

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Henry McWhorter S7210

NJ NY PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Mar 2015.

State of Virginia } to Wit  
Lewis County }

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Jacob Laurentze Abner Abbott Robert Young and Joseph McCay the court of Lewis county Henry McWhorter aged seventy two years on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November next (a resident of s'd county) who being first sworn according to Law – doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benifet of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

He the said Henry McWhorter enlisted in Orrange [sic: Orange] County in the State of New york on the first day of March in the year 1776 in the company of State troops called Minute Men – under the command of Capt John Wisner and march directly to fort Constitution on the East side of North River – and was attached to a regiment of New York Malitia under the command of Colo Livingston – who also had command of the fort and served a term of four months – the Regiment under the command of Colo. Livingston were all discharged shortly before their term of service expired he cannot recollect how Long before – nor does he remember receiving a written discharge – and if he did it is lost or mislaid – he again enlisted in July 1776 for five months in Orrange county New York State under Capt John Wisner in a Company called the flying camp, and marched immediately to Kings Bridge across Spike and Devil Creek. Was there attached to a Regiment commanded by Colo Isaac Nichels [Isaac Nichols] under General George Clinton. Shortly after we were stationed at said Bridge several companies were detailed to march to Long Iland [sic: Long Island]. on the way to the said Iland I was detailed under the Command of Leut. Langden and stationed at fort Washington on york Iland [Manhattan Island]. immediately after the Battle on Long Iland [Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug 1776]. we were marched back to Kings Bridge and attached to our former companies. the day the Battle on york Iland was fought [Battle of Harlem Heights, 16 Sep 1776] Genl George Clinton marched to join the army on the Iland – the ensueing night being very dark Genl Clinton was very near marching into the British Line – who were discovered by our Spies just ahead. the next day as well as I can recollect Genl. Clinton returned with the forces under him to Kings Bridge. Shortly after we were marched to the White Plains and there stationed sometime. A Battle was fought in which the British proved successfull [28 Oct 1776]. the American were commanded by Genl. Washington and the British by Genl Houle [sic: William Howe] the Brigade to which I was attached was engaged in the Battle Genl George Clinton marched his Brigade from thence to the Peach Kills [sic: Peekskill] on the East side of North River. I was there taken sick and lay all Winter Doctor Henry White gave me a furlough to go home

I entered as a substitute April 1777 in orrange county New york state but cannot recollect for whom – under the command of Capt Tetliff for one month

On the first of May in the same year I enlisted under Capt Tompkins for three months to work at the chewedeedefrisse [sic: chevaux de frise: spiked barrels] – which was placed in the North River just below New Windsor – in August in 1777 I entered as a substitute in Orrange County newyork state for three months under the command of Capt Parsons and marched to fort Montgomery – which was then command by Genl George Clinton and fort Clinton was then commanded by Genl James Clinton [both forts near Bear Mountain NY]. a few days before the Battle at fort Montgomery [6 Oct 1777] – I was detailed to attend a fery across the North River three miles above the fort – the British took both the forts and wounded Genl James Clinton. Genl Sir Murry Clinton [sic: British Gen. Henry Clinton] sailed from thence up the North River to the releif of Genl Burgoine [sic: Burgoyne at Saratoga]. I entered again for one month in the winter 1777 in a Company of malitia from the State of New Jersey commanded by Capt John Deker and attached to a regiment under the command of Colo Sowers[?] – marched to Woodbury in Jersey on the dellaw [sic: Delaware] River. I was detailed on fatigue to Red Bank fort [Fort Mercer at

Red Bank NJ]. When there mudfort was left by our troops and sett fire to the Barricks [sic: Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, abandoned by Americans 15 Nov 1777] – the next morning the fort was taken by the British – in the Spring in the year 1778 I volunteered in Northumberland county in the state of Pensylvania for five months as a ranger under the command of Captain Thomas Camplain during this time we were frequently employed in gaurding and Beating Provisions to the army up the Susquehana [sic: Susquehanna] River to Sunsbery [sic: Sunbury] – my services can only be proved by circumstantial evidence and refer to John Neely [pension application W5408] Alexander West [W6450] William Powers [S18164] Daniel Stringer and Samuel Z Jones [S18474] – he hereby relinquishes every claim what ever 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

Questions by the court

1 Where and what year were your born

I was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November in 1760 in the state of New Jersey.

2<sup>d</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

I have the record of my age in my Bible taken from my fathers family Bible

3<sup>d</sup> Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live

In Orrange county in the state of New York. married in Bucks county in the state of Pensylvania – moved from thence to Hampshire county in the state of Virginia in the year 1786 from thence to Harrisson [sic: Harrison] county – but now Lewis in the year 1791 where I now live.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service. Were you Drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom.

I enlisted three times. Substituted three times and vollunteered once – but cannot recollect for whom I entered as a substitute

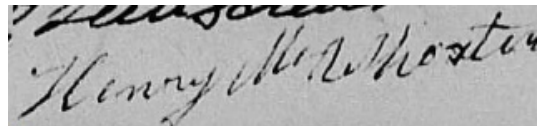
5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and malitia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Gen'l George Clinton – Gen'l James Clinton and Gen'l George Washington. I do not recollect the name of any other regular officers – the general cirstance of my service were such as I have given in my declaration

6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given – and what has become of it

I do not recollect that I did and if I did it has been lost or mislaid long ago – I received a furlough to go home at the Peach Kills from Doctor Henry White

7<sup>th</sup> State the Names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your charrector for varacity and their beleif of your service as a soldier of the revolution John Neeley Alexander West William Powers Daniel Stringer and Samuel Z Jones

Sworn to and subscribed the day year aforsaid

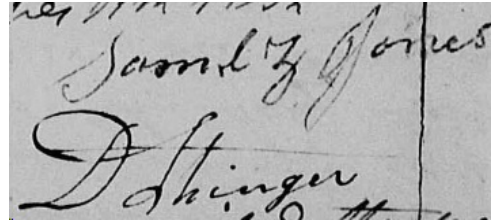


[Certified by John Talbott and Daniel Stringer.]

