

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McHenry S31243

f31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/12/09: rev'd 10/19/16

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

[This application has been substantially edited as the spelling, grammar and punctuation is very challenging.]

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Wayne County State of Kentucky

On this 24 day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Wayne County Court James McHenry a resident here in Wayne County and State of Kentucky aged Seventy-one years as he believes the last of September next who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 as he believes in the 15th year of his age with John Salter Capt. for the term of 18 months who commanded a horse company and who was marched on to guard the frontiers of Georgia and who was commanded a part of the time by Col. Baker [John Baker?]. He enlisted in Anson County in the State of North Carolina marched from there to the head of Ogeechee River and there built a Fort called Fort Harrison as he believes. [He] marched from there to near the head of the Litel [Little?] River and built a Fort called Phillips Fort. [He] marched from there to midway betwixt Suns buorou [sic, Sunbury?] and haltemehaw [Altamaha River?] and was there joined by Col. Baker who marched us on to the mouth of St. Mary's River in Florida and had a battle<sup>1</sup> near that place with the Indians Ridge and Tories who were commanded in part by Daniel McGirt who was a Tory. He states that they got defeated and retreated back to galfin [Galphin's] old towens [?] and there treated with the Creek Indians and then marched back to Philips Fort then marched back to Savannah and there was discharged at the expiration of the 18 months by his Capt. John Salter. He then returned home to his mothers in the State of North Carolina in Anson County and continued there until the year 1780 as he believes when he volunteered under Capt. John Mcinvale [John McInvale], marched on and joined General Gates<sup>2</sup> near Cahden [Camden] and there got defeated by the British who was commanded by Cornwallis was there taken a prisoner and detained about four months before he got home. After he returned home he volunteered under James Flecher [James Fletcher] Capt. for three months who continued to range the Country against the Tories. After the expiration of that three months he again volunteered for

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<sup>1</sup> The veteran MAY be describing the first Florida expedition.

<http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution09.html>

<sup>2</sup> The Battle of Camden or Gates Defeat occurred on August 15-16, 1780.

[http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

three months more under same Capt. James Flecher [James Fletcher] and was then marched on after General Flannen [David Fanning?] who commanded the Tories to Bates bridg [Beatti's Bridge?]<sup>3</sup> on drownen creak [Drowning Creek] and was there defeated Col. Waid [Thomas Wade] Col. Chiles [Lt. Col. Thomas Childs] and Col. Williames [Lt. Col. Edward Williams] were all in the defeat though they had but few men. And there is no person living that he knows of in this part of the country that he could prove his services.<sup>4</sup>

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State or territory  
Questions by the Court and answers by the applicant

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in North Carolina on a Creek called big Catentney [Contentnea Creek] the County not recollected in the year 1761 as well as I recollect

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

I have no record of my age nor never had. I am no scholar [spelled "Scoller"] and can't write. My mother told me that I was born between new and old Christmas as she believed in the year 1761 and I don't know whether it was in the first of the year or the last

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

From the commencement of the war until the end and a good many years after the war I lived in Anson County in the State of North Carolina. I moved from there to South Carolina in Spartanburg [spelled "Sharklingberg"] County on Tyger River and continued there 6 [? not at all clear] years. I moved from there to Montgomery County in Kentucky and lived there 3 years from there to Wayne County Kentucky and have lived here ever since.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I enlisted the first 18 months the other 3 campaigns I volunteered

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Capt. John Salter was a regular officer. He commanded a horse company and went on to guard the frontiers of Georgia. I don't know whether Col. Baker was a regular officer or not. We were not attached to any Main body of troops the whole time of my enlistment. The first campaign that I volunteered General Gates was our head commander. The 2nd campaign that I volunteered I was not attached to any regular troops. We were just marched about North Carolina against the Tories. The 3rd time that I volunteered under Fletcher we were marched against Fanning. Col. Wade, Col. Childs and Col. Williams were all in the defeat but I believe that they were militia officers.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I received a discharge from Capt. John Salter for 18 month in the regular Service that got

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<sup>3</sup> He may be referring to the action which is believed to have occurred on August 4, 1781 at Beatti's Bridge on Drowning Creek. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/beattisbr.htm> & [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_beattis\\_bridge.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html)

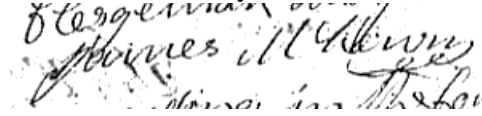
<sup>4</sup> As an example of the challenges presented by this application, a literal transcription of this sentence would read as follows: "and thear is no person Liveing that he noes of in this parte of the Cuntry that he Coud proove all his Serveses."

burnt when my house in South Carolina [was burned]. The balance of the campaigns I received no discharge. One Capt. John McInvale having died in battle in Camden. The other Capt. James Fletcher lived a close neighbor I neglected ever getting a discharge.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I will state James Lear [spelled "Laer" but clearly signed "Lear"] a clergyman and James White

S/ James McHenry

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James McHenry". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[James Lear, a clergyman, and James White gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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[literal transcription]

october the 31 day 1833

This day came Ruben Ard before me Roger Oates a Justice of the peace for Wayne County Kentucky and made oath that he was a half brother to James McHenry who was an applicant for a pension for his services in the revolutionary war he states that he was very young when his half brother James McHenry enlisted though he recollects distinctly well his half brother coming home and telling his stepfather and his mother that he had enlisted with Capt Salter his stepfather as well as I recollect got him a horse to ride he went off and was gone a considerable length of time and returned home I frequently heard him talking of being in the Floridas at Ogechee at Camden and many other places in the South of being in several skirmishes with the Indians and British but for what time he enlisted I have no recollection I was then young I am now about Sixty four years old though I have no doubt but he enlisted and served the Eighteen month as Stated in his declaration I dont recollect what time he enlisted though I know that it was about the commencement of the war I also recollect that he volunteered but how long or how often I cant recollect and further he saith not.

S/ Ruben Ard, X his mark

[as edited by me]

October 31st day 1833

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S/ Reuben Ard, X his mark

This is to certify that the above was sworn to before made this 31st of October 1833  
S/ Roger Oates, JP [?]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$51.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the cavalry and 7 months and 27 days in the infantry, all in the North Carolina militia.]