

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McClain (McLean, McLain) S31853

f78NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/30/09 & 9/6/16 & 2/7/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 4]

State of Georgia, Rabun County: SS

On this 7th day of July 1834, personally appeared before the undersigned Judges of the Inferior Court of County of Rabun being a Court of Record of this said State, Captain John McClain, a resident of the said County, aged Seventy Three, who being first 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 entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Captain Adam Hampton & was appointed a Sergeant and was under the command of Col. Andrew Hampton as well as he recollects in the 1775 in Rutherford County NC and was ordered out on a scout against the Cherokee Indians; was employed in the County of Rutherford being a frontier and patrolled the line to Burke County &c. They killed one Indian in Mumford's Cove on the waters of Board River. He was out in this service not less than six months as a Sergeant.

In the year 1776, he being elected a Lieutenant in Captain Adam Hampton's company of cavalry in Rutherford County, which was raised by order of Col. Andrew Hampton who had orders from General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. The company volunteered and was ordered out as Rangers and they all turned out, found their own horses, guns, pistols, swords etc. & found their own provisions. They were stationed at Jones Williams' in Mumford's Cove and a scout was sent once a week to the Burke line -- to Green River -- and to the South Carolina line. The scout went in one day to one of these places and returned the next to the Fort. He was in this service two years. He is desirous to be in all cases under the length of time he was actually in the service, but is positive he must have served at the very least twelve months as a Lieutenant. During the time he was in an engagement [probably Earle's Ford, July 15, 1780]¹ with the British and Tories at Ned Hampton's. They were attacked about two hours before day by a company under Captain Dunlap [James Dunlap]. We killed one man & took two prisoners in the morning & also retook two of our men which they had [taken] prisoner -- Jesse Neville of Pickens District was with us in this engagement. Captain Dunlap was wounded in the thigh -- afterwards they joined General McDowell [Charles McDowell] & was a few days with him, while with him old Col. Clarke [Elijah Clarke] of Georgia applied to him for help to take a British or Tory Fort called Thicketty [July 26, 1780]² -- General McDowell would not grant him aid. He then applied

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_earles_ford.html

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thicketty_fort.html

to Captain Hampton who said if his men were willing he would go & sent declarant round to see who would go with Col. Clark when the whole Company unanimously agreed to go, they set out that evening. The next morning at sunrise they arrived at the Fort which was summoned to surrender which they did in 20 minutes. They took about 60 prisoners or upwards, with their arms [&] ammunition. The prisoners were paroled, the people ordered out & the Fort burn -- the reduction of this Fort gave peace and quiet to the country for upwards of 30 miles round as the Tories would commit all kinds of depredations in that distance & return into the Fort in the day time. He was ordered out to meet General Greene [Nathanael Greene] & went with him to the Siege of 96³ and remained there till the siege was raised after which he returned home.

Before the news of the reduction of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] had reached Rutherford County, Captain Hampton's company having been disbanded, this declarant raised a company of cavalry called Minute Men by order of Col Porter [probably Lieutenant Colonel Robert Porter of the Rutherford County militia] who had orders to raise the same and declarant was elected Captain. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] ordered them out against the Cherokee Indians & directed them to take prisoners as hostages to exchange for white prisoners in the Nation. They took 12 or 15 and carried them to Rutherford. Soon after Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] came into that quarter with a superior force & compelled the Whigs to go over the mountains for aid. They joined Col Campbell [William Campbell] who came on to meet Ferguson but as he traveled slow, declarant took his Lieutenant and Lewis Music [?] and went towards home on Broad River and they were fortunate in taking about 20 prisoners whom they paroled and took their arms and ammunition and joined Col Campbell again and went with him to the Battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]⁴ where they defeated Ferguson, the account of which is embodied in the History of the Country. This declarant continued in actual, continual, active service as Captain of the company of cavalry volunteers from the 12th March 1781 till 27th May 1782 during which time he followed no civil pursuit whatever; when he was discharged having served as Captain one year, two months and 15 days. He did serve not less than six months as Sergeant; not less than one year as Lieutenant; not less than one year two months & 15 days as Captain; in all he served two years eight months & 15 days at the least; he knows much more than that time! Knows of no living witness to testify for him except Jesse Neville⁵ of South Carolina. And he does make the following answers to the interrogatories required to be put by the War Department:

Answer to the 1st: He was born in the year 1760 in Pennsylvania.

Answer to the 2nd: He has a record in his Bible taken from his father's [Bible].

Answer to the 3rd: Rutherford County North Carolina, since then he has lived in Pendleton South Carolina 12 years; afterwards was in the County of Buncombe North Carolina 22 years since which he has lived in Rabun County in the State of Georgia.

