

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McIlhenny, National Pension Claim Number S31242

Transcribed by Michael G. Williams

[f52SC: Nov. 16, 2008]

Supplemented by Will Graves

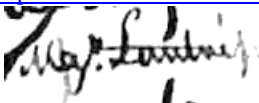
12/4/15

The State of Kentucky, Bath County: October 9th, 1832

On this 9th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the honorable Judge of this Bath Circuit Court now sitting James McIlhenny a resident of Bath County and State of Kentucky aged about seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declarations in order to obtain his benefits of the Act of Congress drafted June 7, 1832. In the year 1776 served a seven month term on the frontier settlements of South Carolina Spartanburg [Spartanburg] District in Captain John McIlhenny's Company in Col. Thomas' [John Thomas'] Regiment. In the summer of 1778 I enlisted with Captain William Woods in a company of rangers. Served six months under the aforesaid Col. Thomas to guard against the Indians on the same frontier. About the first of June 1780 I joined the army under Gen'l Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] and was appointed by one of the company to the command & afterwards was commanded by Gen'l Peckings [Andrew Pickens] & continued until about the first of March 1781 during which time I was in an engagement at Hills Iron Works & in another in which we took Anderson fort and another with a party of Tory Militia & British at the Cedar Springs¹ commanded by Maj. Ferguson, British Officers & again with another party of Tories Com'd (commanded) by Maj. Luntnip [?]², who had the day previous murdered Col. Edward Hampton³ of the American Army About the middle of March 1781. I received the appointment of Captains command in Col. S. Hammonds [Samuel Hammond's] Regiment of Light Dragoons State Troops and continued in the United States services about twelve months during which time I was engaged in the recruiting service and actual duty in which I received a commission bearing date the 16th of May 1781 which is hereto attached as a part of this statement. At the end of my service the regiment was disbanded & I discharged but I never received any written discharge During this time of my commanding company. I was in the following battles & sieges To wit I was with Gen'l Green [Nathanael Greene] at the Siege of 96 [May 22-June 19, 1781]. From there I marched to the Siege of Augusta & remained there until both forts were taken. In a short time afterwards I accidentally got my leg broke by my horse running against a stump & was confined for some time which accounts for my absence in the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] in which my company was engaged. Whilst I was under the command of Gen'l Pickens I was sent by Gen'l Morgan to 96 with a flag for the exchange of prisoners which service I performed which caused my absence at the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]. Army officers with whom I was acquainted during my several terms of service were the following Col. John Thomas Senr.(Sr.), Col. Jno Thomas Jr., Col. Edward Hampton Col. Wade Hampton Gen'l

¹ Probably the action at Wofford's Iron Works, August 8, 1780, a/k/a 2nd Cedar Springs

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_woffords_iron_works.html

² 

³ Edward Hampton was killed in October 1780 on Fair Forest Creek by William Cunningham. Hampton then held the rank of Lt. Col. under Thomas Sumter's command. Moss, *SC Roster*.

Green Gen Sumpter (Sumter) Gen't Pickens Gen'l Morgan Col. Washington Col. Lee Gen'l Clark (Elijah Clarke) Col. Shelley Col. Campbell Col. Anderson Col. McCall Col. Hammond. He has no documentary evidence other than his commissions above referred to and he knows of no person now living who can testify to his service. I was born in York County, Pennsylvania in the year 1759. I have a record of my age at home. When I entered the services I was living in the State of South Carolina in what was then called Ninety Six District where I lived about five years. After the close of the Revolutionary War when I moved to Kentucky & I now live in Bath County State of Kentucky. I always entered the service as a volunteer. Gen'l Green (Greene) Col. Washington & Col. Lee above stated were regular officers. Col. Washington Lee Campbell & Hammonds regiments were in service with me. He hereby relinquishes any claims 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. He states as above that he never received a written discharge his commission as above set forth was signed by John Rutledge, Governor of South Carolina. Among the persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood are W. M. Sudduth, Dan'l Duty Joshua Hazelrigg (?) Wm Graycraft (?) Beau Smallwood & Samuel Stent (?)

Sworn to and submitted the day and year aforesaid

James McIlhenny

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James McIlhenny". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

The following material was added by Will Graves


[WG's 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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[Joel Parker and W. M. Sudduth gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17 is a digital image of his Captain's commission dated May 16th 1781 and signed by John Rutledge.

South Carolina. By his Excellency John Rutledge, Esq; Governor
 and Commander in Chief of the said State.
 To *James McIlhenney* Esquire

I Reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Courage and
 good Conduct, and in your Fidelity and Attachment to the
~~United States~~ of America, have commissioned and appointed, and by
 these Presents do commission and appoint you the said *James McIlhenney*
J. Rutledge to be Captain of the Third Troop in the Regiment of Light
 Dragoons commanded by Lieut. Colonel *Samuel Hammond* in the Service
 which said Troop. -- you are to lead, train, muster,
 and exercise, according to military Discipline. And you are to
 follow and observe all such Orders and Instructions as you shall, from Time to
 Time, receive from me or the Commander in Chief for the Time being, or any
 of your superior Officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant
 to the ~~Articles of War~~ *Articles of War* for the better Government of Continental Troops
 And all inferior Officers, and others belonging to the said Regiment
 are hereby required and commanded to obey you as their Captain.
 This Commission to continue during Pleasure.
 Given under my Hand and Seal at *Camden*
 this *Seventeenth* of May A D. 1781
 and in the *Fifth* Year of the Independence of *America*.



