

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McGhee S33068

f30NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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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.]

State of Illinois, County of McLean

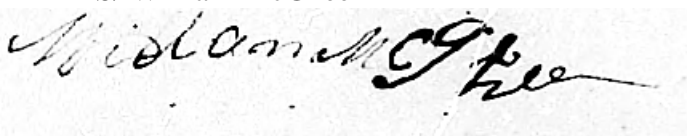
On this fifth day of June in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the County Commissioners Court of the County and State aforesaid now sitting William McGhee a resident of the said County aged about Seventy One or Two does not precisely recollect -- who being 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 A.D. 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States about the time of the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] does not recollect the year but thinks in 1777-8 and served as follows to wit He volunteered under Capt. Pond [Samuel Pond] in Col. Wade's [Thomas Wade's] Regiment in the Brigade commanded by Brig. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] some time in the fall season -- he lived in Mecklenburg County North Carolina about Twelve miles from the Town of Charlotte was out in this tour about three months in pursuit of British and Tories near Shoe heel Swamp Gum Swamp & Raft Swamp -- was discharged by his Capt. and returned home. In a few days after was drafted in the same service under the same officers. This tour went down as low as Drowning Creek was in a skirmish with the British and Tories loss on our side of seven or eight men does not recollect the loss of the enemy lost his horse in this engagement for which he never has received any pay valued at \$50 was out about three months discharged by his Capt. and returned home. Two or three weeks after thinks in the spring of 1778-9 he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Bracken [William Brackin] in Col. Lofton's [William Lofton's] Regiment under the same General as before was stationed at Wilmington a short time was in a skirmish at Wilmington was out this tour he thinks a little over three months, was discharged by his Capt. and returned home. Sometime in the fall of 1779 - 80 -- cannot remember the dates as distinctly he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Smith [David Smith] in the Regiment commanded by Col. Shepard [William Shepherd of Wilkes County] under the command of General Greene [Nathanael Greene] on the Continental Service was stationed at Richmond old Court House in the County of Surry he served in this company Eighteen months thinks more but cannot recollect until near the close of the war he thinks Col. Lewis commanded some time was constantly ranging & when called upon was sometimes in Rowan, Montgomery & other Counties was on Pedee [River] securing the County was constantly upon hard service was always under the command of the regular officers received a discharge from service by his Capt. cannot recollect things very distinctly as he never expected to draw a pension -- does not know what has become of his discharges has no records of his age nor documentary testimony nor no witnesses who can testify as to his services depends upon the rolls

of the war department may be mistaken as to time but recollects his officers distinctly -- he was born in Louisa County upon James River Virginia he thinks in the year 1761, 2 is not certain he lived in the County of Mecklenburg NC till he was about forty-five years of age he then moved to Christian County Kentucky where he lived Eight years from thence removed to White County Illinois where he lived in Eleven years thence to this County where he now resides he recollects General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] who was killed [February 1, 1781] at Catawba River also Col. Childs -- General Polk and some others -- can refer to William Owendorff and James Allen who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief as to the services as a soldier of the revolution.

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.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ William McGhee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William McGhee". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

S/ Isaac Baker, Clk

Questions propounded by the Court

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

Ans: In Louisa County State of Virginia in the year 1761-2 is not certain

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

Ans: None, and have only kept my age by memory

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?

Ans: When called into service I lived in Mecklenburg County North Carolina from thence I removed to the State of Tennessee from thence to the State of Kentucky and from thence to the State of Illinois where I now reside.

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?

Ans: I volunteered in the North Carolina Militia in Capt.'s Company in Col. Wade's Regiment and served about three months 2<sup>nd</sup> was drafted and served under the same officers about three months and thirdly volunteered under Capt. Bracken and Col. Lofton's Regiment forth volunteered under Capt. Smith belonging to the Continental service where and I served about eighteen months

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.

Ans: Capt. Ponds of the militia Col. Childs of militia -- Col. Shepherd a Continental officer and General Greene -- and while in service I was then a battle at Wilmington North Carolina under Col. Childs and General Rutherford

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?

Ans: I had a discharge from Capt. Pond, from Col. Childs from General Rutherford and from Capt. Smith but have lost them

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.

Ans: I refer you to James Allen and William Orondorff  
S/ Isaac Baker, Clk  
[James Allin and William Orondorff [could be Orundorff] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Illinois McLean County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County William McGhee who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grade, for three months, I served in the first tour, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour three months – in the 3<sup>rd</sup> tour three months, in the 4<sup>th</sup> eighteen months. In all of which tours I served as a private, making in all two years and three months actual service and for such services I claim a pension.

S/ William McGhee

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William McGhee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ William McGhee".

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1833

D/ David Wheeler, JP

State of Illinois County of McLean } SS

On this Seventh day of February in the year while Lord 1834 personally appeared before me the undersigned Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the County and State aforesaid William McGhee a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement in order to amend his declaration before the County Commissioners Court as is found in the accompanying papers and documents herewith transmitted to wit -- "Some time in the fall of 1779-80 cannot remember the dates distinctly he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Smith in the Regiment commanded by Col. Shepard under the command of General Greene in the Continental service was stationed at Richmond old Court House in the County of Surry he served in this Company Eighteen months thirteen months which service he cannot positively designate but knows that he was not under the same officers Eighteen months at any one time but remembers he volunteered first in Capt. Smith's company and was about four months with him ranging in Surry County Rowan County &c then he recollects of joining Capt. Armstrong's [Abel Armstrong's] Company as a volunteer thinks he served under him three or four months ranging same as before and then under the same Capt. joined General Greene at Salisbury in Rowan County when he served about five months more when he was discharged he then joined a company commanded by Capt. James Shepard [James Shepherd] as a volunteer served under him some three or four months was discharge also under General Greene he was at the battle of Guilford old fields [March 15, 1781] was out in all during the war nearly three years served under various officers had discharges from all except one tour he was quiet young at that time and has lost all his discharges. He cannot recollect all his services as he is now old and never thought he should apply for a pension says he thinks he

could prove part of his service but it would put him to great deal of trouble he wants a decision upon his claim and will be satisfied let the same be what it may [be], he is getting old and does not expect to enjoy it long but needs it much and further he saith not.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal of said Court at Bloomington this 17th day of February 1834

S/ M. L. Covell, Clk CC

[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 and the North Carolina militia.]