] I was among others drafted and served one month as a private soldier[.]

In the same year I served under Captain Black & Lieutenant Thompson – we were marched up on the head of New River & in the Iron Mountain & across the Blue Ridge after the Tories – during which campaign we caught three of the Tories brought them in Abingdon where they stood their trial – In this touer I served one month as a private soldier After this I returned to my farther Augusta County Virginia[.]

In the year seventy nine my farther moved from Augusta County Virginia out upon Holston near Abingdon I accompanied him. Some time in the spring of the same year I was again drafted to go into Powels Vally - Cumberland Gap & to Yellow Creek in Kentucky against the Indians – under the command of Capt Samuel Meek and William Long Lieutenant and returned home again after a touer of six weeks during which I served as a private soldier[.]

In the same year perhaps in october I was called on again commanded by Captain Cane and Lieutenant Actin[?] against the Tories – we marched out by the head of new river – crossing the Blue ridge at the Flower Gap through Surry County into Wilks [Wilkes County] where we joined Col Tipton who marched us to the shallow ford on the Adkin where we hoped to have defeated Col Bryant who commanded the Tories – but he had fled with his men – We then marched through Roan [Rowan?] County - & McLinburgh [Mecklenburg] on the Catawba river then out at the head of said river crossing the yellow mountain after a touer of three months during which time I served as a private soldier[.]

In the month of February seventeen eighty – I married³ – and some time in September following I was called out again commanded by Captain Colvin⁴ (other company officers not recollected)⁵ Col Cambell [William Campbell] commanded our Regiment we joined Col Shelby & Col Sevier at the foot of the mountain near the head of Wattugo [Watauga River] – then we joined the Carolina troops near the Cowpens – then cross Broad river to Kings Mountain where we had a serius[sic] engagement – where Col. Williams [James Williams] Capt Edmonson⁶ Capt Boone[?]⁷ and a number of my other acquaintances fell where we took nine Tories who were out on parole of honor – who were hung at Col Walkers⁸ in the preasants [presence] of their friends and one of them after hanging untill nearly ded fell on consequence of the breaking of the [?] or roehide – upon which Col Cambell ordered him to step up and try it again – after this I returned home – after a three months touer during which time I served as a private.

I have no documents by which I can prove my servace - nor do I know of any person in this county by whom I can prove it

On the 15th day of September 1832 I made my declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of congress passed 7th June 1832 in Rutherford County Tennessee before Baxter B Dickins Esq & Jesse Stovall [?] Esq. not being able at that time of going to court for ill health – Since then my health has increased & in November last I removed to this county & now live with my son-in-law – I removed from near Abingdon after living about thirty five years there – to Rutherford County Tennessee where I lived near twenty three years – There are persons if living by home [whom] I can prove some of my

³ possibly to Jane Berry. letter in file (p. 30) from Mrs. J. S. Freeman, Springfield Tenn. (letter undated, recd. Aug. 27, 1934)

⁴ prob. Capt. Andrew Colvill (Colville)

⁵ Colvill's junior officers at Kings Mountain were Lt. Samuel Newell and Ens. John Beatty. Newell was severely wounded, and Beatty was killed. Lyman Draper *King's Mountain and its Heroes*, p. 248

⁶ The brothers Andrew Edmondson, Robert Edmondson, and William Edmondson all were killed at Kings Mt.

⁷ probably Lt. Reece Bowen


⁸ prob. Col. John Walker

service. to wit: Col Thomas Laughlin⁹ who I have understood some time ago lived some where in Kentucky & others some within state but from my ill state of health & total inability to go about I am not able to get their testimony

I have neglected to state that the application I made while in Rutherford County has been returned with objections first that the papers were not properly authenticated secondly that the period of service was not definitely stated the grade in which I served was not definitely stated and because I did not state that I had no documentary evidence & because I had not obtained testimony of at least one living witness & did not state in my declaration that such proof could not be made

He the said William McFerrin hereby relinquishing 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

[s/] William Mc Ferrin



Sworn to in open court & before the court

A Branch

Wm. Deloach

Justices holding sd court

Wm. Campbell

[Henry W Sale a clergyman, [?], and William Clark gave the usual supporting statement that they were acquainted with William McFerrin and that he was reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution]

Question 1st Where and in what year were you Born?

A. In Seventeen hundred & fifty five in the State of Pennsylvania - York County

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

A. I have my fathers record for it

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

A. I lived in Augusta County Virginia when called into service – The balance of the war my home was in Washington County near Abingdon in Virginia – I then moved to Rutherford County Tennessee & from thence to this county – as stated in my declaration

4th How were you called into service? were you drafted? did you volunteer? or were you a substitute?

A. The first two months I volunteered - & at the expiration I was drafted for two months more – which made the four months toure which was my first – all other touers I was drafted

5th State the names of some of the officers you were under

A. Capt Lyle William McCutcheon Lieutenant
Col Christie Capt Ewen Col Campbell
Col Shelby Col Sevier & Col Tipton

6th Did you ever receive a discharge?

A. only verbal –

7th State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character and varacity?

⁹ Possibly [Thomas Laughlin W9112](#)

A. William Deloach Esq Isaac Clark – Coxen Deloach Cullen Curlee. from my limited acquaintance in this county having lately settled here there are but few who know me – but in Rutherford County – I would refer to Majr[?] Brady [or Bradly] Col Zourer Esq Ready Esq Dorren Col Gowen [?] Capt Brandon William Waterson Col Wm Brady Hon John Bell of Davidson County

[s/] William McFerren [or McFerrin]

Sworn to in open court on the day and year aforesaid

A. Branch Justices holding sd court

William Deloach

Wm Campbell

[The file indicates that the pensioner was paid through 4th March 1841 and was on the roll of the Jackson Tennessee agency]

[A letter in the file (p. 31) dated May 29, 1916 from Ms. Charles Oliver Norton of Kearney Nebraska states that the soldier William McFerren died in 1855.]