

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas McSpeddin S2813

Transcribed by Will Graves

f28VA

rev'd 5/16/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 11]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful David C. Hibbitts, Benjamin H. Billings & James Foster – Esquires Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County of Wilson, now sitting, Thomas McSpeddin of the County of Wilkes in & State of Tennessee aged Eighty four 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<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

1<sup>st</sup> That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Col. William Campbell of Virginia commanded the Regiment of the Virginia Militia to which he belonged, does not recollect the Major, William Edmundson [also spelled Edmiston, Edmondson], Captain of the Company & thinks that John Lowry was Lieutenant of the Company to which he belonged. His best recollection is that Colonel Campbell commanded a detachment of the Militia which was ordered out against the Shawnee Indians on Clinch River – at which time, to wit in the summer of the year 1777 he served a tour of two months in the Militia under the officers above named – they did not have a fight with the Indians that Campaign, Captain Edmundson & his Company pursued them as far as Sandy River, and judging from their trail & the freshness of the signs they had nearly overtaken the Indians & was prevented further pursuit after them in consequence of the sickness of George Teter [?]<sup>1</sup> whom we could not leave, & had not sufficient force to divide, for previous to his sickness the detachment had been divided & sent in different directions after the enemy: they then returned home having served a tour of two months that summer. The Indians had been for some time annoying the frontiers of Virginia, the same summer 1777 the Indians crossed over the Clinch River & killed a family called Beck, he had but just returned home from Richland Station as one of the guard & was at home only two or three days, when the depredations & murder of the Beck family occurred & he then was called upon immediately to turn out & pursued them as above stated.

2<sup>nd</sup> In the summer of the year 1778 he was required to serve a tour in the Militia which he accordingly did by serving one month where Colonel Smith of Clinch River was stationed – ten men was allowed to each station.

3<sup>rd</sup> He cannot recollect that he was in service in the [year] 1779. He believes it was in the Summer 1780, he served a tour of one month on an expedition to the three forks of New River against the Tories – it may have been in the year 1779 but his best recollection & belief is that it was in the year 1780. He knows well that he served a tour of one month on that expedition. Col. William Campbell commanding officer of the Holston troops – William Edmundson Captain does not recollect the Lieutenant. The Tories did not stand to give us battle, we took one prisoner and he was hanged.

---

1 *Teter*

4<sup>th</sup> In the fall season of the year 1780 Colonel Campbell required all his effective men to furnish themselves with horses to go upon an expedition against the Tories & British who were embodying in North & South Carolina intending as he understood to bring the North Carolinians under subjection – he started with the troops who fought & conquered at King's Mountain [October 7, 1780], but did not go far before it occurred to Colonel Campbell & the other officers that the Holston settlements had been left in a most helpless & defenseless situation, it was therefore considered advisable that some of them should return to guard the families thus left against the attack of the Tories or Indians, but most danger was apprehended from the Tories, and Colonel Campbell ordered James Berry he thinks to take back 12 men for the guard – he was one of the men sent back and they continued on duty in this service for one month or more, until the Battle of King's Mountain & the return of Col. Campbell's Militia to the Holston settlements.

5<sup>th</sup> His next & last tour of service was performed in the spring of the year 1781, when Lord Cornwallis with his Army was traversing that part of North Carolina near Guilford – he went out again under Colonel Campbell in the Company commanded by Captain James Montgomery for Captain Edmundson his former Captain was killed at the battle of King's Mountain – he was in a skirmish with the British at Whitsell's [sic, Wetzel's] Mill [skirmish at Wetzel's Mill NC on Reedy Fork of Haw River, March 6, 1781]. on the Waters of Haw River – we had not sufficient strength to give the enemy a battle, but as we retreated we fired upon our pursuers, some men were killed, William Berry of his company was killed – we retreated until we joined the Main Army under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], if he recollects rightly – we lost nearly all our horses – he served about one month and was discharged & returned home, Colonel Campbell went on with the Main Army & never returned.

He was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia about the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1748. He had a Record of his age from his father's family record but it has been lost and he has depended upon his memory for many years past for his age. He was living on the Laurel fork of Holston River, in Edmundson's settlement when he first entered the service of the United States – lived there till the fall 1785, then moved to Davidson County Tennessee, where he resided until about the year 1809 or 1810 when he moved to Wilson County Tennessee, where he has resided ever since.

He never received but one discharge in writing that he can recollect, & that he was a discharge from Captain Montgomery – he has lost that – and he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person within his reach who has a personal knowledge of his services. He is well acquainted with the Reverend Thomas Calhoun & Reverend George Donnell, Alexander Aston, John L. Davis, David McMurry, John Provine, Alexander Provine & many others of the old & respectable Citizens of the County who he believes would willingly testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

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 day and year aforesaid.

Test S/ Isaiah S. McClain, Clerk

S/ Thomas McSpeddin, X his mark

of Wilson County Court

[George Donnell, a clergyman, and Alexander Aston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

OFFICE BANK UNITED STATES,

NASHVILLE, 9 July 1834

Received of *Thos. W. Hulet* Agent for paying Pensions,

*Twenty three* dollars *Twenty two* cents,

being for *Twenty five* months and *seven* - days Pension due to me as the widow

of *Thos. McSpedden* dec'd, a Revolutionary Pensioner under the act of the <sup>7<sup>th</sup> June 1832</sup> from the  
*4* day of *March* 1831 to the *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *May* 1833 the day of his  
death for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

*\$23.22/100-*

*Mary C. McSpedden* widow of  
the late *Thomas C. McSpedden*, by  
*Thos. Topp*, attorney in fact.

[Note: the above indicates that the veteran died May 11, 1833 survived by his widow Mary McSpeddin]

[p 8: On June 24, 1834 in Wilson County Tennessee, Mary McSpeddin, Thomas C. McSpeddin & John Donnell filed an affidavit stating that Mary McSpeddin was the lawful wife of Thomas McSpeddin who died May 11, 1833 in Wilson County Tennessee where he had lived the previous 22 years; that prior to living in Wilson County he had lived 25 years in Davidson County Tennessee and prior to that had resided in Washington County Virginia.

*Mary C. McSpedden*  
*Mark*  
*Thos. C. McSpedden*  
*George Donnell*

]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]