Answer to the 4th: He was at all times a volunteer.

Answer to the 5th: He does not recollect any Continental officers but Greene.

Answer to the 6th: He never got a commission; in the part of the country he lived in none was given that he knows of. He got a discharge when he quit the service & a certificate which are herewith forwarded. He was in actual service as stated in Col Porter's discharge.

Answer to the 7th: He does not know a man in Rabun County or any where else of any respectability who would doubt his word. He can appeal to Col Sam Beck, Major & Major

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

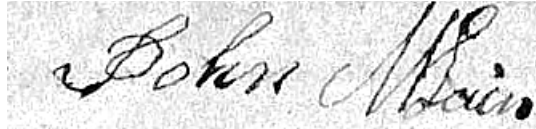
⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

⁵ [Jesse Nevill \(Neville\) S21899](#)

Price, the officers of the County. H. T. Mozley the late clerk of the Court, now Senator; W. Kelly, a representative in the State Legislature & every respectable man.

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 any Agency of any State.

S/John McLain



Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Gillespie, JIC

S/ Robert Brown, JIC

S/ Bailey Dover, JIC

S/ J. H. Sloan, JIC

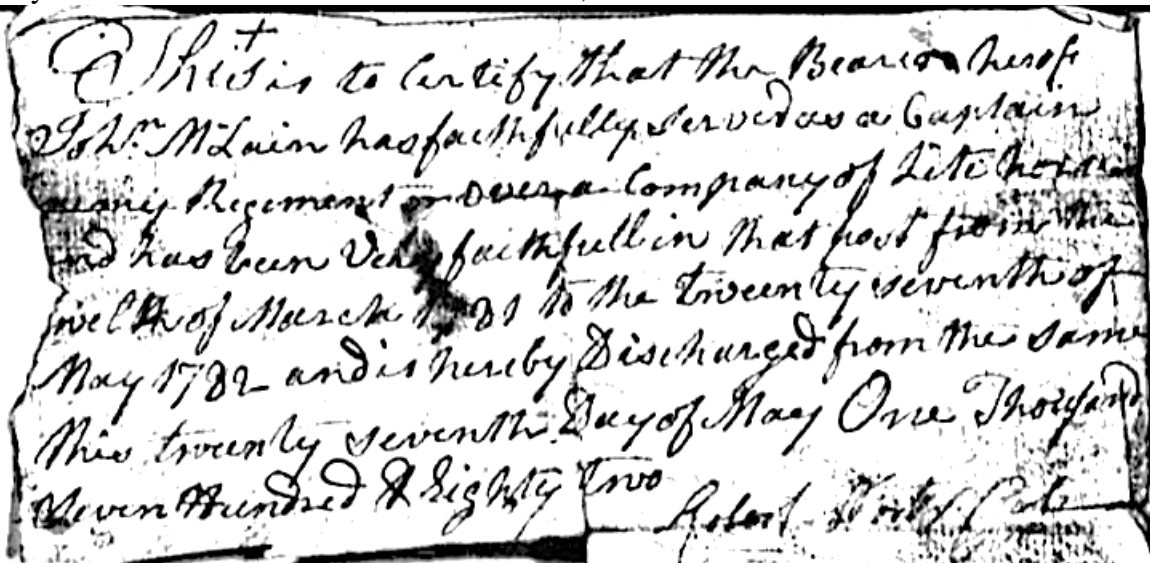
S/ E. Wilborn, JIC

[John S. Henley, a clergyman, and Elijah Coffee gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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This is to Certify that the Bearer hereof John McLain has faithfully served as a Captain in my Regiment over a Company of lite horse and has been very faithful in that post from the 12th of March 1781 to the 27th of May 1782 and is hereby Discharged from the same. This 27th day of May 1782.

S/ Robert Porter, L. Colo.



This is to certify that the Bearer hereof John McLain has faithfully served as a Captain in my Regiment over a Company of Lite Horse and has been very faithful in that post from the 12th of March 1781 to the twenty seventh of May 1782 and is hereby Discharged from the same this twenty seventh day of May One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Two Robert Porter L. Colo.

