

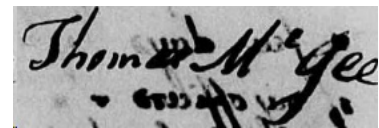
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas McGee S5752 NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia Preston County Ss

on this day 14th of January in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Preston County now sitting being a Court of record Thomas McGee resident of said County of Preston and State of Virginia aged seventy four 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 towit I was drafted in the year 1776 and served under the following named officers Captain James Ewings and Joseph Peck Lieutenant. I resided at the time I was called into the service near Bridgetown [Bridgeton] in Cumberland County State of New Jersey we marched from Cumberland County to Coopers ferry [in present Camden NJ] there took water [i.e. boats] to Lumberton near Trenton, thence to Prinston [sic: Princeton], Kingston, Brunswick & to a place called the Blazing star ferry where the road crossed the sound to go to Staten Island where we was stationed and kept guard on the Western bank of the River or sound. at this time [after Oct 1776] the main Brittish army was stationed in the City of New York. I served at this time (one month) and I served the ensuing month as a substitute for (Ehraim Seeley the man with whom I lived when at home) We crost the Sound and had a skirmish with a force of the enemy that was left on Staten Island. I served at this time (one month) under Joel Fithen, I then returned home and about the time General Washington was retreating over the Delaware [21 Nov] Ephraim Seely and myself was again drafted as the whole of our Militia was called out we marched to a place called Mount Holly we marched from there and attacked a small part of the enemy and drove them off and on the next day we was attacked by a large body of our enemy and we retreated Southward one or two days when we heard of the Hessians being taken at Trenton [on 26 Dec] by Gen'l. Washington. We then turned our direction and marched to Burdentown [sic: Bordentown] thence to Trenton in the night and before we could receive our rations next morning we were called to arms after the canonading was over we marched that night to Prinston and in the morning we was attacked by a party of the British army and received their first fire, and a short and bludy battle ensued [Battle of Princeton, 3 Jan 1777] and we killed a number of the enemy and took between two and three hundred prisoners who were stationed in the College. and I recollected very well of seeing Gen'l. [Hugh] Mercer after he was killed And the British retreated towards Brunswick & we marched from Prinston to a place called Pluckiemin [sic: Pluckemin] thence to Morristown where my term of service expired. at this time Gen'l. Washington was our Commander. but I voluntered and continued in the service and was sent with a detachment to guard the Country on the Rarington [sic: Raritan] River from the depredations of the Brittish where we attacked a strong party of the British plunders and took a Number of their waggons I think about thirty in this campaign I served two months under Capt Ezekiel Foster, Elijah Davis was our Lieutenant or Ensign, and I was drafted and went to a fort on the Delaware river called Billings port [Fort Billingsport at present Paulsboro NJ] and while there two or three large British ships made their appearance which gave us alarm and next morning about day break we left the Fort and we came to the main Salem road near a Tavern by the name of the death of the Fox and we took the road towards Salem when we soon fell in with a party of our enemy and our artillery began to fire upon them and we choked our gun and we had to retreat and Gen'l. Newcom [sic: Silas Newcomb] who was from the same County that I was from ordered us to halt, and fire upon the enemy which we did for some time retreating untill we came to a large bridge where we halted and gave them a general fire and our enemy then retreated I served at this time (one month) under [several illegible words] I was drafted and marched to Philadelphia some time about the first of September 1777 and I remained there about a week assisting in removing the Millitary Stores &c before the British took possession of it [26 Sep], and the residue of the month I spent in guarding the Jersey shore about Coopers ferry I was under at this time

