

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph McMillen S4200

f20SC

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.]

State of Tennessee Knox County

This day personally appeared before me Benjamin McNutt -- an acting Justice of the Peace for said County Joseph McMillian a resident of said County aged eighty-nine years 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 of the 7th of June 1832 -- That he entered the revolutionary Army of the United States as a drafted militia horseman, in Abbeville District South Carolina, that he was enrolled in a company commanded by Capt. Robert Anderson and Lieut. John Fox -- this company was in a Regiment under the command of Col. Andrew Pickens, and Major __ Bowie [John Bowie] notorious for his taking snuff and for his cowardice -- applicant states that he entered the Army sometime in the winter of 1777 or 1778 as well as he now recollects, that he was drafted for a three months tour, and marched from near Abbeville Courthouse across the Long Cane Creek and Little River under the command of the above mentioned officers to the attack of Snow camp, afterwards called Ninety Six,¹ which was at that time in possession of a party of Tories -- they fought the Tories until they evacuated their camp and Col. Pickens took possession of it, and after the three months for which applicant had entered the service had expired, he returned home, Applicant states that he cannot distinctly recollect when his terms of service in these several campaigns which he served commenced or how long he served in each campaign -- he states that he was, in every campaign which he served, under the command of the said Col. Pickens, and was attached to his Regiment of light horse -- he recollects of being at different times under the command of the said Capt. Anderson, Capt. William Harris, and Capt. Samuel Roseman [sic, Samuel Rosamond]-- he states that he recollects distinctly of being in the service at the time of Gates defeat,² although he was not in the battle -- he recollects also that he was in the affair of the Juniper Springs,³ where 2 fires were made upon the enemy and then the Americans retreated -- he states that before this attack the Regiment had rendezvoused at Caldwell's Store on the head of Long Cain Creek -- applicant states that he was with Col. Pickens Regiment and attached to it, while stationed at Augusta under the command of General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], also at Beach Island a few miles below -- he recollects of marching with his said Regiment from Augusta to Camden and left General Williamson in command at Augusta -- he recollects that while at Augusta he was

¹ The first siege of Ninety Six occurred in November 1775. It is this action which the applicant appears to be describing. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ninetysix.htm>

² August 16, 1780.

³ June 18, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/junipersprings.htm>

under the command of the said Capt. Roseman -- and he recollects at that time a Capt. Tutt [Benjamin Tutt] was in command in the Continental Army stationed there -- applicant states that a part of his Regiment was stationed for some time in the stone fort on the Savannah River, and sometime in the night the said Col. Pickens with the balance of his Regiment came into the fort and ordered 37 of those who were stationed there, of whom applicant was one, to march forthwith to Kettle Creek,⁴ where they met with a considerable collection of Tories, fought them, and took the ground, and killed Col. Boyd their commander -- applicant states that his Regiment took considerable booty here and brought it to the stone Fort and sold it to the Georgians -- applicant states that he marched with his said Regiment to Savannah at the time that place was unsuccessfully attacked by the combined French and American forces -- he believes that the said General Williamson was in command there -- applicant states that he marched with his said Regiment to St. Augustine for the purpose of taking that place but returned without taking it -- he thinks General Williamson was also there -- applicant states that he was out in the same Regiment several tours against the Indians and Tories many of which he cannot particularly describe -- he states that he was the whole time attached to, and made a member of the Regiment of light horse commanded by the said Col. Pickens, and never was in the service under any other Col. -- applicant states that putting the whole of the time together which he has served in the Revolutionary War against the British and Tories, he believes he has been in active service four entire years, but the lapse of many years has as far confused his recollection of dates, that he cannot be particular in regard to them -- applicant states that he was born in Ireland in 1743 -- that his Father had a record of his age and from that his minister gave him a certificate when he came to America -- he states that he landed at Charleston 68 years ago, came up to Abbeville District SC where he continued to live during the whole war, and until sometime before the late war, when he moved to Knox County, Tennessee, where he resided 2 years, and then moved to Blount County Tennessee, where he lived 14 years, when he moved to Monroe County Tennessee to live with his stepdaughter where he lived 7 years, when he again removed to Knox County where he is now living -- applicant states that he never got a discharge from any officer for his services, That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. 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 to and subscribed before me this 13th day of August 1832

S/ B. McNutt, JP

S/ Joseph McMillen, X his mark

[John Gibson and Joseph Lyon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Knox County: Personally appeared before me Benjamin McNutt an acting Capt. justice of the Peace for said County, Joseph McMillen who signed and swore to the foregoing declaration, who being sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the provision of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 -- 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 2 campaigns at least in the company commanded by Capt. Anderson, one campaign at least under Capt. William Harris, and one under the command of Robert Roseman -- besides these campaigns applicant states that he performed many others -- the length of his said service he

⁴ February 14, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kettle.htm>

cannot distinctly recollect as stated -- but he states positively that he served as a private in the revolutionary war not less than 2 entire years, for which he claims a pension -- he states that he has in his former declaration detailed with as much particular area the as his recollection enables him, the several incidents of his service for 4 years which he served in the war.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 28th day of May 1833.

S/ B. McNutt, JP

S/ Joseph McMillen, X his mark

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