

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William McClanahan S5742

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The file contains McClanahan's application for a new pension certificate dated 22 Feb 1821 in the District of Columbia.]

State of Virginia, County of Fauquier:

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Fauquier, William McClanahan a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy years on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1832 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States, according to the best of his knowledge and belief in the year of 1778 [sic: probably summer 1779], with William Moore a lieutenant of the 3<sup>d</sup> Virginia regiment as one of the new levies [see endnote], and served in the same regiment under the following officers, under Captain Wailes, whose christian name he does not now remember, but he thinks it was Thomas, also under Captain John White, also under Captain Thomas Howard; that Thomas Pierson was at one time his Lieutenant, that he served under Major [Thomas] Ridley, under Col. [Abraham] Buford, and that he belonged to a brigade commanded by Genl. [Charles] Scott, that he left the service in 1779 [sic], that he was taken a prisoner at the Hanging rock, in the Waxhaw settlement, South Carolina [by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion at the Battle of Waxhaws, 29 May 1780], before the expiration of his term of service, that when he entered the service he resided in the County of Fauquier, Virginia, that he was present, in the attack upon a picket at the Whitefield on Santee, and at Buford's defeat, where he received thirteen wounds, that the most serious were in his head and right arm, that he marched through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, from whence he returned to Monk's corner [sic: Moncks Corner] in South Carolina, that from thence he marched with Colo Hawes to the white field's, Santee, where he rejoined Col. Buford [see endnote], that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is only on the pension roll of the agency of the United States, in Virginia, as an invalid prisoner under a certificate granted by J. C. Calhoun, secretary of War, on the 22nd day of February 1821, now in his possession, that the evidence upon which this certificate was granted is not now in his possession, that the same is now among the records in Washington, but in what office, he does not know but begs leave to refer to it.

Wm. McClanahan

Buckland Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1837

Dear Sir [James L. Edwards, Esqr. Commissioner of Pensions]

A near neighbor of mine Mr. William McClanahan has a large family and is old and poor. For some years past he received a Pension, for wounds received when a soldier in the Revolutionary War – He I understand was more than two years in service and I incline to the opinion that he is entitled under the Pension Laws to a Pension for services independent of the one he now receives – I do not write as an agent but as a friend of a deserving old Revolutionary soldier – If he is entitled, I shall be much obliged if you will enclose me the blank forms and such other suggestions as you think proper – I presume the files in your office will shew the length of service and the foundation of the Pension Mr. McClanahan now receives

With much respect Yours Ch's. Hunton

[The following application for an increase in pension was denied, because evidence for the additional service was deemed inadequate. In the letter accompanying the application McClanahan's agent stated, "I can say for Mr McClanahan that he has on his head a large scar which he received at Bufords defeat...."]

Virginia, Fauquier County Court, October Term 1839.

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1839, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Court of Fauquier County, now sitting William McClanahan, a resident in said County, and State of Virginia, aged 77 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, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service as a draft of one man out of fifteen [see endnote] for the term of Eighteen months in a company commanded by Captain Wailes and in a Regiment commanded by Col. Buford and for which service of Eighteen months he is now receiving a pension of Sixty dollars per annum He further states on oath that he subsequently served a tour of duty in the Militia from Fauquier County Virginia in a company commanded by Captain Tilmon Weaver as a substitute for one Frank Little that he entered the service in said tour in said county on or before the Tenth of February Seventeen hundred and eighty one & marched directly to Williamsburg in Virginia, & from thence to Bl[?]wells ferry where the company to which he was attached had a skirmish with Tarltons Dragoons [see endnote]; from thence said company returned to Wms.burg [Williamsburg] & from thence to Richmond Virginia where he remained until the twentieth of May 1781 making three months & ten days he served in this tour of Militia duty.

Wm. hisXmark McClanahan

James McClanahan being sworn in the said Court testifies as follows he is the brother of the above named Wm. McClanahan & lived with him at their fathers house in Fauquier County Virginia at the time his brother returned the service in Captain Tilman Weavers company of Militia and recollects it was between the first & tenth of February seventeen hundred & eighty one & that his brother marched in said Company & from letters received from his brother – whilst in the service during this tour is satisfied his brother aforesaid was stationed at the various places he mentions in his declaration & he further states on oath that his said brother did remain in service in the said tour of duty until the twentyeth of May 1781 making three months & ten days service he rendered during the said tour and the Court orders it to be certified to the Commissioner of Pensions that Wm McClanahan & his brother James McClanahan the witness in this case are very honest & respectable men, and the Court has full confidence in their testimony.

