

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McNeely S7261

f12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/23/09: rev'd 2/3/17

[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' 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.]

State of North Carolina Rowan County: SS

On this eighth day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Superior Court of Law for Rowan County now sitting the same being a Court of Record, John McNeely in a resident of Rowan County aged Seventy-five 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 7th 1832.

That he was born in the Colony, now State of Pennsylvania in the month of December 1756 and removed at an early age to Rowan County NC where he has resided ever since; That he has a Record of his age at home in an old family Bible which states that he was born the first day of December 1756. That he entered the service of the United States in Capt. George Cowan's Company -- under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] as a Volunteer Soldier, and went to the mountains of North Carolina in what was called the Cherokee expedition¹ which was intended to suppress and repel an invasion of those Indians from the then frontier settlements of North Carolina. That it was stipulated that his time of service at that time was to be three months -- but he does not recollect whether he was all that time then in the service or whether he was sooner dismissed. This took place as he believes about the year 1779 [sic, 1776]. That he was frequently during the Revolutionary War out as a soldier for a few days at a time, as a minute man, as it was then called; which was that the volunteers bound themselves by promise to attend at the call of their officers instantly for any military purposes that were then thought necessary or practicable as he thinks he was acting as a soldier under various officers in those irregular militia movements, mostly under the direction of General Rutherford as he was then informed & taking the whole time together would amount to one month.

Besides this, he also volunteered as a Soldier in Capt. William Bell's Company for three months under the command of General Rutherford in Col. Francis Locke's Regiment and marched to join General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army but before they did join them, the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] took place, and they did not join General Greene; and he was removed to Capt. Byers' [James Byers'] Company and served the remainder of the three months, stationed near Charlotte in North Carolina.

That he afterwards entered as a volunteer's soldier in the Company of Capt. William Bell Col. Francis Locke's Regiment under General Rutherford for three months, but for that trip and during that term of service was required to drive a baggage wagon in place of acting as a soldier

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

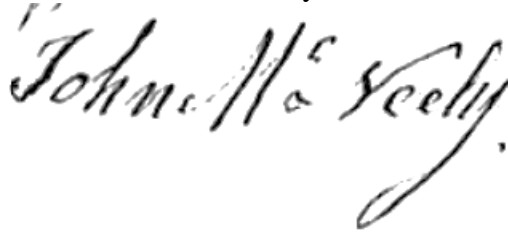
during which time the Army marched to Wilmington NC & were stationed there most of the time.

He refers to James Bell² and James Houston³ in his present neighborhood who served with him in the Army at different times as being able to testify as to the reputation and services. 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 within his knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Hy Giles

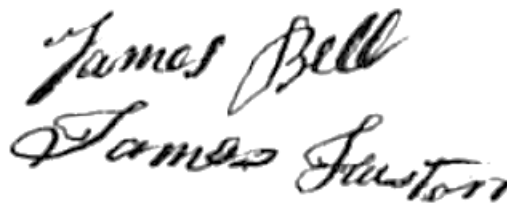
S/ John McNeely



We James Bell and James Houston Residing in Rowan County do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John McNeely who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Declaration and we believe him to be seventy-five years of age; that we served with him part of the time in General Rutherford's Army during the Revolutionary War, that we have the utmost confidence in his integrity and believe that he served in the revolutionary war as he states.

S/ James Bell

S/ James Houston



This declaration and certificates having been returned from the office of the Secretary of War with objections, the Declarant appeared before me John Houston Justice of peace for Rowan County and on oath offers the following explanation of the objections made.

That he was always a private soldier. That he is informed and believes that the Cherokee expedition in 1779 lasted three months and that he is confident he was in General Rutherford's Army of militia at all that time.

That the time he served as a minute man at various times was at least one month. That he was a volunteer private soldier in Capt. Bell's company, Locke's Regiment under General Rutherford for three months; as he believes in the summer of the year 1781: that he marched with the other troops during this time northward about fifty miles to Guilford, and then marched southward about eighty miles to Charlotte and was stationed in camp near Charlotte most of the time. That in the fall of the same year as he believes, he volunteered as a private soldier under the last named officers and served three months but was required to drive a baggage wagon in place of carrying a musket, that he during this time went to Wilmington in North Carolina with

² [James Bell S2971](#)

³ [James Huston \(Houston\) S8717](#)

the Army and was stationed there most of the time.

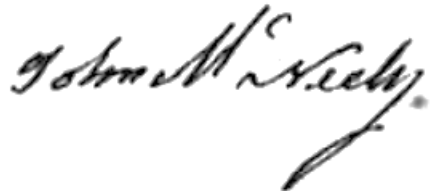
That he did not obtain the certificate of a clergyman because none acquainted with him reside in a reasonable distance of him or of the Court House & he was advised that the direct testimony of the two citizens who certificate he procured who were his neighbors nearly of his own age & served with him part of the time was better evidence than any certificate of character that age and infirmity have rendered him unable to attend Court.

North Carolina Rowan County April 8th 1833

This day appeared personally before me the undersigned Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid John McNeely and made oath in due form of law that the within declaration and account of Service as it now stands is correct. Sworn to and Subscribed before me.

S/ John Houston, JP

S/ John McNeely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John McNeely". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John McNeely".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia.]