State of Virginia } toWit  
Lewis County }

Daniel Stringer and Samuel Z Jones each one personally appeared before John McWhorter a Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Lewis and state of Virginia – and made oath that they have been acquainted with Henry McWhorter more than twenty years –who is an applicant for a Pension under the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. and after hearing his declaration read we do state that we have heard Henry McWhorter relate frequently many years ago the services he rendered in the revolutionary war. and from the best of our recollection the account given of his services then corresponds with the statment in his declaration We have always beleived him to have been a soldier of

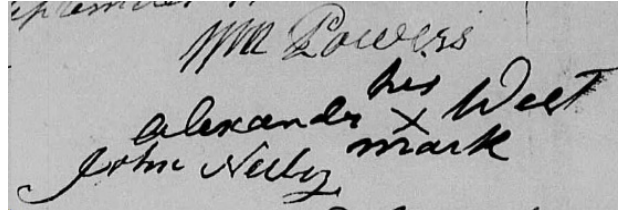
the revolution, from his statements and out knowledge of the War – we further say that as a man of truth  
none stands higher      September 11th 1832



Samuel Z. Jones  
D. Shinger

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above mentioned  
John McWhorter JP

[On the same day before John McWhorter a virtually identical statement was signed by William Powers,  
Alexander West, and John Neely as shown.]



Wm Powers  
Alexander West  
John Neely

[On 17 June 1833 McWhorter was issued a certificate for a pension of \$73.33 for 22 months of service.]

[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 McWhorter's report "Entitled."]  
Henry McWhorter Servd. 22 months.

I the undersigned Henry McWhorter on the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following  
statement of my age and Revolutionary Services. to wit, I was seventy five years old the 13<sup>th</sup> day of  
November last. in the last of February or first of March 1776 I Enlisted in orrange County New York  
under Capt. John Wisner for four months and marched to Fort Constitution & remained there for the four  
months. Col Livingston commanded the Fort.

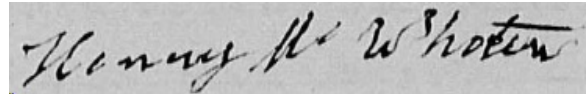
In July or august in the same year (1776) I enlisted under the same Captain, & marched to Kings  
Bridge, thence to Fort Washington and from thence to White plains. was there at the Battle but was not in  
it. the left wing of the army to which I belonged was not brought into the engagement. from the white  
Plains I was marched to the Peach Kills was taken sick & lay sick there until the Spring of 1777. my  
term of five months expired some time before I got well. Isaac Nichelson was my colonel, & George  
Clinton commanded by brigade, Genl Washington commanded at the White Plains & was defeated.

in the Spring of 1777 I returned home after recovering my Health & substituted for one month  
and served at Perramus [illegible word; Paramus NJ?] under Capt. McTolliff – immediately after the  
termination of this term I went below New Windsor on the North River and was at work at the Chevaux  
de frize for four months at least. one Thompkins & a man by the name of Young had the controul &  
management of the work. – Thompkins it was said turned Tory and piloted the British Vessels through  
the Gap that had been left.

Some time in august 1777 I substituted in orrange County New York & marched under Capt  
Parsons to Fort Montgomery & remained there for three months the [illegible word] substituted for,  
immediately after the termination of the last mentioned tour I again substituted under Capt Decker of the  
jersey Militia for one month & served at Red Bank fort.

In the month of March 1778 I went to Northumberland County Pennsylvania – and was at least five  
months in service against the Indians, in that region of country in this Indian fighting I served under  
Capt. Thomas Champlain – Some few days previous to the capture of Fort Montgomery. I had been  
selected as one of the Ferry Men & in that way I escaped that battle.

In Witness that the forging [foregoing] statement is true I hereto subscribe my name, December 7  
1834

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry McWhorter". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Note this is very Intelligent and an honest man & is entitled to all that has been awarded him  
W. G Singleton/ Dec. 7, 1834

Weston April 20th 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

my pension certificate has been required to be returned – for correction and, as I understand will be reduced from an allowance for 22 months service in the revolutionary war to 18 on the ground that four months were for services against the Indians – it is true much of that time was employed in exercises against them – but whatever of the time I was not engaged against the Indians – was employed on other duties and it is equally true – that the officers under whom I served was employed by the Government – either of the state or general govert. I am now very old and infirm – and must submit to whatever may be done in my case – Still it does seem to me – that my right to an allowance for twenty two months – service – is just as clear as it is to 18 months – I am lead to beleive that in my case – there must be some misapprehension of the facts. I am informed, the Law of the 7th of June 1832 imbraces the services. [see endnote] Which I understand will be relected[?] as clearly as any other – Mr Singleton examined me twice, and each time – pronounced my claim good and states he so reported to my department – in my case – if there is nothing improper in it – it would be satisfactory to me – to be informed what was his report on my claim – be assured sir I had much rather have nothing – than by a false statement of facts – to receive from the govt one dollar unfairly I am sir with respect &c/ Henry McWhorter

[On 4 May 1835 McWhorter received a new certificate for a pension of \$60 per year for 18 months service.]

NOTE: McWhorter is correct that the pension act of 7 June 1832 embraces militia service of all kinds, including defending against Indians. Edwards began excluding service against Indians in early 1835, at about the time Singleton consulted with him. For further discussion of Edwards's decision see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]