

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas McLain S31851

f12VA[sic GA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/8/13

[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.]


State of Georgia County of Newton:

On the 25th day of December 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of said County now sitting Thomas McLain a resident of Newton County & State of Georgia aged about seventy-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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that he entered the service in Captain Dooley's¹ Company, and Burwell Smith [also spelled Burrell or Burrill Smith] Lieutenant in said Company sometime in the year 1778, and that he left the service sometime in the last of the year 1781 having served three years & six months, that he resided in Pittsylvania County Virginia when he entered the service, that he entered the service as one of the State Troops of Georgia (in his own place) that he was in the engagement known as Ash's defeat [Ashe's Defeat or the Battle of Brier Creek, March 3, 1779]² at the mouth of Brier Creek above Savannah in the State of Georgia, that he marched from Pittsylvania County Virginia through North & South Carolina to Dools [?]³ fort on the Georgia side of the Savannah River, and from thence to the City of Savannah at which last mentioned place he was placed under the command of General Howe⁴ and after Howe turned traitor then under the command of General Elbert [Samuel Elbert], that he was at the Siege of Savannah [September 16-October 18, 1779], from thence he was marched to South Carolina and was in the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] in South Carolina, that part of the aforesaid service was under the command of Captain Handly and General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh], that he will has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, that he was born in Forquio County [Fauquier County?] Virginia sometime in the year 1759, and that he has no record of his age, that he was living in Pittsylvania County Virginia when he entered the service, that he has lived a part of the time in Virginia & about 40

¹ Probably either John Dooly or Thomas Dooly.

² General John Ashe of North Carolina was in command of the Whig forces at Brier Creek.

³ 

⁴ This appears to be a reference to Major General Robert Howe of North Carolina who, in 1779, was in command of the Southern Department of the Continental Army. He led an abortive campaign against the British and Tories in Florida. He was relieved of command by Benjamin Lincoln after the fall of Savannah (and all of Georgia) in late 1778. I am unaware of any accusation that Howe was a 'traitor'—he seems to have been particularly inept as a commander during his tenure as commander of the Southern Department, but he certainly was not a traitor.

years of the time in Georgia since the Revolutionary war, and now lives in Newton County Georgia that he was called into the service as a State Troop by enlistment, that he received a discharge from General McIntosh, & that the same was left in the hands of General Elijah Clark, who said the same was lost while in his possession, & that John Smith Esquire & Samuel B Turner all persons to whom he is known & who can testify as to his character for veracity & as to his service (there being no clergyman in the vicinity). 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 or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Georgia.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Cary Wood, JIC

S/ Thomas McLain, X his mark

[John Smith & Samuel B Turner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]