

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McEntire S38189

f28GA

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

South Carolina Pendleton District: Personally appeared before me John McEntire who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that he enlisted as a Continental Soldier in the Service of the United States under Capt. Wood in Col. Stark's [John Stirk's] Regiment in the year 1776 or 1777 for 3 years, that he served 2 years & upwards. That this deponent was taken prisoner by the British at the Battle of Sunbury¹ & was a prisoner in the British Ship *Vigilant*² for five months & upwards that this deponent deserted from said ship and returned to the American Army -- & that when this deponent returned that his company was all broken up at the battle which was fought at Brier Creek³ so that this deponent never had it in his power to obtain his regular discharge, -- that in consequence of this fact your deponent never received pay for his Services as aforesaid -- that this deponent is old & infirm & is extremely poor & not able to support himself but by his only labor & that from his infirmity he is incapacitated from labor, & that this deponent is in real need of the support of his Country for his revolutionary Services, which he dearly earned during a Service of two years & a parole & ignominious British imprisonment of five months.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 27th of October 1818

S/ John T. Lewis, Clerk of the Court

S/ John McEntire, X his mark in

Schedule

State of South Carolina Pendleton District

On this Twenty fifth day of October 1820 personally appeared in open Court, in the Court of General Sessions of the peace Oyer and Terminer Assize and General Gaol delivery being a Court of Record for the said District in the said State, John McEntire aged about Fifty nine years,

¹ He MAY be referring to the engagement known as the siege of Fort Morris between November 26-December 1, 1778, or to a skirmish near Sunbury in early January 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortmorris.htm>

² Thirteen vessels have been so named by the British. The most likely candidate appears to be **HMS *Vigilant*** was a 64-gun [third rate ship of the line](#) of the [Royal Navy](#), launched on 6 October 1774 at [Bucklers Hard](#).

From 1799 she served as a [prison ship](#), and was broken up in 1816.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Vigilant_\(1774\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Vigilant_(1774)) . It is known that this ship stood guard at Beaufort South Carolina for at least three months in 1779 and therefore is likely to have been the ship from which the veteran escaped. Helsley, Alexis Jones and Rowland, Lawrence S., *Beaufort South Carolina*, The History Press 2005, p. 56. At the time of his escape, however, he must have been impressed into the British service as a crew member of the *Vigilant* since she was not then being used as a prison ship.

³ March 3, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/briercreek.htm> & <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

resident in the District and State aforesaid, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: That he Enlisted under Capt. John Wood of the Second Regiment commanded by Col. Sterk [John Stirk] of the Georgia line, was in the battles at Sunberry [Sunbury] and Juniper Springs⁴ -- Was taken and kept a Prisoner of the British about five months, and when released joined the American Army under Col. Middleton and served about ten months -- All the time I was in the Regular service was about three years. Made an original declaration on the 27th day of October 1818, And received Pension Certificate No. 15, 253, dated 7th day of October 1819. --

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. One mare one Colt, 2 cows and calves, one heifer, 3 sows and pigs, 2 hoes, one plough, one ax, one old Mattock, one smoothing iron, one cow and yearling, 19 shoats, one sow, one hoe, one iron wedge, two augers, one handsaw, one gimlet, one drawing knife, one Reap hook, one gun, and 15 chickens -- This Deponent is not able to follow his occupation as a Farmer and is full of pains, and his wife Anna aged 58 years is very sickly and hardly ever able to do anything, Ellender age 16; and Elizabeth aged 14 who is a weakly woman and they are both unable to do much towards their support.

S/ John McEntire, X his mark

Sworn to and declared on the 25th day of October A.D. 1820 Before
S/ Abm Nott

State of South Carolina Pendleton District: Before me came John McEntire and made Oath, that he is the identical John McEntire who enlisted under Capt. Edward Wood who was attached to Col. Elbert's [Samuel Elbert's] Regiment of the Georgia line, and this deponent saith that the reason of his mistake was in this that he believed that Elbert was promoted to a Brig. General and Col. Stark [Stirk] took his place. This deponent saith he recollects Col. Stark very well and knows he was from the North or Eastern States and understood he was afterwards attached to the Georgia line, and this deponent was under Stark's command, Capt. Edward Wood resigned his commission at Savannah and Capt. Moore took his place. This deponent was a prisoner at the time of the Battle at Brier Creek, but knows of Elbert's being made a prisoner at Brier Creek. This deponent further saith that Cornelius Collins was a Lieut. in Capt. Wood's Company. This deponent Enlisted at Orange County in North Carolina. This deponent saith he is very illiterate, old and has a bad memory, that his original papers was drawn up in the hurry of business at a Court at Pendleton Court House; and that if any mistake is made or error committed it was not with an intent to impose on the Government. That he only wishes justice and that the truth may be made known. This deponent saith he is extremely poor is now indebted for his provisions for the support of himself and family during the last year and have no way of procuring corroborating testimony than by traveling on foot as he now is compelled to do to get to this place this deponent saith the error no doubt might be committed by him in not knowing all the officers commanding in Georgia was of the Georgia Line.

⁴ June 18, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/junipersprings.htm>

S/ John McEntire, X his mark

The foregoing statement Sworn to on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God this 4th day of
September 1822 Before

S/ Joseph Grisham, Not. Pub. & Ex Off JWQ Pendleton South Carolina

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 27, 1818, for service as
a private for 3 years in the Georgia Continental line.]