

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William McLaurine S9015

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 May 2019.

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. Powhatan County State of Virginia to wit: On this 5th day of June 1843 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Powhatan County now sitting, William McLaurine of said county and state, aged eighty one years, who first being 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 entitled an act supplementary to the "Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution passed may 15th 1828"

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as is herein stated,

That he entered the service as a volunteer from the county of Powhatan in a company of which Richard Crump [VAS3214] was Captain, Vincent Markham 1st lieutenant and one Jas. Smith [James Smith], a baptist preacher ensign, on the [blank] day of May [blank] The state was invaded at that time he thinks by General Leslie [Alexander Leslie, Oct and Nov 1780]. The militia was assembled in Powhatan Court House, and a proposition made to volunteer instead of being drafted, and carried by acclamation. The company crossed James River at Bermuda Hundred and Chickahominy at Coles ferry and took the road to Williamsburg. Near that town they were met by General Charles Scott of the Virginia line, who told them to halt, that there was to be a sham battle between the troops assembled there, and that he would send orders for them to come up and see it. That he heard the firing, which was terminated suddenly, one of the soldiers having left his steel ram rod in his musket which wounded the soldier opposite to him. The regiment was under the command of colonel Robert Goode. After remaining a few days at Williamsburg the whole body moved to York, and after remaining there two or three days kept on to Hampton. The British fleet was lying in sight. There was no battle or skirmish but one night there was a false alarm and all the troops were under arms. This tour he thinks lasted about one month. The British fleet having disappeared, the troops were marched back to Williamsburg, and deposited their arms in the magazine situated close by the Lunatic Hospital at that place. They received no written discharges.

The second tour which he performed, was, as a private in the militia company of Captain William Mayo of the county of Powhatan. This happened in the month of January 1781, and the call for the militia was occasioned by [Gen. Benedict] Arnold's invasion. The company marched down on the south side of James River through Petersburg, and went through the counties of Nansemond, Isle of wight, Southampton and Suffolk. They remained some time at Suffolk. While there the declarant saw the Baron Steuben for the first time. John Archer [possibly W5348] father of the honorable Wm. S Archer [US Senator 1841-1847], was with him and was (he believes his aide). While at Hoods in the county of [blank] the company was surprised in the night by a small party of the enemy [Hood's Landing on James River in Prince George County, 19 Jan 1781]. Captain Mayo tried in vain to make the militia fight. They ran off and left him. They were so superior in numbers to the enemy that they could easily have captured the whole had they shown a little resolution. While at Jericho in the county of Nansemond [now Suffolk City] he went one night to Hall's mill with a detachment the object of which he understood, at the time was as follows: A detachment of horse was sent forward to skirmish with the piquets of the enemy in Norfolk. They were ordered to retreat in haste and draw the enemy on to Hall's mill dam. They were there to wheel, and attack the front, while the militia took them in flank and rear. It was hoped they might easily be taken. The militia passed the night under arms. It was a dreadful night, thundering and lightening through in the depth of winter, once clearing off so piercingly cold, that the ponds were covered with ice before morning. The enemy did not follow. The militia suffered dreadfully, having to wade through thin ice all the way back home. All of them were knocked up and declarant determined if called to serve again he would go in the troop [i.e. cavalry]. Captain Mayo was taken sick and returned home, leaving the company under the

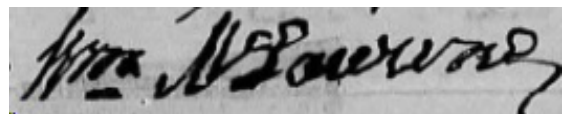
command of Lieutenant Hubbard [Thomas Hubbard S17227]. This tour lasted about eight weeks. the infantry was always in motion and did much night duty. The company was discharged very low down in the state, he does not recollect the county. They took up a party of five or six British soldiers, plunderers, loaded with jewelry and other articles and sent them to the main body at Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County]. In company with Seth Ligon, of the same county with himself, he met horses that had been sent for them at Bland's ordinary. The militia received no written discharge.

