

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McKoy [McCoy] S5750

f15VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves


5/8/13: rev'd 2/2/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Virginia Westmoreland County & Sct.

On this the 12 day of February 1833 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said County James McKoy A Resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Seventy two 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was born in the County of Saint Marys in the State of Maryland on the 10 day of April 1760 according to my father's family record and there lived until I was about eight years of age. I then moved over across the Potomac River with my father into the County of Westmoreland and State of Virginia where I continued until I entered the service of the United States and where I have still continued to live ever since I was discharged from the same In the year 1778 when I was about 18 years of age I was ordered on guard at a place called Sandy Point on the Potomac River under the command of Captain Shelton in order to prevent the enemy's landing who were then lying in the Potomac under the command of Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, the last royal governor of Virginia lost his last foothold in Virginia on Gwynn Island in July 1776] from thence to a place called Hammilton Hall [Hamilton Hall?] under the command of Captain Rochester [John Rochester]. From thence to Harmony Ferry from thence to peckatone¹ under the command of Captain Middleton [William Middleton] from thence to Bushfield under the command of Lieutenant Collins [perhaps Christopher Collins] from thence to a place called Carveal under the command of Sergeant Brann [perhaps William Brann]. I was also at Bailey's warehouses at different times under the command of said Rochester and in 1781 I was drafted to go down to Yorktown to assist in taking of Wallace [Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown on October 19, 1781] and about the 20 of August 1781 we marched for York where I arrived and was stationed on the Gloucester side where I continued until the surrender of Wallace during which time I was commanded by Several captains to wit Captain Middleton commanded on my march to York and after my arrival Captain Harper [Richard Harper] and then Captain Monroe [perhaps Elliott Monroe or Benjamin Monroe] in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Baytop [probably James Baytop of Gloucester County Virginia]. A part of which time I acted as

1



Peckatone Plantation is in the lower part of Westmoreland County, VA

<https://damerongearge.com/peckatone.html> [viewed 10/11/22]

Booman [?]² for said Harper. I served at York to the best of my knowledge about two months and including all my time of service on the Potomac River and its creeks I think I could not have been less than 12 or 14 months which added to my service at York would make at least Fifteen months – I have no documentary evidence of my services and deemed it unnecessary to make a more minute detail of my services as I purpose [sic, propose] having annexed the certificate of Mr. Benedict Lamkin who served in the same company with me and can testify to the facts as stated in this declaration. I do hereby Relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.


Witness present

J. M. English

S/ James McKoy, X his mark

I Benedict Lamkin³ a resident of Westmoreland County and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with James McKoy who has signed and sworn to the foregoing declaration that I have read the said declaration myself and believe it to be strictly true in every part to the best of my Recollection as I served with him while on guard at the aforementioned places. I also knew him while in service at York as I saw him there in service every day for nearly the same time he has stated and further that he is highly Respected throughout his neighborhood and whenever he is known and its further believed by others that he has performed all the services set forth in his declaration.

S/ Bendt Lamkin



Sworn to and subscribed this 12 day of February 1833 before me

S/ Bendt Walker, JP

And the said Justice of the peace hereby declares his opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the Interrogatories⁴ prescribed by the War Department to the above named applicant Was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states and the Said Justice further Certifies that the above named Applicant is unable to make his declaration in open court in consequence of the distance he lives from the courthouse and his infirmity and bodily Affliction.

² *Booman*

³ No person by this (or any similar name I could think of to search) filed for a pension from the federal government for service in the revolutionary war.

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

He also certifies that it appears to him that B. Lamkin who has Signed the preceding Certificate was a Soldier of the Revolutionary War A Resident of the County of Westmoreland A credible person and that his statement is entitled to good faith and credit.

Given under my hand this 12 day of February 1833

Ben. Walker [Benedict Walker, JP]

[p 12]

State of Virginia Westmoreland County & Sct.

