

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander McMennamy S4201

2 file f13NC/f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/30/17

[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, Wilson County

On this 25th day of September 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before George H. Bullard, Benjamin Billings & David C. Hibitts Esqs. Justices of the court of Pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting, Alexander McMennamy a resident of said County of Wilson aged about 73 years as appears from the family Register, 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 1832.

That he the said McMennamy entered the service of the United States sometime in the month of April 1779 as a Volunteer under Captain John Oldum [sic, John Oldham] in the Regiment commanded by [Lt.] Colonel Stephen Moore, rendezvoused at Hillsboro North Carolina and marched to Fayetteville in said State from whence his Regiment marched to South Carolina and on their way thither at Bear Creek he was taken sick and was furloughed, which furlough he has preserved and is here copied in this declaration and is in the words & figures following, viz.:

“Bare [sic] Creek

“Court Martial Whereas Alexander McMennamy is unable to do duty as a soldier we deem it necessary to give him a furlough until he will recover his health and then to return to his duty again under pain of being dealt with as a deserter. Given under my hand this 12th day of June 1779”

Vide original exhibit 1-A

“Stephen More [sic], Cl.”

In this term of service he volunteered for three but they were detained for five months before they were discharged.

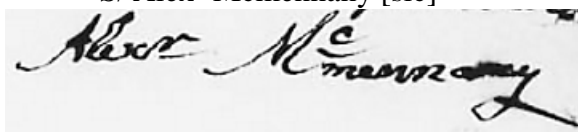
He afterwards, to wit, in the early part of the year 1781 volunteered for three months as a mounted gun-man and entered the service under Captain William Sanders in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Moore – Rendezvoused at Caswell Court house in North Carolina and marched from there into Halifax County, Virginia to arrest the expected march of Cornwallis through that country. From whence they returned to North Carolina again, and to Guilford Court house and there met Cornwallis and was in the Guilford battle [March 15, 1781] and was honorably discharged, his time of service having expired, having served out the whole term of three months he has lost his discharge for that service long since.

The said McMennamy previous to this time, to wit, in the summer of 1780 volunteered for five months and entered the service as first Sergeant in the Company commanded by Captain George Oldum [sic, George Oldham] in the Militia of the State of North Carolina in the expedition commanded by Major General Caswell [Richard Caswell] (former Governor of North Carolina) and marched from point to point in different parts of the State against the Tories, and was discharged after having served five months and fifteen days, as appears from the original

discharge marked B and herewith annexed and prayed to be made a part of this declaration.

Afterwards, about the 18th of December 1782 he enlisted as a soldier in the company commanded by Captain Jacob Rayford in the first Regiment of North Carolina State Troops, said Rayford before were mustered into service was broke of his commission and he said McMennamy was commissioned by Governor Martin to the command of said Company as Captain. He continued in the command of said company as Captain in the pursuit and guarding of Tories until he was discharged at Hillsboro North Carolina on the 20th day of December 1783, as will appear from the annexed discharge under the hand of Governor Martin, marked C (which said discharge said McMennamy has been enabled to preserve entirely by means of keeping it constantly rolled around a quill). The time of said enlistment was for three years or during the war which service ended on the 20th of December 1783 as aforesaid the war having closed about that time, his whole Terms of actual service amounted to twenty-five months and fifteen days, eight months he served as a soldier, five months and fifteen days as first Sergeant under Captain Oldham and twelve months as Captain under Governor Martin of North Carolina in the first Regiment of North Carolina State Troops as appears by the annexed discharges said applicant was born the 15th of September 1758 in the County of Halifax Virginia, his father moved to Caswell County North Carolina when he was a child where he resided until he moved to Tennessee Wilson County in the year 1810 where he has resided ever since – his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State in the United States and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present – his character for truth is none to all his neighbors – he can refer to Samuel Motherall, Robert Cambell [sic, Campbell?] and the Reverend Elijah Maddox, Doctor Nathaniel Sanders – and others – the evidence on this particular.

S/ Alex^r McMennamy [sic]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex McMennamy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

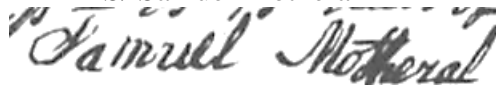
Sworn to in open court the 28th day of September 1832

S/ Josiah S. McClain, Clerk
of Wilson County Court

Samuel Motherall has known him for more than 50 years the applicant McMennamy is about 75 years of age, he knew him in Caswell County North Carolina he knows that he entered the service of the United States in the Revolution – and served several tours – for the length of time as stated in his Declaration – he has heard his Declaration read and from his knowledge of the service he performed he believes he served as stated in his declaration he has always sustained a good character for truth.

