

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McWhorter S32400

Transcribed by Will Graves

f26NC[sic SC]

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[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.]

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The State of Alabama, Lawrence County

On this 28th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court before me James B. Wallace Judge of the County Court for said County now sitting, John McWhorter, a resident of Lawrence County State of Alabama aged about Sixty nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declarations 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 does not know his age precisely having no record of it, but he was about sixteen years of age, when he first entered the service, which was in the month of February 1780 [sic, 1779, based on events described by declarant] in York County State of South Carolina. He volunteered in a troop of horse under Captain James Martin, and commanded by Major Frank Ross [Francis Ross]. The South Carolina army then lay on the opposite side of the Savannah River from Augusta; and in the State of South Carolina, which was under the command of General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], when we joined the Army. We remained but a short time in camp when Major Ross was ordered to join General Ashe [John Ashe] who was then encamped on Briar Creek in Georgia between Augusta and Savannah, the enemy being below a short distance. The next morning after our arrival there, we were ordered out on a scout. We went to the British camp, took seven prisoners, among them was the celebrated Tory Bill Cunningham [William Cunningham, a/k/a "Bloody Bill Cunningham"]; during that day the British attack surprised and defeated General Ashe,<sup>1</sup> and when we returned in the evening to the camp, being ignorant of the events of the day then we were fired on by the British sentry and with difficulty our party made a thin escape to the camp of General Williamson, leaving behind about twenty five killed and prisoners. We were in the camp one night only and consequently I cannot state the names of the Continental officers with General Ashe. A short time after this Major Ross was ordered on an expedition to Georgia against the Indians and Tories, we encamped at a place called Rocky Comfort, defeated the Tories and Indians, returned to camp were discharged and returned home, having served this tour, two months.

Immediately after the surrender of Charleston,<sup>2</sup> which took place in May 1780, I joined the army of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] as a volunteer at a place called

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<sup>1</sup> March 3, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/briercreek.htm>

<sup>2</sup> May 12, 1780

Clem's branch<sup>3</sup> on the Catawba lands, attached myself to the company commanded by Captain Robert Thompson. From this time until the surrender of Cornwallis I was one of General Sumter's men and continued in service until the close of the War. I cannot recollect the order of the engagements in which I was during this tour, but I will state that I was with General Sumter at Fish Dam ford<sup>4</sup> on Broad River when the British were handled roughly but kept the field. Their commander Maj. Weems [James Wemyss] was killed [sic, wounded]. While we were encamped on Clem's Branch, some of us concluded to go down the country to see how our friends were doing; just after we had crossed the Catawba River we met a man who informed us that one Captain Hook[ sic, Christian Huck], with some British Regulars and Tories, was at White's Mills. We solicited Col. Bratton [William Bratton] to take the command of us, with Hugh McClure as Lieutenant. After pursuing them all one day & night and about cock crow we overtook them, attacked and defeated them. Killed Hook,<sup>5</sup> their commander, and took their Lieutenant prisoner. -At the time Lord Cornwallis [sic, Cornwallis] was marching his army from South Carolina to Virginia, I was detached by General Sumter with a wagon and team under a guard commanded by Captain Gibbons, at Newbern [New Bern], North Carolina for military stores, to be procured by Richard Hampton. On our return near the Yadkin River we were near falling in with Cornwallis, but we joined the baggage of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and remained with him until we got into Virginia. We then went South and delivered the stores to General Sumter. In this last tour I was in actual service three months and ten days. I was discharged but if it was a written one it is long since lost.

Immediately after I returned home from the last mentioned tour, I again volunteered under Captain John Henderson in York County South Carolina and joined General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene] Army at a place called Round O,<sup>6</sup> where he was encamped. I cannot recollect the precise period of time of the War when this last tour was performed, but I am confident it was immediately preceding the close of the War. I obtained a discharge but it is lost and I do not recollect by whom it was signed, if indeed it was written. In my former declaration it is stated that I was attached to Captain Byre's company but on more reflection, and conversing with some of my old comrades, I am satisfied of the mistake and that Captain Martin [James Martin] commanded the company. He states that in the first tour under Captain Martin he served two months as stated above. And that from a short time after the fall of Charleston in May 1780 he served under Generals Sumter & Greene until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in October 1781 and after the Tories in South Carolina, where they were numerous then, were chastised & peace restored to the country, all the time as a private soldier.

