

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander McFadin [McFadden] S8887

f27NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/9/09: rev'd 7/24/16

[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.]

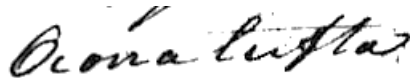
[p 5]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

On this tenth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court now sitting Alexander McFadden a Resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina 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 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and Served as herein stated.

That he entered the Service of the United States at 16 years of age in July 1776 as one of the minute men under Capt. James McFadden Served a 6 Months Tour principally against the Cherokee Indians in the months of November at Ocona lufta [sic, ?]¹ We had a fight with the Cherokee Indians where we killed [indecipherable]² and wounded several took 3 prisoners we was then under the command of Col. William Graham³ we was all of Rutherford County North Carolina.⁴ I was still continued and ready at a moment's warning under the same officers in the year 1778 November we followed a Troop of Tories to Rutherford Ford on the Saluda River South Carolina where we overtook them we found ourselves with only 60 men and we found they had upwards of 400. We made the best of our way home. During the year 1778 -- 1779 -- 1780 we had several Towers [Tours] over the mountains in pursuit of the Indians and some times for our own safety from the Tories who were much the strongest party in this County at that time in August 1780 under Capt. Steven Willis [Stephen Willis] and commanded by Col. Andrew Hampton we were marched off to the upper part of South Carolina the Tories had fortified themselves on Thicketty⁵ [Creek] where we stormed the Fort and took the whole party without

¹ 

²  Four?

³ [William Graham S8624](#)

⁴ Veteran appears to be making reference to the Cherokee Expedition of 1776.

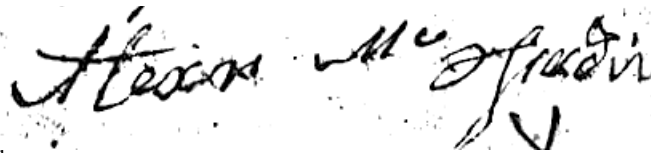
http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

⁵ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/forthicketty.htm>

the loss a [word missing].⁶ Shortly after Col. Ferguson [Major Patrick Ferguson] came to my house in Rutherford County with a number of his men took and destroyed everything they could lay their hands on in the same year under Capt. Thomas Price we joined Col. Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] force at Shires Ferry⁷ on Broad River in South Carolina in view of the British force we fired across the River at them. We went from that place to Blackstock's on Tyger [River]⁸ the British & Tories followed us to that place where we had a severe engagement Col. Sumter was wounded but we kept the Ground our loss was small from that place I returned home to Rutherford County North Carolina. I was immediately appointed Lieut. under Capt. James Gray we were sent in pursuit of Cornwallis we marched as far as South Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] where we halted and ordered back and ordered up to the lines where we were stationed for 3 months as a guard against the Indians in March 1781 I was still Lieut. under Capt. James Gray we was ordered on by Col. Richard Singleton against the Cherokee Indians we had several engagements with small parties of the Indians we killed six and wounded several we then returned home I immediately became a volunteer under Captain Thomas Price under the command of Col. Elijah Clarke for the Siege of Augusta,⁹ Georgia we set out in April 1781 and remained there 3 months we was nearly every other day in some scrimmage sometimes in close contact in one of our engagements Capt. Price was killed we was reinforced by General Lee [Lieutenant Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] from Virginia Joined his force with General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] of South Carolina enabled us to storm the Fort I from that place returned home to Rutherford County North Carolina I then received the appointment of Capt. from Col. Robert Porter and ordered to raise a company for three months I then went in the different parts of the County to take any of the Tory party to a stand that was appointed Col. Little Brittain to have a Trial this Service was from the order of Col. James Miller in fact I was in actual service from 1776 to the end of the war the Tories & British took everything I had except my land I am worn out spent the prime of my life in the defense of my Country and I call on them for a small pittance to cheer [?]¹⁰ me on my decline he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any State or agency whatsoever --

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Alexr McFadden



[Jonathan Hampton & Danza Metcalf¹¹ gave the standard supporting affidavit.

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer from the best information I have I was born in the year 1760 in the state of Maryland


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

⁶ July 26, 1780 http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thicketty_fort.html

⁷ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/shirersfy.htm>

⁸ November 20, 1780 http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

⁹ 2nd siege of Augusta [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

¹⁰ 

¹¹ [Danza Metcalf W4280](#)

Answer I have not we had our house and all burnt

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

Answer I was living in Rutherford County North Carolina when first called into service and have lived there to the present time and expect to die in the same place

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

Answer I was from the commencement of the revolutionary war a volunteer and served up to the best of my recollection under the following named Officers

my first Tour was under Capt. James McFadden 6 months

2nd tour the same officers 2 do

We was under the command of Col. William Graham
in August 1780 volunteered under Capt. Steven Willis

under Col. Andrew Hampton

my next tour was under Capt. Thomas Price

we joined Col. Sumter at Shiers Ferry

my next tour was under Capt. James Gray

in March 1781 under Capt. James Gray

Ordered by Col. Richard Singleton a tour against the Indians

Immediately after my return I was a volunteer under Capt.