Col. David Potter who was from the same County that I was from and who was taken prisoner by the British the day they took possession of Philadelphia and I believe Ephraim Lumis [Ephraim Loomis] was our Captain. I served at this time (one month) and I was again drafted for during the whole time the British had possession of Philadelphia [until 18 Jun 1778] our militia was frequently called out to guard the Jersey shore. Hattenfield [Haddonfield] a large vilage five miles east of Coopers ferry and a nother vilage not far below called Woodbury was the chief places of our rendevous at the time we was at Woodbury Col. Hilman [sic: Josiah Hillman], Col. Joseph Ellis and Major William Ellis was with us and at one time Col. Shrieves [sic: Shreve] was with us with his Ridgment or a part of it at Hattenfield. and also I remember well of seeing Richard Howell marching into town at the head of his ridgment or at least a battalian. I think Richard Howel was Major in Col. Shrieves Ridgment in some of these towers I was at Hatten field and heard the firing at the battle of Jermantown [sic: Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] and I was also at Hattenfield when a strong party of the Brittish troups crossed the river at or about Gloster point [Gloucester Point] in the night with an evident intent to surprize us in our lodgings we had no guard at the lower end of town other than light horse one of whom gave the alarm that the Brittish was coming and we had scarcely time to leave the town before the brittish was in it, which was in the dead of night and after the Brittish had plundered Hattenfield they marched direct to coopers ferry and all our guard stationed there fell into their hands except David Seely who made his escape and on the next day we returned to Hattenfield. I served three different tours while the Brittish occupied Philadelphia as above stated and served in all at this time three months – and I rember being stationed at Red bank fort for half a month and while there Col. Green [sic: Christopher Greene] came with a small party of the Regular Troops, and I left said Fort a few days before it was attacked by the Hessians [22 Oct 1777] by leave of my officers. Some time about the latter part of March and the first of April in the year 1778 I entered the service as a substitute for Daniel More and the first tower after I was of age. he furnished me with a gun knapsack & blanket and gave me fifteen pounds (I served one month as a substitute for said Daniel More) some time in the Winter or spring while the Brittish occupied Philadelphia a Strong party of the Brittish came to Salem a County town on the Delaware River in the night and took a guard house by surprize and killed all the men that was in it about twenty. Col. Samuel Ogden with several companies marched to the relief of Salem and I was under at this time said Col. Samuel Ogden and either Captain Lumis or Garrison. (I was in the service in all ten months) I lived when at home in the neighbourhood of the Seat of War 45 miles from Philadelphia which was the cause of my being called out so frequently. and the short term of my service in each tower. and from the long laps of time and also from oald age and loss of memmory I cannot at this time give the names of all my officers under whom I served. and a number of the dates I cannot give for the same cause. I was born in Cumberland County State of New Jersey on the 11th of March 1757 and my age was written in my fathers Bible and was also given in my Indenture when I was bound to Ephraim Seely and they have boath been lost or distroyed. I have lived sence the Revolution War in the said County of Cumberland New Jersey and in Monongalia County Va. and know in said County of Preston Va. I never received a discharge from the service to the best of my recollection. I am known in my present neighborhood by Col. William Price. Col. John Fairfax. David Trowbridge, John Francisco and Charles Byrne who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present whatever. and I do declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. and that I have no documentary evidence of my services. and that I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my services Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas M. Seely". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

[Certified by David Trowbridge, clergyman, and John Fairfax, and by Charles Byrne as Clerk of the Court.]

Virginia Preston County Ss [15 Jan 1833]

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the peace in and for the County of Preston and State of Virginia Thomas McGee who being duly sworn deposed and saith 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 not less than ten months in the New Jersey militia as a private soldier and for such service I claim a pension. [signed] Wm Price

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David w. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "entitled."]

Thomas McGee \$33. ³³/₁₀₀ [annual pension payment]

I the undersigned Thomas McGee, at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age and Revolutionary services to Wit – I am in my 77th year of age. was born in New Jersey and lived there until after peace was made – I was called out in the first requisition of Militia from New Jersey (I cant tell in what year, nor could I tell it when I made my Declaration) it was about the time that the British took New York and Barnt a part of it – I was drafted for one month & marched under Capt. James Ewing to the Blasing Star ferry & remained there two months one of which I was a substitute for Ephraim Sealing – there were a good many men at that Station under Col. Evan Sealey – a short time before the British took Philadelphia (I cant tell the year) I was again drafted for one month & march under Capt. William Garrison to Billings Port – there were some one or two hundred men there under the command of Genl Nucum. before the last mentioned tour and about the time of Washingtons retreat from New York I served a tour of two months this was in the Winter season, I was drafted for one month & substituted for the other, I was under Capt. Forte the service was done at Mount Holly, at that place there was about 1000 men under Col. Seeley, who had been sent there to draw the British into an engagement as soon as an attack was made we retreated, went around to Burden town & thence to Trenton, marched all night & got to Trenton the morning the canonade commenced & joined Washington army.

In the year in which the British took Philadelphia I served a term there of one month. I cant now recollect the name of my Captain – after this I served four other tours of one month each at Hatton Field Mount Holly & Woodbury. I am perfectly satisfied that I served ten months in the whole. I lived in a region of country where it was absolutely necessary to have soldiers in the field all the time, these latter tours were a sort of neighbourhood defence and I have not charged my memory with particulars in reference thereto and I am consequently unable to name my captain. In Witness whereof I hereto subscribe my name, 8 1834 [probably 8 Aug 1834]. Jno. Byrne wrote my Declaration

Thomas McGee

Note. this is an Honest Man, and is entitled to all he draws.

W. G Singleton/ August 28 1834