I certify, that the letters refered to in the within letter of the Commissioner of pensions are long since distroyed in some way or other I very well remember at this day the pleasure they gave my mother and the family as they were received. My brother William had served an Eighteen months tour to the south and had returned home very badly wounded which happened at Buford's defeat and it was much against the wish of my mother and the family that he should again go into the service, but he said he would at the risk of his life go again to get a chance to revenge the brutal treatment he received from the British at Col. Bufords defeat

[signed 17 Aug 1840] James McClanahan

I Charles Hunton of the County of Fauquier and State of Virginia and now about Fifty four years of age, do certify as follows – that I was born and raised in three miles of William McClanahan who has been a pensioner of the United States for years past, and that I have understood from my deceased father and other old men in the neighborhood, that the said McClanahan was a solder in the Revolutionary army and whilst so engaged, was severely wounded – He then returned home, and after getting well, he went into the militia service before the conclusion of the Revolutionary war – From the sources I got this information, I have every reason to believe them

Given under my hand this 28th day of December 1840

Ch's. Hunton

Washington May 29<sup>th</sup> 1844

Sir [Edwards]: I respectfully explain the case of Mrs. Sarah McClanahan as it presents itself to me and the reasons for delay in making application until now. The delay seems to have been accidental, for he complained often of being treated ill, in being stopped of his invalid pension, and in 1836 or 7 Major Hunton his neighbor had been to see him, to whom he applied for aid in the case; being very decrepid up

to the day of his death. I happened to be at the Major's House who stated the facts to me and desired me to call and see him. I promised to do so, but Mr. McClanahan was some distance from me, and I did not find it convenient to call until after his death, when Mrs. McClanahan by one of her neighbors sent me facts as you find them in her statement now before you – when I referred to the senate Documents of 1835-6 being Reports from your Office and obtained the following extract

From List of Invalid Pensioners of Fauquier Co'y. Va.

	Annual Allowance	Sums Received	Description of Services	When placed on Roll	Commencement of Pension	Laws under which inscribed increased reduced
William McClanahan	30	269.68	Bufords Reg't	Nov'r 1808	Oct'r 27 1808	March 3 1809
D[itt]o	48	813.33			April 24, 1816	April 24 1816 increased under this Law

From List of Pensioners under the Act of 7th June 1832 of Fauquier County, Va.

	Rank	Annual Allowance	Sums Received	Description of Service	When placed on the Pension Roll	Commencement of Pension	Ages
William McClanahan	Private	\$60	180	Virginia Continental	April 1, 1833	March 4, 1831	72.

from which it appears that Mr McClanahan was pensioned under the Law of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 – and that he was never paid after this on his invalid pension while the Law of 19<sup>th</sup> February 1833 gave him a right to both pensions which Law was passed at a date previous to his being pensioned on April 1, 1833 under the Act of 7th June 1832, and therefore of course is entitled to the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Feb 19, 1833.  
I am Sir With Great Respect/Your Obed't Serv't Tho. Sangster[?]

NOTES:

In Oct 1778 the Virginia legislature enacted a special levy by which one of every 25 county militiamen would be drafted for 18 months as a Continental soldier. The act proved ineffectual and was revised in May 1779. The man was chosen either by lottery or by being hired by the other militiamen.

The following itinerary appears unlikely: "marched through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, from whence he returned to Monk's corner in South Carolina, that from thence he marched with Colo Hawes to the white field's, Santee, where he rejoined Col. Buford."

Tarleton's Legion did not arrive in Virginia until the end of McClanahan's stated term of service between 10 Feb and 20 May 1781. McClanahan may have been referring to one of the skirmishes with

other British units at Burwell's Ferry in April.

A Treasury-Department document states that William McClanahan's widow received the pension due to him from the scheduled payment on 4 Mar 1831 to the date of his death on 8 Feb 1842