Price for the Siege of Augusta we were placed under the command
of General Pickens and reinforced by

General Lee after the Siege was over I returned home

was appointed Capt. by Col. Robert Porter and ordered out

by Col. James Miller to take all the Tories we could find I never knew you
myself out of service from 1776 to the end of the year 1781

S/ Alexr McFaddin

Sworn to and Open Court 10th September 1832.

S/ T. F Birchett, Clk

[p 17]

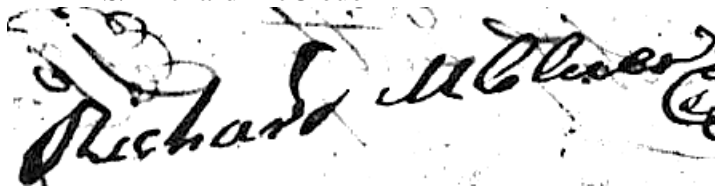
State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Richard McClewer¹² and after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with Alexander McFadden during the Revolutionary War that he knows he served on the lines as an Indian spy that he guarded the forts or rather made the forts the place of rendezvous under the orders of Col. William Graham the length of this service I cannot say I know that he was appointed a Lieut. and served in that capacity under Capt. James Gray a Tour to the Indian nation under Col. Richard Singleton I think he went a Tour to the siege of Augusta Georgia as Lieut. under the command of Capt. Thomas Price Col. Elijah Clarke was the commander of this Tour to Georgia, Augusta I think was in 1780 or '81 I know I served under him in that Tour -- we was out from our post three months on this Tour after our return he was appointed Capt. by Col. Robert Porter and served as such to the end of the War shortly after he was appointed Capt. Col. James Miller had the Command and the men were ordered out on several short expeditions which was punctually obeyed. Alexander McFadden within my

¹² [Richard McClewer \(McCluer\) S9428](#)

knowledge done much services as a private and as an officer the length of his services I do not recollect I know he was active and much relied on and have no doubt but that his statement is correct as to his services is a man of Respectable Standing and from what I know his statement is entitled to full Credit Sworn to and subscribed before made this 7th day of August 1833.
S/ Martin Beam, JP

S/ Richard McCleuer



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State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid William Dalton¹³ and after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath the following Statement that during the latter part of the Revolutionary war say 1780, he became acquainted with Alexander McFadden that he believes he had the command of Russell's Fort & White Oak Fort that he was at those forts on duty when the aforesaid Alexander McFadden had the Command as Capt. I know he was very active person an officer in the Revolution as for Commission I think very few persons had any they were generally voted in by the men and took the command and their orders was obeyed I believe Alexander McFadden is a very Correct person and would not make a statement of any thing but what was correct but the length of time and old age and the consequent loss of memory we cannot give the precise length of service I knows he served but how long I am not able to say but I well remember I saw him after in service from the year 1780 to the close of the War and in the capacity of an officer & this is Lieut. and Capt.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 12th day of August 1833

S/ Robt G. Twitty, JP

S/ William Dalton, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Alexander McFadden and after being duly sworn deposes and saith that length of time and old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear to the precise length of his Service but to the best of his Recollection not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades and for which service I claim a pension

1776 volunteered under Capt. it James McFadden for	6 months
1778 Volunteered under the same for	3 do
1779 Volunteered under the same for	6 do
1780 volunteered under Capt. Steven Willis for	1 do
1780 Volunteered under Capt. Thomas Price for	<u>2 do</u>
I served not less than 18 months as private	18 Months
1781 I was Elected Lieut. by the Company and commissioned by Col. Richard Singleton and	

¹³ [William Dalton S8295](#)

served under Capt. James Gray 3 Months
 1781 I was Changed to a Company and Capt. Thomas
 Price for the Siege of Augusta 3 do
 I served as a Lieut. 6 months 6 Months
 1781 the latter part of the year I was appointed a Capt. by Col. Robert Porter
 and ordered to raise a company and search out all the Tories and Disaffected
 men in our County and take them to a place called Little Britain this service
 was 3 months
 I served as a Capt. from what source our Commanding Officers derived their authority to make
 appointments I have no knowledge but so it was I was appointed and served under the Orders
 given me.
 Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of November 1833
 S/ William Richardson JP

S/ Alexr McFadin



[p 21]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County
 Alexander McFadden and after being duly sworn Deposeth and Saith that By reason of Oald age
 and Consequent loss of memory that he cannot positively swear to the precise length of his
 Service but according to the best of his Recollection he served not less than the periods
 mentioned below and in the following grades

