

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John McWilliams S9005

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } viz
County of Augusta }

On this 25th day of Sept 1832 personally appeared in open court before us Wm Davis Lewis Wayland Geo W Swoope & Gerard R Stuart the court of Augusta county now sitting John McWilliams a resident of the torey glade district in the county of Augusta & State of Virginia aged seventy two years on the 14th day of last June 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 New Jersey Summerset [sic: Somerset] County but has no record of his age That he entered the service of the United States under the following Officers & served as herein stated. Captain William Morgan, Lieutenants Edward Lucas & William Lucas, Ensign Michael Bedinger were the officers of the company of Light Infantry in which he first served They marched from Sheppardstown in Berkley county Va [sic: Shepherdstown in Berkeley County, now WV], through Philadelphia to Quibbletown [in present New Market] about five miles from Brunswick in New Jersey. He enlisted with this volunteer company as a volunteer about the first of Dec'r 1776 for four months & served till the 1st of April 1777 when he was discharged. He obtained a written discharge, & under it received his pay, but took no further care of it & cannot now say what has become of it. He was in a small engagement, he thinks on the first day of March 1777 about a mile from Brunswick at a place called Pescataway [Piscataway NJ, 8 Mar 1777] & in several little skirmishes afterwards. He does not know with what or whether with any continental companies he served. the companies in his neighborhood were chiefly Merlin [sic: Maryland] militia commanded he thinks by a Col Stricker. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service, nor does he know the names of any of the regular officers stationed in his neighborhood. Some time in September 1777 he became a substitute for a man named West in a militia company whose Captain was Charles Morrow. Adrian Wincoop was Lieutenant. Thomas Swearingen Ensign. They marched from Sheppardstown Berkley county Virginia to Pennsylvania to a place called White Mash [sic: Whitemarsh] about sixteen or twenty miles from Philadelphia & was there or in the neighborhood during the whole time of his service which was not less than three months. he thinks it was more but of this is not certain Philip Pendleton was the Colonel under whom he served they arrived at White Mash soon after the massacre at Paoli [21 Sep 1777] he was engaged in no battle on this tour. There were no continental regiments or companies stationed with him tho Washingtons army was not far off. He obtained a written discharge on this occasion also & a certificate for his pay. The certificate he sold to John Casely a storekeeper in Sheppardstown, & does not know what became of his discharge. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service. In May 1778 He again became a substitute in a militia company for Edward Tabb of Berkley county Virginia & marched from Martinsburg straight to Pittsburg. William Morgan the captain under whom he marched to N Jersey was the Major under whom he now served. William Little was the Captain. William Vestel the Lieutenant. The ensigns name he has forgotten but thinks it was Suel [Sewell?] From Pittsburg his company in a few days was marched to Holladays Cove [sic: Hollidays Cove] about twenty miles above Wheeling Major Morgan went with them no other forces were there except the inhabitants during the tour. on this occasion he was out about three & a half months & was discharged the last of august 1778 This discharge he has also lost He knows no person whose testimony he could procure to testify to this service. In September 1778 immediately on his return home he again became a substitute in a militia company for William Williamson of Berkley county Va. Josiah Swearingen was the Captain. He does not recollect who was his Lieutenant or ensign. John Morrow was the Colonel under whom he served. We marched from Martinsburg to the Ohio River which we crossed just below the mouth of Big Beaver [at present Beaver PA] & lay at Fort McIntosh some time when we were marched to a place called Tuscarawa plains near the Indian town where we built a Stockade fort [Fort Laurens on Tuscarawas River in

Ohio], & lay there till some few days befor Christmas when we marched back to Fort McIntosh & were discharged a day or two before Christmas. From the time we marched till we got home was three & an half months This discharge is also lost He knows no person whose testimony he could procure to testify to this service. In the two last mentioned tours he was in no battle. In May 1781 He again became a substitute for Thomas Stuart of Berkley county Va in a Militia company & marched from Martinsburg through Fauquire [sic: Fauquier County] to Fredricksburg [sic: Fredericksburg] Va. He does not recollect who were the officers of this company as he was in it a very few days. At Fredricksburg he found Capt. Stump raising a volunteer company of light infantry. He joined this company, & was marched under Captain Stump to Richmond Va. He does not recollect the names of the lieutenant & Ensign of the volunteer company. They remained at Richmond a few days where they were joined by the Yankey Infantry at[?] Capt Ogdons company & Major McPersons company of Horse Tarletons troops [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, early June] laying on the opposite side of the town from us. They were then marched up into Albemarle followed by Tarletons men, & on the retreat of Tarleton they followed them back & were discharged in New Kent county he thinks - having served only two months & an half. On this occasion he knows no other field officer except McPherson & was engaged in no battle. He knows no one whose testimony he could procure to testify to this service. He has not his discharge from this service & knows not where it is. On his return home he found his turn had come to serve his regular tour of duty in the militia, & that his company had just marched. He immediately started after them & overtook them on this side the Pamunkey River, & marched to near Williamsburg at a place called the Old Magazine where we lay several days, & were marched to York where we lay till we received our discharge a few days before Cornwallis surrendered [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781]. Michael Bedinger was our Captain. Lieutenant [Thomas] Thornberry & Ensign Karney He was discharged but has not his discharge now nor does he know what has become of it. He was in service he thinks only three mont[hs] & was a sergeant in his company from the time he joined it by appoi[nt]ment of his captain He also served as orderly sergeant during the above mentioned tour from September to Christmas 1778

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Ever since the revolution he has resided in Berkley & Augusta counties state of Virginia

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first above written [signed] John McWilliams

NOTES:

In response to a request from the Pension Office for a more precise statement of the times of his services, McWilliams on 25 June 1842 made an additional declaration that adds nothing new.

On 14 Mar 1845 McWilliams requested that his pension be transferred from the agency at Richmond to the one at Clarksburg, because he had moved to Barbour County in present WV "to better the Condition of his Little remang Famely."

A letter dated Weston VA, 4 Jan 1855 states that McWilliams died in the fall of 1852 and that the heirs requested the Commissioner of Pensions to determine if any uncollected pension was due to them and whether the amount of the pension was correct.