Witness

S/ Samuel Motheral¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Motheral". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Elijah Maddox a Clergyman from Wilson County hereby certifies that he has long known the applicant McMennamy that he is reputed and believed in his neighborhood to be a soldier of the Revolution. Robert Campbell likewise certifies that said applicant is believed in his neighborhood a soldier of the revolution they have both heard his Declaration and believe he served as therein stated he is a man of good character for truth.

Sworn to in open court 28th of September 1832

¹ [Samuel Motherall W971](#)

S/ Elijah Maddox
S/ Robert Campbell

S/ Josiah S. McClain, Clerk
of Wilson County Court

[The discharges referred to in the application are not in this file (see below). A note by someone in the War Department reviewing the application states: "Should prove satisfactorily that he was commissioned & served as a Captain. The discharge purports to have been given by Gov. Martin is not genuine."]

[second file, same number]

Exhibit A

Bare Creek

Court martial whereas Alex^r M^cmenamy is not able to do duty as a Soldier we deem it nesary to give him a furlow until he will recover his health and then to return to his duty agane under pain of being delt with as a deserter given under my hand this 12 day of June 1779.

S/ Stephen More, Cl.

Exhibit A
Bare Creek } whereas Alex^r M^cmenamy is not able to do
Court martial } duty as a Soldier we deem it nesary to give
him a furlow until he will recover his health and then to
return to his duty agane under pain of being delt with as
a deserter given under my hand this 12 day of June 1779
Exhibit A *Stephen More: Cl.*

Exhibit B

Caswell County 4th June 1782

This is to certify that Alex^r M^cMenemay Serv'd a Tour of Duty in the Militia Service of this State of North Carolina on the Expedition under the Command of Maj^r General Caswell in the Summer of 1780 as a first Sergeant in the Comp^y then under my Command.

S/ George Oldham, Captⁿ

5 Months 15 days

Exhibit B

Caswell County 27th June 1782

This is to certify that Alex^r. M^c. Penneway
 served a tour of duty in the British Service
 of this State of North Carolina on the Expedition
 under the command of Major General
 Caswell in the Summer 1780 as a first
 Sergeant in the Company then under my command
 George Oldham Capt.

5 Months 15 days

Exhibit C

Hillsborough December 20th 1782. I do hereby Certify that Alexr M^cmennamy who is
 captan of a company in the regulars in the first Regmt of North Carolina State troops is
 discharged from Servec by the authority of the United States given under my hand

S/ Alexander Martin gov^r of N.C.

Exhibit C
 Hillsborough December 20th 1782 I do hereby Certify that
 Alex^r. M^cmennamy who is captan of a company in
 the regulars in the first regmt of North Carolina
 State troops is discharged from service by the
 authority of the united States given under
 my hand Alexander Martin gov^r of N.C.

The amended Declaration of Alexander McMennamy in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of
 Congress of the 7th June 1832.

On this 5th day of November A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the
 Honorable James C. Mitchell (now holding the Circuit Court for the County of Wilson in the

