

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McDowell<sup>1</sup> S30578      Jane McDowell      f47VA  
Transcribed by Will Graves      4/24/13

[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 7]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the Act entitled an Act for the relief of certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution Approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828 I John McDowell resident in the County of Fayette and State of Kentucky do hereby declare that in the year 1776 I was appointed and Commissioned an Ensign in the Virginia line and continued to serve as such until the year 1777 or 1778 when I was promoted to a Lieutenantcy in the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel James Wood, and after the consolidation of the regiments took place in the year 1778 I was detained in service and put in the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia still commanded by said Colonel Wood – and that after most of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment had been taken prisoners in Charleston South Carolina [Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780] – in the Summer of the year 1780 I was ordered to join a detachment of Troops commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford. I did so, and marched to the South and was under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene], & that in the fall of the year 1781 I was taken sick in South Carolina and permitted to return to Virginia, and about this time Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] was taken [October 19, 1781], and the War was considered to be at an end, and I was not again called into Service, I never resigned my Commissioned & considered myself in service or under pay and liable to go into actual Service whenever called on – my Commission has been long since lost – I considered myself entitled to the benefits of the resolve of Congress of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1783. I never applied for, nor received my commutation Certificates for 5 years full pay and my reason was this – the Government at that time was considered wonly [wholly? or "mosly" mostly?] Bankrupt and I was blessed with a competence to live on, & that Shortly after the War closed I moved to Kentucky and have resided here ever since.

S/ John McDowell



[attested in Fayette County Kentucky January 12, 1831]

[p 8]

Kentucky Fayette County Sct.

Abraham Bowman<sup>2</sup> made oath before me a Justice of the peace for said County that he was a full Colonel and commanded the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment in the Revolutionary War on the Continental

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt1749-200

<sup>2</sup> [Abraham Bowman W396](#)

line and was well acquainted with the within named John McDowell and knows him to have been a Lieutenant in the Virginia Service as he has stated in his Affidavit and he further knows that said McDowell did serve to the end of the Revolutionary War as he has stated in his affidavit within – that is to say, he was either in actual service or on furlough until the War ended in the year 1783 and he further states that said McDowell was entitled to his commutation Certificates and would have gotten them had he applied for them.

S/ Abrm Bowman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abram Bowman".

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1831

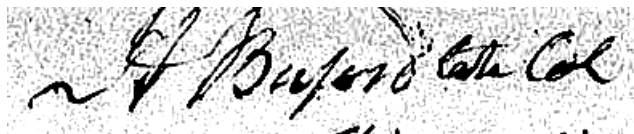
S/ John Parker, JP

[p 10]

Kentucky Scott County Sct.

Abraham Buford made oath before me a Justice of the peace for said County that he was a Colonel in the Continental Army of the United States during the Revolution and commanded the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, & that in the year 1778 he knew Lieutenant John McDowell in the northern Army and he knew that said McDowell continued to serve as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line until the year 1780 when he was ordered and joined his said Buford's Regiment in Carolina & in the year 1781 said Colonel Buford went home to Virginia sick, and left said McDowell in Service and did not see him until November 1781 after Lord Cornwallis' Army was taken Prisoners & said McDowell was then belonging to the Army, but not in actual service, as the war was considered to be at an end – And he considers that said McDowell did serve to the close of the War in the year 1783 as he was with him most of the time and never heard of his resigning his Commission and McDowell was not called into actual Service any more, this deponent further states that he applied for and received his commutation certificates and he considered Lieutenant McDowell's situation as similar to his own, and he knows that said McDowell could of obtained his commutation Certificates had he applied for them and he has been living in the same parts of the Country with McDowell ever since and knows him to be the same person.

S/ A. Buford late Col.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Buford late Col.".

[p 22]

State of Kentucky Fayette County: Sct.

I John McDowell aged seventy-three years do upon oath Testify & declare that in the year 1776 I entered the service of the United States as an Ensign and was attached to Captain Boyers company commanded by Colonel James Wood of the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental line, and that in the year 1778 or 1779 I was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant & served in said Regiment which was then reduced to the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment still commanded by said Colonel Wood in which service I continued until the close of the Revolutionary War.

And I further declare I have never received the bounty of land promised to me on the part of the United States nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim in any manner whatever,

and I respectfully request the Honorable Secretary of War to examine my papers & proof now in the Office of the Secretary of the Treasury where he will find I am receiving full pay under the Law of Congress of the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828 and I also request him to hand over my warrants when issued to the proper Office that the same may be converted into Script & sent to me at Lexington Kentucky.

S/ John McDowell

[attested June 27, 1831]

[Veteran's widow received the pension due her husband for his service as a Lieutenant and quartermaster in the Virginia service at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 and ending July 8, 1835, the date of his death.]

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Addendum to John McDowell S30578

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 9 Sep 2020.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do hereby Certify that Mr John McDowell served as a Lieutenant in the Eighth Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment from the first day of January 1777 till the Sixteenth Day of February 1781 and has not been Cashiered or Superceded. Given under my hand this Tenth Day of May 1783.

Geo Mathews [George Mathews VAS520]

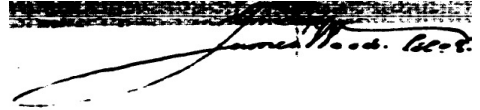
Col. [undeciphered] V. Reg

A black and white image of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Geo Mathews". The signature is written on a document with some visible texture and ink bleed-through.

I do hereby Certify that Lieutenant John McDowell was an Officer in the Virginia Line before January 1777, and that he Acted as Quarter Master to the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment from September 1778 untill the Virginia Line marched to South Carolina in the winter 1779

[several illegible words]

James Wood [BLWt2419-500] Colo 8 VR

A black and white image of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "James Wood". The signature is written on a document with some visible texture and ink bleed-through.