

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McMahan S2808

f11VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/9/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of Tennessee

County of McMinn: SS

On this 2 day of September personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the County Court of said County, John McMahan a resident of said County and state, aged about seventy-eight 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service in the year 1777 in the month of September, as he thinks, as the volunteer militia man, in the State of Virginia and County of Augusta. His Officers were Colonel Dickinson [probably Lieutenant Colonel John Dickenson of Augusta County], – Christian name not recollected –, Major Samuel McDowel [Samuel McDowell], Captain George Moffit [George Moffitt], Lieutenants names not recollected. The object of raising the troops to which declarant was attached under the command of General Hand [Edward Hand] was to go on an expedition against the Shawnee Indians. Part of the men were drafted and part, – declarant one of them, – turned out as volunteers. We were rendezvoused on Carr's Creek, in what is now Botetourt County, and were marched from thence to Big Savannah in Greenbrier County, thence to the mouth of the Canaway River [Kanawha River] where we had a Garrison under the command of Colonel Arbuckle. Here the soldiers under Dickerson lay some time waiting for General Hand who was coming on another route. Our provisions gave out and we sent to runners up the Ohio River to meet General Hand, whom they met at the mouth of the Hockhocking river at the place where Wheeling now stands or near it. Here it was ascertained that General hand had met some of the Indian Chiefs and had made a treaty. General Hand shortly after came down the River with about 40 men in a boat and furnished us with provisions. Shortly afterwards we were marched back to our homes, under our respective officers and discharged from the service during the month of December 1777, having served three months the term for which we entered. – The next service he performed was as a volunteer. He entered the service in the same County and State: and as he thinks in the month of January, 1781 for a three months tour, under the command of Colonel Sampson Mathews, Major Alexander Robinson, Captain Joseph Patterson. We were rendezvoused at Fredericksburg Virginia where we lay a few days waiting for some men who had not yet joined us, and were then marched to Camp Carson, or as it was generally called camp near Carson's, within about 9 or 10 miles of Portsmouth where the British under Arnold [Benedict Arnold] the traitor were stationed, perhaps for wintering. At Camp Carson we were stationed, during the remainder of this service. From this place we were

frequently marched across what was called the Dismal Swamp, and had a great many skirmishes with parties of the British, frequently firing on in driving their pickets. On one occasion, we had what was called the hot skirmish with them, killed some of the enemy and took some prisoners. This happened on the same day the battle of Guilford Courthouse [March 15, 1781] in North Carolina was fought. Our tour of three months having expired, we were prevailed upon by our officers, still continued in service until other troops who were [indecipherable word]¹ could be brought into the field. We continued one month more at the same place and performed the same kind of services before we were discharged. At the end of 4 months other troops had got to camp & declarant, with his comrades were discharged, declarant having served four months. –

Declarant again entered the service, as a volunteer, in the month of [written over and illegible], – as he thinks – 1781, under Captain Patrick Buchanan, who commanded a company of drafted men & volunteers, raised for the purpose of joining the American forces under General Washington at the Siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Declarant does not recollect the Colonel's name nor the Regiment to which he belonged, as shortly after they joined the Army at Yorktown he was taken from the ranks by the commissary General, to take care of and drive 18, the former driver having been bitten by a spider, which rendered him unable to take care of his team. On the day of the Surrender [October 19, 1781] declarant was but a few paces from where Washington stood – saw Cornwallis march out and surrender his sword to the American General. The British prisoners after the surrender were marched to Winchester Virginia. – Declarant accompanied the Army as far as Fredericksburg, having charge of the wagon & team as above stated, where he was discharged in the month of November, as well as he recollects, in the year 1781 having served three months in this tour. – Declarant makes the following answers to the questions propounded by the War Department 1. I was born in Augusta County Virginia in the year 1755 as he has been informed by his parents. – 2. I have no record of my age now, I once had the family record kept by my Father, but it is now lost in consequence of getting my books and papers wet. 3. I lived in Augusta County Virginia when I entered the service. After the Revolution I continued in the same County & State for several years. I then moved to Sevier County Tennessee about 30 or 40 years ago from severe I moved to Blount County this state – then to Jefferson and then to McMinn County Tennessee where I have lived twelve or 13 years & where I now reside – 4. I volunteered for the 3 tours as stated before. 5. There were but few regular officers with the troops where I served and a few regulars were stationed near Carson; and I recollect a Major Wells – the general circumstances of my services I have stated in my declaration. – 6. I never received a written discharge – I have no documentary evidence. – I know of no witness who can prove all the services I performed. Robert Douglass can prove the 3 months tour I served at the Siege of Cornwallis. – Robert Stevenson, Samuel Blackburn, & James Hard are some of the present neighborhood who can testify to my character &c.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the 2nd day of September 1833

S/ John McMahan, X his mark

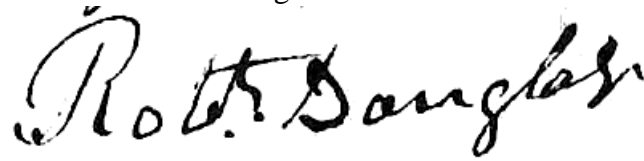
State of Tennessee

McMinn County: This 2nd day of September 1833 Robert Douglass personally appeared in open court and made oath that he is personally acquainted with John McMahan who has sworn to & subscribed the foregoing declaration that he knew him in the Army of the revolution; that

¹ Evans

said McMahan was a soldier of the revolution, and that he served the term of 3 months at the Siege of Cornwallis as the said McMahan has stated.

S/ Robt. Douglass

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robt. Douglass". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Robt. Douglass".

[George E Mountcastle, a clergyman, and Henry Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the Virginia militia.]