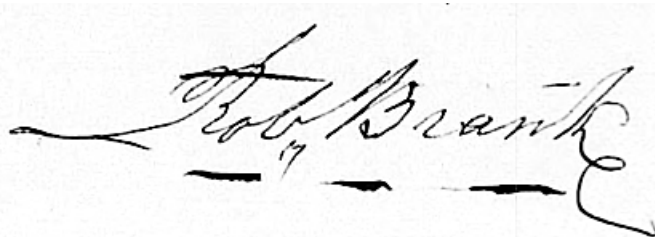
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State of Kentucky, Garrard County

Robert Brank⁴ aged Seventy Six years past a resident of the County of Garrard and State of Kentucky makes oath and states that he is well acquainted with James McIlhenney now of the County of Bath in State of Kentucky -- That he knows said McIlhenney was in the Revolutionary Army, that he served as a Captain in the South Carolina troops, that he saw the said McIlhenney [sic] in the service of the United States as a Captain at a place called Paris' old fields in North Carolina near the line of South Carolina -- I think in the year 1780 -- he was then in the Militia Service. He afterwards saw the said McIlhenney [sic] engaged as a Captain in the State troops or Dragoons of South Carolina. He has frequently seen the said McIlhenney engaged as a Captain of Dragoons enlisting men for the service of the Country and after being there some time engaged in enlisting he saw him in the County of Burke in North Carolina at the head of a considerable number of men he had enlisted going on towards the South to join the Army in the South. He never heard of said McIlhenney's resigning or being discharged during the war and has reason to believe that he served as stated in his Declaration which is nine months in the Militia Service and 12 months in the Regular service.

S/ Robt. Brank



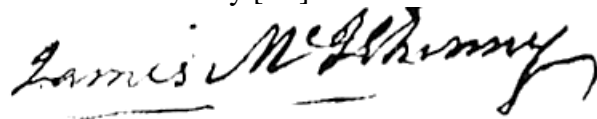
⁴ [Robert Brank S30893](#)

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State of Kentucky, Bath County

On this 16th day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court by me the Honorable Judge of the Bath Circuit Court now sitting James McIlhenny resident & aged as set forth in his former statement made in this Court on the ninth day of October 1832 & being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration by way of addition & explanation of his former declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that on the first day of June 1780 he joined General Sumter's Brigade and Served as Captain and Colonel John Thomas, Regiment of South Carolina Militia for the term of nine months That on the first day of March 1781 he was appointed a Captain in Colonel Samuel Hammond's Regiment of light dragoons South Carolina State troops & served one year as Captain thereof. For which he claims one year as Captain of Dragoons and nine months as Captain of the Militia. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jamis McIlhenny [sic]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamis McIlhenny". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Jamis McIlhenny [sic]".

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Department of State, Columbia
State of South Carolina
District of Richland

Samuel Hammond Sen^{r5} Secretary of State officially resident of the district aforesaid, upon his oath Declares, that he was Personally acquainted with James McElhenny [sic] now is said to be a resident of the State of Kentucky, that he first became acquainted with him in the summer of 1780, he believes in June or July, he was then in Service with Colonel Edward Hamton [sic Hampton], commanding South Carolina Volunteers called Refugees That he Continued in Service Occasionally under the command of General Sumter, Colonel Williams [James Williams], Colonel Marion & sometimes with Colonel Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] of Georgia, with Each of Whom I was occasionally associated. Sometime in March 1781 James McElhenny was authorized to Raise a Company of Dragoons to be attached to a Regiment State Troops to serve 10 months to be Commanded by me as Lieut. Colonel, and to be attached to General Andrew Pickens' Brigade his Commission it is Seen is dated 16th May 1781, he had been some time previously in the Recruiting Service his Commission was dated at the time he Joined the Regiment, it is presumed, as all of those were, though not now recollected he Served however the full time for Which they Were engaged & some of his Troop Continued Voluntarily Longer, he was 12 months attached to the Regiment & a part of that time, Confined by Broken Leg -- I don't know how long he Served, in the Militia, or do I know What Rank he held, but I know he was an officer in service as before Stated, in 1780 -- & to the best of my knowledge & believe he continued in Service, until the Regiment was discharged, which however, was not a full discharge as many of the men on being individually Discharged reenlisted & Continued in service under engagement to serve three years or During the War -- & Were only Discharged at Conclusion of the War -- or after the recruiting Service Was Suspended by General order -- I have had no Personal acquaintance with Captain McElenny since his removal to Kentucky -- but

⁵ [Samuel Hammond S21807](#)

having Examined his Declaration, have no doubt that it is substantially correct being well acquainted with, from memory & over ways, many of the Circumstances he mentions -- in his declaration, the Precise time of their occurrence as Escaped my Memory.

S/ S. Hammond

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. Hammond". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ S. Hammond".

[Facts in file: veteran died June 29, 1841; no family information is contained in the file.]