I resided in York County South Carolina when I entered the Army as above stated & continued to view that as my place of residence during the War; then I moved to Buncombe County North Carolina, lived there four years; then moved to Knox County State of Tennessee, lived there seven years; then moved to Madison County, now Alabama where he lived about eight years & moved to Lawrence County where he has resided ever since. He knows of no living witness within his reach by whom he can prove his actual services,

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<sup>3</sup> <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/clems-branch.htm>

<sup>4</sup> November 8, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fishdamford.htm>

<sup>5</sup> July 12, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hucksdefeat.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/roundo.htm>

except the testimony of Captain John Henderson,<sup>7</sup> Hugh B. and Hugh W. Stevenson, whose depositions accompany this declaration and to which he begs leave to refer. Crockett McDonald, a clergyman, and Argyle Campbell and Samuel Goode citizens of repute live near him, and can bear testimony to his character for veracity and probity.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John McWhorter



S/ J. B. Wallace, Judge Cty Court

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states.

S/ James B. Wallace, Judge County Court

We, Crockett McDonald, a Clergyman, residing in the County of Lawrence, State of Alabama, and Argyle Campbell and Samuel Goode residing in the same hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John McWhorter who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be sixty nine years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ C. McDonald

S/ Argyle Campbell

S/ Saml. Goode

S/ James B. Wallace, Judge Cty Court

The following interrogations were propounded by the Court to the aforesaid applicant to wit:

1: Where and in what year were you born [?]

Answer: My parents informed me that I was born in Rowan County North Carolina but in what year I cannot state.

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

Answer: I have none, nor do I know that there ever was one. I can only state my age from the circumstances that, shortly before I entered the service, I was put on the muster list at about sixteen years of age.

3: Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live

Answer: I have stated specifically all I know on that subject in my foregoing declaration.

4<sup>th</sup>: How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom[?]

Answer: I have stated as particularly in my declaration all I recollect on that subject, as I can.

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<sup>7</sup> [John Henderson R4869](#)

5: 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 services.

Answer: I have stated in my declaration all I recollect on those subjects.

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

Answer: I got a discharge I believe from Captain Martin but whether it was a written one or not I do not recollect. I have no recollection of receiving a written discharge from any officer, and when I speak of getting a discharge in my declaration I only mean that our company was discharged from service for the time. If however I ever did get a written discharge it has been lost. I have none now.

7: 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 of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I am known to most of the public men of the County, but can refer particularly to Crockett McDonald, Argyle Campbell and Samuel Goode whose certificate accompanies my declaration.

S/ John McWhorter

Sworn to & subscribed.

S/ J. B. Wallace, Judge Cty Court

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Captain John Henderson appeared in open court and states on oath that he was raised in the same neighborhood with John McWhorter, was with him & in the same company under Ross in the first tour, we were discharged at the same time, that from the fall of Charleston in May 1780 until the peace affiant was in actual service under General Sumter and he was generally in company with said McWhorter who was also in service. He recollects that said McWhorter was a faithful and brave soldier. He was on tour in a company commanded by affiant himself. Affiant is confident in the belief that said McWhorter was in actual service more than two years.

Sworn to & subscribed.

S/ John Henderson



S/ James B. Wallace, Judge Cty Court

Personally appeared in open Court, John McWhorter who being duly sworn deposes & saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades

From February 1780 he served as a private soldier, in the Army of the Revolution, until the peace: 33 months. And for such services he claims a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John McWhorter

S/ J. B. Wallan, Judge

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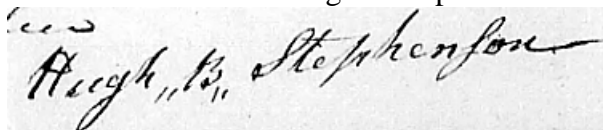
State of Alabama Lawrence County

Hugh B Stevenson [sic] states on oath that he was acquainted with John McWhirter [sic] during the Revolutionary War who has applied for a pension, that he was frequently called on and did serve as a private soldier, that he has frequently heard his (affiant's) father say that Mr. McWhirter was with him in the camps and in many battles and that he was a true patriot and a brave and undaunted soldier.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court

S/ B Wallace, Judge County Court

S/ Hugh B Stephenson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh B. Stephenson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Hugh W Stevenson [sic] states that he heard in the neighborhood that John McWhirter during the Revolutionary War and knows that said Whirter [sic] was in the service, and was reputed to have been a faithful friend to American liberty, and a brave and courageous soldier.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court

S/ J B. Wallace, Judge County Court

S/ Hugh W Stephenson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh W. Stephenson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Facts in file: veteran died August, 1840; there is no family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]