

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McLain (McClain) S5744

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/8/13

[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.]

State of Virginia, Rockbridge County

On the 7th Day of August in the year 1832 John McLain of said County and State of Virginia personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for Rockbridge County and being duly sworn according to Law, did on Oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he served as a Militia Soldier, in the Revolutionary War, as follows: One Tour of three months against the Indians in the County of Greenbrier, Virginia, under the Command of Captain David Gray, then of said County of Rockbridge, who is now dead, which service was performed as well as this affiant recollects in the year 1778:-that he received a receipt for said service which was taken in by the Sheriff for Tax. That he recollects no other discharge. That he served another Tour of Three months and about 15 days including the time occupied in returning in the 1781 under the Command of Captain Andrew Moore, likewise now dead, then of Rockbridge County Virginia. The other officers of the company were Lieutenant John McClung, Ensign James McDowe [?]¹ who were under the Command of Col. John Bowyer. They Rendezvoused at the Red house in Rockbridge County 10th January 1781, and marched to Portsmouth Virginia where they chiefly remained, excepting one month, during which time they were stationed at the Great Bridge, where Dunsmore [sic, John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore] was defeated.² Whilst at the Great Bridge, the troops stationed there were under the Command of Col. Parker, and he was discharged about the 11th April 1781 and got home about fifteen days afterwards. That he received a like certificate for said service, which was taken in by the Sheriff for Taxes The depreciation of the Currency at that time, was such that the pay for both Tours of service amounted to very little. For the confirmation of the above statement, this Affiant refers to the testimony of Capt. William Moore and John Davidson accompanying this application. The said John McLain further saith that he was in both of his Tours of duty drafted as a Militiaman, and that he was in no other fight with the Enemy, except a slight skirmish when stationed near the Great Bridge.

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 the Day and year aforesaid.

S/ John McLain³

¹ The margin of the paper is damaged at this point—this man's name may have been James McDowell.

² Battle of Great Bridge was fought December 9, 1775, in the area of Great Bridge, Virginia, during the American Revolutionary War. The victory by the Continental Army was responsible for removing Lord Dunmore and any other vestige of English Government for the Colony of Virginia during the early days of the Revolution. Shortly thereafter, Norfolk, (at the time a Tory center) was captured and destroyed, cementing Continental hold on Virginia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Great_Bridge.

³ I don't believe the signatures on the application and supporting affidavits transcribed herein are the actual signatures of the men who signed them. The handwriting on all the signatures appear to me to be identical. Thus I think the documents

John Davidson⁴ a Citizen of Rockbridge County Virginia aged seventy five years in October next, being duly sworn according to Law, Saith. That, he remembers that John McLain went upon a Tour of duty in the year 1778 against the Indians soon after the attack on Donnelly's Fort. and marched to Greenbrier County, Virginia. This affiant on his return from a Tour of duty met the company commanded by Captain David Gray in which said John McLain was a private - about a month afterwards this affiant went to Greenbrier with pack horses loaded with provisions for the troops and lodged and staid in the Mess in which the said John McLain & this affiant's Brother was attached to. This affiant knows the time of his return, and that he had been in Service for better than three months. The said McClain and this affiant's Brother returned together and being a neighbor of said McClain well recollects the time of his return and has known the said McClain ever since as to the service of said McClain in the year 1781 - under the Command of Captain Andrew Moore. This affiant states that he was attached to said Company, marched with said McClain and served the whole tour of duty as stated by him in his declaration the facts therein stated to be true.

S/ John Davidson

Captain William Moore, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Rockbridge Virginia, being duly sworn, saith that he is now 84 years of age; That he served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, under Captain Samuel Wallace of the Virginia Militia, and marched in the year 1781 at the same time with the company of Captain Andrew Moore, of which John McClain [sic] now of Rockbridge County Virginia was a private soldier. That he has heard the facts stated in said McClain's Declaration made this day read – and knows the facts as to his service at Portsmouth, and at the Great Bridge to be true, & knows that he served more than 3 months during said year – including his return. This Affiant further states that he has known the said John McClain ever since. That he is a man of good Character and his statement entitled to full credit.

S/ Wm Moore

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

in this file are certified copies of the originals, perhaps the originals are still in the files in Rockbridge County, VA.

⁴ [John Davidson S8304](#)