- 1776 Volunteer under Captain James McFadden Colonel William
 Graham had the command this service was at least 6 Months
- 1778 Volunteer under the same Officers to Saluda S. Carolina
 this was a Service of not less than 3 Months
- 1779 We was much Harassed by the Tories & Indians we was
 kept under Arms During that whole year I did not
 pursue anything but the Camps I know I was a guard
 more than half of the Year under Captain McFadden
 and Colonel William Graham say this Service was 6 Months
- 1780 Then under Captain Steven Willis under the command
 of Colonel Andrew Hampton this was a Tower to S. Carolina to take
 A Fort at Thicketty this was a Tower of 1 Month
- 1780 Under Captain Thomas Price we joined General Sumter
 in S. Carolina at Shirers ferry at Blackstock this was a
 Service from our posts say 2 Months
 private 18 Months
- 1781 I was appointed Lieutenant by Captain James Gray
 and Ordered by Colonel Richard Singleton against the
 Cherokee Indians this was a Tower of 3 Months
- 1781 I was Changed to the Company under Captain Thomas Price
 under the Command of Colonel Elijah Clarke for the

Siege of Augusta General Pickens commanded General Lee
Joined his forces 2 hours which enabled us to storm the
Fort this was a service of at least

Lieutenant 3 Months
6 Months

1781 I was Appointed a Captain by Colonel Robert Porter
I served in this Capacity until peace was made
we were much engaged in Taking the Disaffected
to a stand at Lytle Brittain we was then under
the Command of Colonel James Miller this service
lasted until peace which was made then

3 Months

This exhibits a fair View of my Service during the Revolutionary War to the best of my Memory
I served 18 Months as a private six Months as a Lieutenant and Three months as a Captain
Makes in the Whole of my Service Twenty Seven months for which Service I claim a pension
under the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. Sworn to and subscribed before me this
4th day of May 1833

S/ Major J. Alexander JP

S/ Alexander McFadden, X his mark

[William J Jackson, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

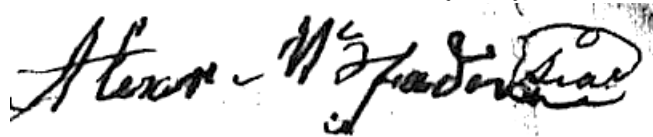
[p 25]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County and
State aforesaid Alexander McFadden and after being duly sworn according to law does on his
oath make the following Declaration in addition to his two former ones. That if he ever received
a written Commission he has no recollection what has become of them those was papers that
very little attention was paid to the taking care of and all of those I have is lost except two
orders¹⁴ sent to me One from Col. Robert Porter and the other from Col. James Miller I well
recollect of another Tour in pursuit of Cornwallis after the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7,
1780] I was taken from the lines when this was performed we crossed the Catawba [River] the
day General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed at Cowan's Ford [February 1, 1781].
We went on as far as the North Yadkin in pursuit of the British Army from that place we returned
to our post where it required all of our forces to guard I am of opinion that we was differently
situated in this Section of country. Our militia Service was not uniform. The men of families
stayed at home only when a draft was made then the young men took their place and they went
to the lines and their families to the forts the situation of the frontiers was so situated that we had
no regular standing Army at our frontiers was entirely guarded by the militia volunteers and them
commanded by militia officers we that was in this part of Country I think is perfectly justified in
saying they was in continual service during the Revolutionary War. Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 31st day of August 1833.

S/ Martin Beam, JP

S/ Alexr McFadin {Seal}



¹⁴ These documents are not among the papers in this file.

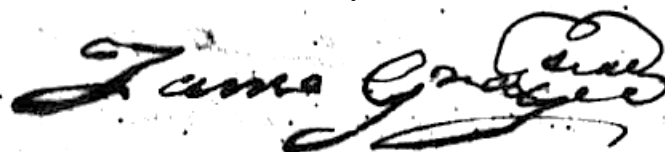
[p 26]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

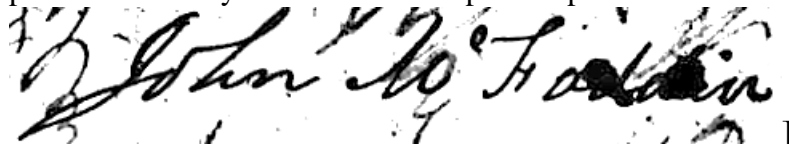
Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Major James Gray¹⁵ aged Seventy-five years who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Alexander McFadden during the Revolutionary War and down to the present day that he well recollects that he appointed him a Lieut. and that he served in that capacity a Tour under my command to the Cherokee Nation and that he filled the appointment with promptness and as good [paper torn, word missing, probably "officer"] thereafter our return he was appointed Captain and acted in that capacity to the end of the war his length of service I am not able to say but Captain McFadden is a respectable person and his statement is entitled to full Credit Sworn to and was subscribed before me this 31st day of August 1833

S/ Martin Beam, JP

S/ James Gray {Seal}

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Gray". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 16: On May 19, 1852 John McFadden, of Rutherford County, NC, son of Alexander McFadden, a pensioner of the US for service in the Revolution at the rate of \$190/annum, gave a power of attorney to Michael Thompson to pursue whatever rights he had as heir of his father.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John McFadden". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$190 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry and cavalry of the North Carolina militia (Tryon County Regiment: Rutherford County Regiment).]

¹⁵ [James Gray S8594](#)