

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Bennett McFarling S36086

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/25/13

[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.]

The District of Columbia, to wit

On the 30th day of March in the year 1818, before me, William Cranch, chief Judge of the said district, came John Bennet McFarling, a resident of the said district, and made oath in due form of law, that on the 20th of October in the year 1777 he entered as a volunteer soldier in Captain David Earl's [David Arell or Arill] company of infantry in the 3rd Regiment of the Virginia line of Continental troops in the service of the United States in which service he was twice severely wounded, and continued until he was captured by the British at Charlestown South Carolina [May 12, 1780, Charleston was surrendered to the British] from which place he remained a prisoner until the peace, after which he returned as soon as his wounds would permit. That he never had a discharge, and never received any pay since his capture; that he never asked or received any pension. That by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, his wounds and his bodily infirmities, he is in need of assistance from his country.

Sworn before me

S/ W. Cranch

On the same day came also John Hughes a resident of Alexandria aged 63, and made oath in due form of law that he was well acquainted with the above named John Bennet McFarling, who married this deponent's sister: that he perfect recollects when the said McFarling entered into the Army of the United States in the year 1777, and that he did not return until long after the peace; and he always understood and believes that the said McFarling was in the service until the end of the war. That the said McFarling has always borne a good character, especially for veracity.

Sworn before me

S/ W. Cranch

District of Columbia County of Alexandria: SS

On this 27th day of November 1820 personally appeared in open Court in the Circuit Court for the said District for the County of Alexandria, being a Court of record for the said District John B McFarling, aged sixty-one years, resident in Alexandria County in said District, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows, to wit, as a private in Captain David Earle's [David Arell's] Company in the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel William Heath [William Heth], that he enlisted in said company on the 3rd of September 1777 at Alexandria, and continued in the Service of the United States in the same Regiment during the whole of the revolutionary war. The date of his Original declaration is in the war Office, and his Certificate of Pension is No. 18 – And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of

March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed – that I am a husbandman and rent a lot of an acre and a half as tenant at will, that I am able to do but little labor on account of my age, infirmities and wounds having had my left leg and right arm shattered at the Siege of Charleston and at the Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] – My family consist of a brother who is a cripple, and unable to work and is 75 years old, and a woman aged about 30 years to take care of him, and who does not Contribute to my support; – that I am unable to support myself without the assistance of my Country.

S/ John B McFarling, X his mark

Schedule of John B McFarling's property

4 iron pots – 2 small Dutch ovens	\$6.00
6 Crockery plates and one dish	.75
one pewter dish and 6 pewter plates	1.50
2 garden hoes	.50
one pair of tongs & shovel	.50
20 hens	<u>3.00</u>
	\$12.25

S/ John B McFarling, X his mark

The statement of John Bennet McFarling relating to his services in the United States Army in the Revolutionary War against the forces of the King of England viz. I volunteered my services to the United States under the Honorable Captain David Earl [David Arell] of Alexander October the 20, 1777 from Alexandria I marched to Bedingtown in Pennsylvania, remaining there until removed to the White Marsh where we repulsed an enemy in a battle at Fishwaters Mill, from thence marched to New Brunswick in West Jersey, from thence I was marched to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, then & there the aforesaid Captain David Earl sickened and returned home, his first Lieutenant James Harrison took the command under which I remained until spring at which time Reuben Briscoe was appointed to the command. Be it remembered that at Valley Forge we joined the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel William Heath, from Valley Forge, after several skirmishes at different places) we marched to Monmouth plains where we fought the battle [June 28, 1778] under the command of General Washington. In which engagement I was wounded in my right arm the bones being broken from thence we marched to Bondbrook [Boundbrook] in Pennsylvania, from thence to Bashen-Ridge [?]¹ head quarters, from thence our brigade consisting of the 7, 3, 4 regiments was commanded to Charleston South Carolina where we arrived April one 1780. The siege there commenced to wit Clinton [Sir Henry Clinton] of the British Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] of our Army until the 12 of May at which time we capitulated. (Be it remembered that on our march from Bashon-Ridge William Bentley took command of our company at Trentown [Trenton] – and from thence to princetown [Princeton] he

¹ *Bashon-Ridge*

returned home. And we were commanded by Captain Val. Peyton [Valentine Peyton] to Charlestown – where During the siege he was killed. And myself received a Severe wound in my left leg on the 7th day of said siege, where I lay in the Royal exchange for nine months, from thence I was taken aboard a prison ship from which I was removed by the British to Fort Mortry [probably an attempt to named Fort Moultrie], called Abethnot [Arbuthnot Fort?] this being the sum of my services in the United States Army.

[Facts in file: Veteran died October 15, 1822, place not shown; the name of his wife is not shown nor is there any data relating to any children he may have had.]