On this the 22 day of March 1833 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for said County James McKoy a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Seventy two 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 the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was born in the County of Saint Marys in the State of Maryland on the 10 day of April 1760 according to my father's family Record which many persons have read for me which Record after the death of my father fell into the hands of my mother & brothers and none of them knowing how to read have been entirely lost, But I am satisfied as to the day & year if the same has been correctly read to me, I lived with my father in the said County & State until I was about 8 years of age I then moved across the Potomac River with my father into the County of Westmoreland & State of Virginia where I continued to live until I entered the service of the United States and where I have still continued to live ever since I was discharged from the service, In the year 1778 when I was about 18 years of age I was ordered on guard at a place called Sandy Point on the Potomac River under the command of Captain Shelton where I stayed about three months in order to prevent the enemy's landing who were then lying in the Potomac River under the command of Lord Dunmore from thence I was ordered to a place called Hammilton Hall where I stayed about 3 ½ months under the command of Captain Rochester from thence to Harmony ferry where I stayed about eight weeks from thence to pekatone under the command of Captain Middleton where I stayed at least one and a half months from thence to Bushfield under the command of Lieutenant Collins where I stayed about four weeks from thence to Bailey's warehouses under the command of said Rochester where I stayed about two months from thence to carveal under the command of Sergeant Brann where I stayed about one week during these different encampments we were commanded by Colonel Lee and Colonel Lane and in 1781 I was drafted to go down to Yorktown to assist in taking of Wallace and about the 20 of August 1781 I started for said place under the command of said Captain Middleton and after my arrival I was stationed on the Gloucester side & commanded first by Captain Harper and then by Captain Monroe in Colonel Baytop's Regiment commanded by General Weeden [George Weedon]. A part of which time I acted as Boman⁵ for said Harper I was in service at York at least 2 months and after the surrender of Wallace I was marched back to said County of Westmoreland and discharged by Lieutenant George Lee verbally as I have been before when on guard on the Potomac River and its creeks. I am well satisfied my whole Term of service could not have been less than fifteen months. I have no documentary evidence of my services and deemed it unnecessary to make a more minute detail of them as I propose having annexed the certificates of sundry persons of high respectability in my neighborhood with whom I am

Boman

⁵ Boman or Bornan

acquainted to wit Mr. Benedict Lamkin who has knowledge of my whole service Mr. Robert Bailey late a member of the legislator [sic] of Virginia now a Justice of the peace for said County of Westmoreland & a merchant of high and long standing Mr. William Wright inspector of tobacco at kinsale [?]⁶ warehouse and Mr. William Hazard Senior a licensed preacher of the gospel after the Baptist order.

I do hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension ^{roll} of the agency of any state. The word Roll in the above is interlined before signed.

Test

S/ James English

S/ James McKoy, X his mark

[William Hazard, Senior, a clergyman, Robert Bailey & William Wright gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Refer to the first declaration for Benedict Lamkin's affidavit as he has just departed this life.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one-year in the Virginia service.]

Note: C. Leon Harris points out that an article posted by *Cardinal News* on its website at <https://cardinalnews.org/2024/02/02/virginias-black-patriots-uplift-the-spirit-of-1776/> [viewed 2/2/2024] lists among the Revolutionary War veterans of color, a "James McKoy, a 'free Molatto' who lived on his own land in Westmoreland County, was drafted in 1781 'to go down to Yorktown.'" Dr. Harris searched the US Census records for 1810, 1820 and 1830 and found a man of that name listed as a free man of color in Westmoreland County in 1810 and, presumably the same man, but under the name, James McCoy, listed in the 1820 and 1830 census records again as a free man of color. I have reexamined all of the pages in this veteran's official US pension application and find no reference to him as a "free Molatto" [free mulatto] as quoted in the *Cardinal News* article. Unfortunately, no source for that attribution is given in the publication. In my opinion, because the unreliability of the census records, there can be no absolutely positive attribution of the census records as referring to this veteran, albeit likely.