[p 26] [very faint and difficult to read]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

This is to certify that we the Subscribers is well acquainted with Capt. John McLean &c Do know him to be a young man of an Extraordinary Character always from behaving Well more Especially from the Commencement of the War Declaring his Fidelity to the State by his Conduct [illegible text] his good Services acting as Captain of Rutherford's Light Horse for a Considerable time behaving himself well in that Office Every Station of life that he deserves the Approbation of every Citizen Where Providence May Order his Lot to be . Given & Certified this ye 2nd day of February 1782. By

S/ Jonathan Hampton [illegible title]
 S/ Robert Porter, Col.
 S/ Wm Porter, [William Porter] L. Col
 S/ R^d. Singleton [Richard Singleton], Major

State of North Carolina
 Rutherford County I This is to certify that We
 With Capt. John McClain ^{the Subscriber's well acquainted} know him to be a
 young man of an Extraordinary Character always
 behaving well more especially since the Commencement
 of the War Declaring his Fidelity to the United States
 and his Country's Affairs and in
 good Service Acting as Captain of Rutherford's
 Troop for a considerable time behaving himself
 in that Office every Station of Life that he has
 The Approbation of every Citizen of this Province
 in so far as he has had to be given to certify this
 22nd Day of Feb^r 1842.

Jonathan Hampton
 Robert Porter Col
 Wm Porter
 R^d Singleton Major

[p 28, Francis Bird, a 'preacher of the gospel' testifies as to the veteran's moral character, Oct. 5, 1832 in Rabun County, Ga.]

[p 33]

State of Georgia Rabun County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Capt. John McClain who after being duly sworn as the law directs, deposeth and saith, That in the first application he made the papers were drawn up by a person who was inexperienced and who states some things he did not fully understand and some which he objected to, and which he supposes was so altered as read to him -- But he now again does state

unequivocally, that he did serve 6 months as Sgt. & as such was most of the time stationed in Maple Creek Fort in Rutherford County North Carolina under Col. Andrew Hampton.

That as Lieut. he did at least 12 months service in Mumford Cove in Rutherford County North Carolina under Capt. Adam Hampton and Col. Andrew Hampton --

And that as he served as Capt. he took the place of Adam Hampton and commanded a company of Cavalry with Rifles as well as swords & pistols found their own horses & arms -- and as Capt. went a tour of one month to the Cherokee Nation as he now recollects by order of General Rutherford -- He was at the siege of 96 and at the Battle at Kings Mountain in all these services he was Capt. & commanded his troop of Cavalry. At Ninety Six going, returning and he is not less than one month -- and at Kings Mountain -- and in the service out and after Ferguson not less than one month But he was continually out & cannot now by the loss of memory & age he cannot state the precise dates & times. He knows of no other proof except Jesse Neville in South Carolina and Jonathan Hampton if they are living Hampton did live in Rutherford County North Carolina. He was continually in the service followed no civil pursuit from March 1781 to May 1782 and was discharged as Col. Porter states and the paper sent.

Sworn to and subscribed 27th of April 1835 Before me
S/ A. P. Goines, JP

S/ John McClain

[p 40]

State of Georgia Rabun County

Before me H. W. Cannon one of the Justices of the Peace for said County Personally came Capt. John McClain of said County who after being duly sworn in due form of law doth make the following explanation of his services during the war of the Revolution to the best of his memory.

On mature reflection he now recollects of entering the service a private volunteer in what was then called mounted militia under the command of Capt. James McFagin and was stationed at Maple Creek Fort in Rutherford NC and served not less than 6 months was then discharged. Sometime after volunteered under Col. Andrew Hampton in Rutherford and marched to Salisbury was then put under the command of Capt. Sides and was stationed to guard the Jail and served 5 weeks was then dismissed. That he then volunteered under Capt. Adam Hampton & was appointed Lieut. and was stationed at Mumford's Cove NC and served one year at least and believes more than a year during which time he performed a Tour to the Cherokee nation and likewise a tour to Ninety Six in South Carolina and remained there till the siege was raised at Ninety Six and then marched back to the station in Mumford's Cove, was then appointed Capt. of the same company and served in that capacity during the time specified in a written discharge which he has sent on to the war department & during which time he performed another tour into the Cherokee nation and likewise was at the battle of Kings Mountain.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me.

S/ John McClain

S/ H. W. Cannon, JP

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State of South Carolina Pickens District: SS

Before me Frederick N. Garvin one of the Justices assigned to keep the Peace for the District aforesaid personally appeared Jesse Neville of the said District who being sworn

[p 8: On September 13, 1853 in Habersham County Georgia, Ephraim E. McClain, 53, resident of Habersham County, Georgia made application as the son of John McClain. In this application he states his father died in Rabun County Georgia July 8, 1844 leaving no widow but 8 children surviving, namely: David, Margaret McClure, Jane Porter, Anne Mauldin [wife of Alexander Mauldin], John, Charles, James N. & Ephraim E. McClain.

Ephraim E. McClain

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[Facts in file: veteran married Mary [maiden name not stated] January 8, 1784 in SC. She died February 22, 1841.]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$362.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a captain for 14 ½ months in the North Carolina militia.]