The third tour of service he performed was as a volunteer private in a corps of Cavalry of which Littleberry Mosby [BLWt64-300] was Captain and, and, he thinks, [blank] lieutenant. This was in March 1781, on the occasion of Phillips' invasion [Gen. William Phillips, beginning 20 Mar 1781]. The troops marched from Powhatan to Petersburg and acted for some time in the neighborhood. It was much cut up in detachments so much so, that, the declarant was for days under the command of a noncommissioned officer. On the day that Phillip entered Petersburg [9 May 1781], the declarant had been sent to escort a person believed to be an aid of the Baron Steuben to Cannon's in Chesterfield. On returning he witnessed the action of Petersburg [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781] from Baker's Mill, but it was over too soon for him to take part in it. He saw the enemy march through Blandford to attack the Americans. The Americans retreated on the road to Chesterfield Court House. He slept that night in a lane in advance of the main body. They arrived next day at the court House, and converted that building into a hospital for the wounded. The army retired shortly after to the coal-pits [at Midlothian] about twelve miles above Manchester, where the declarant received permission to go home for a fresh horse, the one he rode being knocked up by hard service. He staid only one day at home, and found on returning that the army had crossed to the north side of James River. He found one Tapley a non-commissioned officer on the south side who detained him to act with a small command to protect the country (he thinks) from stragglers. They afterwards went by Osbornes [several miles east of Chester], and crossed the River at Four mile Creek [in Henrico County] joining the company at the Malvern Hills. By this time LaFayette had the command. During this whole time of his stay at the Malvern hills he was engaged in reconnoitering at night. At one time he approached so near the British vessels, lying at City point [in Hopewell], we being at Shirley, that, he could hear their conversation. On another occasion he escorted an aide (he believes) of La Fayette, across Randolphs ferry. He supposes he was on a reconnoitering expedition, for immediately after la Fayette crossed the River at Peyton Randolph's place (Wilton [now in Richmond]) marched in sight of Petersburg, and cannonaded Phillips who was lying sick in Mrs. Bollings house on the Petersburg side. They recrossed the River at Westover, and returned to Wilton. Thence to Richmond where the troops were discharged. No written discharges were given. This tour occupied about three months.

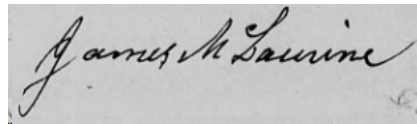
The declarant has been informed that Governor Jefferson wrote to General (at that time Captain) Mosby a letter highly complimentary upon the promptitude and services of his command, which letter was read when he was appointed a general by the legislature of the state in the 1803. the Field officer who commanded on this occasion was Colonel Richard Call of the Continental line [sic: Major Richard Call VAS2165 of the 1st Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons].

The fourth tour which he performed was as a private in a militia company Wm. Poore [William Poor] captain. The duty guarding some prisoners mostly seamen. The place was Powhatan C. House. He was engaged in this service about three weeks. This tour took place in the winter of the year [blank] the guards received no written discharge.

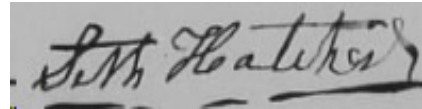
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

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

I James McLaurine [R6780] of the county of Cumberland and state of Virginia do hereby certify, that my brother William McLaurine and I were living with our mother in Powhatan county at the time of Phillips invasion, that we joined a corps of Cavalry, commanded, according to the best of my recollection and belief, by Littleberry Mosby of the County of Powhatan, that we marched from Powhatan with the troops to meet the enemy then in the vicinity of Petersburg, that the neighborhood in which we lived being in great alarm, I in company with, captain Poore, Major Hubbard, James Taylor and one other whose name I cannot recollect, went down to the neighborhood of Petersburg to collect news and were all taken prisoners immediately after the death of Phillips [from typhoid on 13 May 1781 at Bollingbrook, home of Mary B. Bolling], whose coffin we saw, and of course saw no more of my brother, but I have no doubt, and have always heard that he served as he states. I further certify that I have always understood that he served several other tours in the militia, but who his officers were I do not know.
Given under my hand in Powhatan this ninth day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty three.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James McLaurine". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

I Seth Hatcher [S5479] of the county of Powhatan and state of Virginia, aged eighty three, being a revolutionary pensioner do hereby certify, that, I served one tour along with William McLaurine of the same county and state though he was in a different company; that, that tour was performed on the south side of James River, in the course of which I stood guard one night at Jericho in the county of [blank] with him and know that he did duty as a soldier in that tour. I do not recollect the precise year, but the season was the winter
Given under my hand this 14th June 1843.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seth Hatcher". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Certified by Wm Ligon, Justice of the Peace]