State of Tennessee) he being one of the Judges of Law & Equity for the said State of Tennessee – Alexander McMennamy a resident of the County of Wilson in the said State of Tennessee aged 74 years according to the family Register, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amended Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – That he entered the service of the United States at the time and under the officers as stated in his original Declaration (as well as he can remember from old age and a consequent loss of recollection). The evidence furnished by him and that accompanied his original Declaration seemed to be satisfactory to the Department that Declarant had served eight months as a private soldier and five months and fifteen days as 1st Sergeant – and the only objection taken which prevented the favorable action of the Department in his claim was that it was stated in the return made to him that the discharge purporting to be from Governor Martin was not genuine. Declarant had preserved as stated in his original Declaration his several discharges from the destruction of time by carefully revolving them around a quill under a hope that they would be of some service to him in a coming day – and that when necessary to be used they would be as he believed conclusive evidence in his favor, in this reasonable expectation Declarant has been disappointed for after having faithfully served his Country for twenty five months without any reward, and after having as he believes produced the best evidence of that service – he is told indirectly that he has been guilty of forgery in the discharge given by Governor Martin. Declarant will again repeat his services as Captain under Governor Martin as well as the Circumstances connected with his discharge and leave it with the Department to determine whether said certificate of discharge is genuine or a forgery – on the 18th of December 1782 as well as he remembers Declarant enlisted as a soldier in the company commanded by Captain Jacob Rayford in the 1st Regiment of North Carolina State Troops – before they were mustered into service – Rayford his Captain was arrested for stealing, tried before a Court Martial and found guilty and broke of his commission on Rayford's removal it was the wish of the Company that he had commanded that Declarant should be his successor and as the Lieutenant and Ensign & Sergeant yielded their pretensions to promotion Declarant was commissioned Captain in said Company by Governor Martin at Hillsboro N. C. where they rendezvoused on the 24th of December 1782. Declarant while in the command of said company was engaged in traversing various parts of the State of North Carolina in pursuit, dispersing and capturing the Tories – many of whom were taken, conducted to Hillsboro and from thence to the barracks in Albemarle Virginia where he understood they were exchanged for Whigs that had been captured by the British Army – at other times Declarant was engaged in guarding the Jail in Hillsboro where the Tory prisoners were confined. Declarant was in constant and active service while acting as Captain until he was discharged on the 20th day of December 1780 [sic]. The Troops were notified by Governor Martin on the day on which they were discharged – they met at Hillsboro North Carolina for that purpose-- there they surrendered their arms and received discharges, by Companies, Governor Martin – called for the commission of Declarant for the purpose of forwarding it to the Seat of Federal Government as he said it would evidence for declarant provided the Government made any provision for the payment of the officers and soldiers which was at that time expected he surrendered his commission and he has no doubt on proper examination that the same will be found in Washington or in the Secretary's office in the State of North Carolina, as to the certificate of discharge Declarant cannot tell whether said discharge is in the handwriting of Governor Martin or not as he is unacquainted with his handwriting – he thinks it probable it may not be as the discharges were written before the companies were paraded to receive them and it is more than likely that he called in the aid of others to assist him in preparing them, but one thing Declarant well remembers and positively avers to be true that he received a discharge appended to his original Declaration from the hand of Governor Martin himself while standing at the head of his company. Declarant knows of no

living witness by whom he can prove the length of his Services – or the Grade which he held in the Army and must therefore rest his claim upon the evidence embodied in his original Declaration – supported by this explanation – since he received the objections to his claim Declarant has spent much time in endeavoring to learn if possible where he might find one of his companions in arms – by whom he could prove his services he has written to North Carolina for this purpose but he does not know that there is one now alive – Declarant avers that he served 25 months and 10 days, eight months as a private soldier, five months 10 days as first Sergeant and 12 months as Captain during the whole time Declarant was engaged in active Service and never received for his Services but eight dollars which he received as a bounty when he enlisted as a soldier in the company to which he was afterwards was promoted to a captaincy. Declarant says he never did receive a Certificate for a sum equal to the amount of full five years pay which he is advised he would have been entitled to under a resolution of Congress of the 22 of March 1783 instead of the half pay for life to which he was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780 – not having shared in the bounty provided – for the officers of the Revolutionary war by the Several Acts of Congress, when he might lawfully have done so – he now insists and will not be content with any provision short of the pay of a Captain under the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832 – in addition to the evidence unfolded in his original Declaration herewith returned – Declarant has procured the certificate of William Sanders and Cornelius Sanders – who have a traditionary evidence of his Services in the Revolutionary War as detailed by himself long before Declarant knew of any provision for the soldiers of the Revolution. They live in another County and Declarant could not procure their attendance at Court and was constrained to take their affidavits before the nearest Justice of the Peace to the said William Sanders and Cornelius Sanders are known to the Honorable John Bell the Representative in Congress from this district as men entitled to full credit. Declarant having furnished the best evidence which he can procure – the length of time his old age and extreme poverty considered he submits the whole to the consideration of the department – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declare that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State in the Union.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 5th November A.D. 1833.

Test: S/ Wm J. Martin, Clerk

S/ Alex^r M^cmennamy

State of Tennessee, Wilson County

This day personally came before me James Dunnan an acting Justice of the peace in and for the Said County William & Cornelius Sanders of Rutherford County & State aforesaid and being Duly Sworn Depose & saith that they have been acquainted with Alexander McMennamy for about 18 years and have frequently heard him say many years ago he was in the revolutionary war and that part of the time he served as Captain and further these deponents saith not Sworn to & subscribed before Me this 4th November 1833.

S/ William Sanders

S/ James Dunnan, JP

S/ Cornelius Sanders

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$54.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and as a Sergeant for 5 ½ months, all in the North Carolina militia.]