

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bryan McCullen S9018

f29NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

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State of North Carolina Sampson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1833

On this the 21st day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Justices now sitting & holding the Court aforesaid viz. William J. Stevens, James Bennett, Henry Godwin, & R. Coon [could be "Coor"] Esquires Bryan McCullen a resident of Sampson County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-eight years, the 22nd day December 1833 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, & served as herein stated.

1. Under General Richard Caswell Senior Col. William McKinney [William McKinnie] Capt. Joseph Sessions, Stephen Pipkin Lieut., Thomas Bizzle Ensign and served one month as a private, that he entered this service the 13th of March 1776 and was discharged the 13th of April 1776 that he was a volunteer; that when he entered this service he resided in Dobbs (now Wayne) County NC; that he was in no battle; that he was marched from Kingston [sic, Kinston] where he rendezvoused to Wilmington to prevent the enemy whom it was said were on board a ship of war in Cape Fear River below Wilmington from coming up and landing, where he remained till he was discharged; that he has no documentary evidence but can prove this service by James Daniel¹ of Wayne County.

2nd Under Capt. John Grantham, Joseph Grantham Lieut. in a company of cavalry and served 3 months as a private; that he entered this service in the fall of the year he thinks in November and believes it was in the year 1778; that this was an expedition against the Tories in Dobbs County; that he was a volunteer, that when he entered this service he resided in Dobbs now Wayne County NC; that he was in a skirmish with the Tories in Wayne County on Sleepy Creek where Capt. Grantham was wounded and David Jernigan also and his horse killed and one of the Tories viz. Absalom Davis was taken prisoner and afterwards killed; that just before this skirmish with the Tories his company joined the Duplin cavalry that his marches were confined to Dobbs County NC; that he has no documentary evidence but can prove that he was in this service by the aforesaid James Daniel of Wayne County whose affidavit is hereunto appended.

3. Under the command of Capt. Michael King, William Darden Lieut. in a company of cavalry in the fall of 1779 as he believes and served 10 weeks as a volunteer and private soldier,

¹ [James McDaniel \(Daniel\) S9432](#)

that he was in no battle; that he was employed in collecting and driving beef cattle to General Greene's Army in the vicinity of Salisbury; that he engaged for 3 months, but after having served 10 weeks, his wife being in a state of pregnancy, he employed James Daniel now of Wayne County NC to perform the residue of his term viz. 3 weeks; that he served with no Continental troops or regiments in any part of his service; that the regular officers he knew were Benjamin Harrison who was a Capt., Col. William Caswell and Curtis Ivey; the militia regiments he recollects were Col. McKinney's & Col. Abram Shepherd's & that he has no documentary evidence and thinks he can prove this service by James Daniel aforesaid of Wayne County NC, or that he was in this service. Answers of Bryan McCullen the aforesaid applicant to the questions propounded to him by the court aforesaid

1. I was born in Dobbs now Wayne County NC 22nd of December 1755
2. I have a record of my age on a piece of paper at home kept by my father
3. When called into service I was living in Dobbs now Wayne County NC Since the Revolutionary war I've lived in Wayne, Cumberland and Sampson counties NC and now live in Sampson County NC.
4. I was always a volunteer
5. There were no regular officers with the troops where I served. I was then 12 miles of General Greene's Army but I saw no Continental troops and for further information to this question I beg leave to refer to my declaration.
6. I never received any written discharge
7. Hinton J. Craddock, Edward Vann, Everett Bass, Richard Wolf, James Daniel, Charles Stevens &c.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Test:

S/ Thomas J. Faison, Clk.

S/ Bryan McCullen, X his mark

On this the 21st day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Justices of the Court aforesaid James Daniel a resident of Wayne County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-eight years the 19th of April 1833, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that he is well acquainted with Bryan McCullen the aforesaid applicant, that he knew him before and during the revolutionary war and served with him in that war –

1st A one month tour of duty in an expedition to Wilmington to prevent the enemy from landing from their ship of war & marching up to Wilmington in March & April 1776 under General Richard Caswell, Col. William McKinney Capt. Joseph Sessions, Stephen Pipkin Lieut. & Thomas Bizzle Ensign, that they rendezvoused at Kingston and marched to Wilmington where they remained till discharged.

2ndly This deponent did not serve with said applicant in the cavalry under Capt. Grantham but this deponent saw said applicant when he entered said service, when he returned home from said service and on 2 or 3 occasions while he was in that tour of service, that he thinks it was in the fall of the year 1778; that he, said applicant volunteered for 3 months, that said Grantham's company were in pursuit of Tories in Wayne County.

