

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McElyea ¹ S33084

Frances McElyea f44NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/10/16

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois, Franklin County: SS

On this 2nd day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the County of Franklin & State aforesaid William McElyea a resident of the County of Franklin and State of Illinois, aged Seventy-four years, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was a private in Captain Elijah Moore's Company when I entered the service, as a drafted man. I was marched out to Ashley Hill within 12 miles of Charleston South Carolina, when I was detached & put under Captain __ Bevard [Alexander Brevard] & afterwards under Captain Joseph Thomas Rhodes, in Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment of Brigadier General __ Guess' [Mordecai Gist's?] Brigade under Major General Nathaniel Greene. I entered the service some time in July, August or September, I do not recollect which, either the day or the month in 1781 or '82, & continued in the service until the Peace of 1783. I lived in Caswell County. I was drafted into the service. I never was in any Battle, but I was at Ashley Hill when the British evacuated Charleston [December 1782]. I marched from Hillsboro, where I was mustered into service, to Salisbury, from Salisbury to Charlotte, thence to Camden, thence to Ashley Hill, then to winter quarters on James Island within three miles of Charleston from there to the ten mile house towards N.C. from Charleston where I was discharged. I served in the company & Regiment above stated of the line of this State of North Carolina, in the North Carolina Continental Establishment. I knew Captain Hall, Captain Hadley, Captain William Lytle, Major __ Blunt [sic, Reading Blount], Colonel A. Lytle, & Major General Greene of the Regulars, being in a low state of health I do not recollect many of the incidents of the period but I recollect very well the illuminations on James Island the night of the proclamation of Peace. I know of no documentary evidence of my service and I know of no witnesses except Moses Jones² & James McElyea & the latter it is not now in my power to obtain.

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.

Questions by the Courthouse

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in York County, State of Pennsylvania in the year 1758.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: My Father had a record of my age, but my brother, going to school laid it down, and the

¹ BLWt47903-160-55

² [Moses Jones S32347](#)

hogs tore it up and no other was made.

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

Answer: I lived in Caswell County N. C. when I was called into service; since the Revolutionary War, I have lived on the Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] in Surry County N. C., on New River and Wyeth County Virginia, and Sumner County Tennessee, in Wilson County Tennessee and now I lived in Franklin County Illinois

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I was drafted for 18 months.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: Captains Brevard, Rhodes, Hall, Hadley, Lytle, Major Blount, Colonel Archibald Lytle, Brigadier General Guess & Major General Greene. I cannot recollect the names of any of the Continental and Militia Regiments. All the circumstances of my service that I recollect are that we were stationed at the Laboratory at Salisbury a while before we went to Ashley Hill, and the illumination as before stated.

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

Answer: I received a furlough, if not called upon by proper authority, which was to be my final discharge. It was signed by Captain Rhodes or Captain Lytle, I sold it, for a tract of land.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: Moses Jones & Thomas Spence, Thomas M. Jones, George P. Dorris.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William McElyea, X his mark

[Thomas Spence, a clergyman, and Moses Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois, Franklin County

Before the circuit court of said County, the same being a court of record, now sitting, this 2nd day of October 1832, personally came Moses Jones who upon oath made and subscribed the following statement: That he has been acquainted with William McElyea a resident of said County of Franklin about fifty years. That he, this affiant, is personally knowing to a part of the services of the said McElyea as a soldier of the revolution; this affiant finding said McElyea a private in the company commanded by Captain Joseph Rhodes, in Colonel Lytle's Regiment, at the time he, this affiant, joined said Company, which was in the year 1782. That they, the said McElyea and this affiant, served together as privates in said company until the close of the war. That the statements of said McElyea contained in his declaration made before this court, on this day, so far as relate to his service as herein before stated, are true to the best of this affiant's knowledge and belief.

Sworn to & subscribed this day & year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ S. M. Hubbard, JP

S/ Moses Jones, X his mark

State of Illinois, Franklin County, to wit:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace in and for the said County of Franklin, William McElyea, who being duly sworn deposeth 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 service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods stated below, and in the following grades: for __ years, Two __ months and __ days I served as a drafted private under Captain Elijah Moore; for two months – I served in the same grade under Captain Brevard; for eight months – I served in the same grade under Captain Rhodes; and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ William McElyea, X his mark

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, said justice as aforesaid, this 23rd day of May 1833.

S/ Thos. M. Dorris, JP

[On June 18, 1855, in Franklin County, Illinois, Alonzo McElyea, a minor and son of William McElyea filed a bounty land petition stating that William died in Franklin County on or about the 1st of March, 1845 survived by his widow, Frances who also died in Franklin on or about the month of August 1849; that Alonzo is the only child of their marriage still in his minority, that he was 20 years of age on October 6, 1854; this petition was filed by Alonzo's legal guardian, John Gazaway.]

[Bible Record

Melissa McElyea Born December 5th 1831

Alonzo McElyea Born October 6th 1834]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum Commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina Continental line.]