3rdly That while he was in service that is while said applicant Bryan McCullen was in the

cavalry service under Capt. Michael King, said applicant employed this deponent to serve the residue of his term of 3 months which said applicant had volunteered to serve which residue was 3 weeks as said applicant's wife was indisposed and in a state of pregnancy; that this deponent said said applicant in service under Capt. Michael King he thinks in the year 1779 & in the fall previous to his serving as a substitute for him and that said applicant was employed in collecting & driving cattle.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Test:

S/ James Daniel, X his mark

S/ Thomas J. Faison, Clerk

[Richard Wolf & James Daniel gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Sampson County

On this 20th day of March 1834 personally appeared before us James Bennett & John King two of the acting Justices of the peace & Justices of the Court of pleas & quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid Bryan McCullen of the State & County aforesaid aged about 78 years of age 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 entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers & served as herein Stated -- that the first day of March 1776 he turned out a volunteer under the command of Capt. Joseph Sessoms & Stephen Pipkin Lieut. in Wayne County (at that time called Dobbs County) for a tour of 3 months. On the 15th day of the same month they rendezvoused at Kinston in what is now called Lenoir County & there placed under the command of General Caswell, William McKinney Col. Benjamin Axum Lt. Col. from Kinston they were marched to the Town of Wilmington in the State aforesaid & from thence to a place called the Cool Spring about a mile below said town & there encamped until their time was expired & were discharged -- he then returned to Dobbs County -- then about 2 years afterwards he volunteered for another term of 3 months under the command of Michael King Capt. & William Darden Lieut. they rendezvoused at Duplin Old Court House from thence they went South & crossed the Cape Fear River at Waddil's [Waddell's?] ferry in pursuit of Tories. From thence to Ash pole in Robeson County from thence across Drowning Creek at Coles Bridge in Richmond County, from thence to the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin [River] & from thence to the town of Salisbury & from Salisbury they returned through the Counties of Montgomery & Moore & crossed the Cape Fear River at Smith's ferry & from thence to Duplin Old Court House where their time expired & were discharged by Col. Kenan -- that 2 or 3 years afterwards he believes in the year 1781 he volunteered for a third term of 3 months under the command of John Grantham Capt. & Thomas Grantham Lieut. & placed under the Command of Col. McKinnie, who engaged the Regiment searching for & fighting Tories, they had a hard skirmish with the Tories on Sleepy Creek Dobbs County -- with several was wounded & among the rest Capt. Grantham -- while on this tour we received the news of the Defeat & Capture of Cornwallis at Little York, & shortly afterwards our time expired & were discharged by Col. McKinnie.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State war, (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of NC.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before us

S/ James Bennett, JP

S/ Bryan McCullen, X his mark

S/ Jno. King, JP

Questions propounded by the Justices of the peace & The justices of the Court of pleas & quarter Sessions for Sampson County North Carolina

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Wayne County then called Dobbs on the 22nd December 1755

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

Answer. I have it recorded on a slip of paper which I keep in my pocket book

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. When I was called into service I lived in Dobbs County from thence I moved to Sampson County & stayed 2 years from thence I moved to Cumberland County & state 7 years & from thence I moved back to Sampson County where I have lived & have been living for at least 13 or 14 years

Question 4th 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 volunteered each time

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I have no recollection of any regular officers, except Capt. William Caswell a son of Gen. Caswell, whose company of regulars marched with us to the Town of Wilmington. I know of nothing nuclear more than I have detailed at length in my declaration. I never was in any Battle but one with the Tories at Sleepy Creek

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer, I never received any other discharge than verbal ones -- the custom was when our time expired our officers would tell us so, & say we might go home.

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer, I believe I can called on any of my neighbors can testify as to my character & I believe that James Daniel Served with one tour when I crossed the Cape Fear & went to Salisbury & I believe that Arthur Dobbs Young² served with me 3 months at the Cool Spring below the town of Wilmington as to my last term I do not recollect of any person that was with me in that service unless Thomas Sutton Senior was

Certificate of James Daniel

I James Daniel residing in the County of Wayne do hereby certify that I have known the applicant Bryan McCullen ever since we were children together & believe him to be of the age he represents & I do further certify that he served 3 months in the revolutionary war under the command of Michael King Capt. & William Darden Lieut. I also certify that he volunteered under Capt. Grantham as by him stated but I know nothing of his Services for I was not with them that tour -- & further certify him the said applicant to be a man of truth & veracity.

Sworn to before us the day and year first above written

S/ James Bennett, JP

² [Arthur Dobbs Young S7994](#)

S/ Jno King, JP

S/ James Daniel

Certificate of Arthur Dobbs Young

I Arthur Dobbs Young residing in the County of Sampson do hereby certify that I have known and been well acquainted with the applicant Bryan McCullen ever since the spring of the year 1776 when they both volunteered together under the command of Capt. Sessoms to go & guard the Town of Wilmington for 3 months which they did & were discharged at the Cool Spring below said Town -- he further declares that he believes him to be of the age he represents & he further certifies that in his long acquaintance with the applicant he found him an honest man & a man of veracity & that he fully believes that he served in the revolutionary Army as by him stated.

Sworn to before us

S/ Jno King, JP

S/ Arthur Dobbs Young, X his mark

S/ James Bennett, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for nine months in the North Carolina militia.]