

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McKenzie W1049

Martha McKenzie

f110NC/SC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/18/09: rev'd 2/8/16

[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 11]

State of Tennessee Carroll County: Declaration of John McKenzie in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, on this day appeared in open Court Col. John McKenzie, a resident of the County of Carroll & State of Tennessee who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following Declaration.

This Declarant states that in the year 1776 -- in the County of Halifax and State of Virginia Declarant and between fifteen & twenty other young men the exact number not now recollected, agreed to volunteer and join the United States troops then employed in the service of the United States -- Declarant states that by this Company he was Elected their Capt. -- and took up the line of march and went to Portsmouth at which place there was then Stationed a number of Regiments this Declarant and his young Company was attached to the 5th Regiment then commanded by Major Parker the Col. not recollected and mustered in the Company of Capt. Talbott. This Declarant does not now fully recollect the whole of the officers in command there at that time -- but recollects that the 6th Regiment was commanded by Col. Buckner [Mordecai Buckner] and the whole Brigade commanded by General Lewis [Andrew Lewis], as my company was not large enough in number to be kept as a separate company they were principally attached to the Company of Capt. Talbott and the General appointed this Declarant Issuing Commissary to the Company and some time thereafter the Army to which Declarant was attached was ordered to march from Portsmouth and did so they marched to Springfield from thence to the deep Spring from thence to Point Comfort -- & from thence to Williamsburg -- at this latter place Declarant became sick after serving a tour of twelve months from this point Declarant Returned home & in the year 1777 as well as Declarant can now recollects he went into the State of South Carolina -- and after being there some short time living and superintending the Iron Works of Hill and Hayne he was in that year again Elected Capt. of a volunteer Company in which capacity he served 2 years more -- there company was commanded by Col. Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] whom this Declarant voted for for that office -- Col. Sumter gave this Declarant a commission Wrote and signed by said Col. at this period General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- commanded the southern Division but during the Service of this Declarant in the Command aforesaid Col. Sumter was elected or promoted to the command and title of General Sumter and with him and under his command Declarant in company of five or six Regiments marched to Rocky Mount when the British and Tories had a strong post or fortified Fort this place was attacked [July 30, 1780] by the then command of

General Sumter but without Effect as the American troops were repulsed¹ -- in this attack Col. Neal [Andrew Neel] and many other Brave men lost their lives after this Repulse the Army crossed the Catawba for the purpose of recruiting -- after 3 or 4 days rest the line of march was taken up for the purpose of forming a Junction with General Gates [Horatio Gates] and joining his Army. This was in the summer of 1780 but before we Reached him he and his Troops were defeated at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]² by the British forces under the Command of Lord Cornwallis -- in 2 or 3 days we were met by the British under the command of Col. Talton (sic, Banastre Tarleton) an Engagement took place which Resulted in the defeat³ of the American troops the American Troops then recrossed the Catawba re-County Retreating [?]⁴ & recruited some forces and returned to the South in marching where to they had many Engagements and skirmishes one at the Hanging Rock⁵ one at Ridgely's Mills [sic, Rugeley's mill] at the latter place the American troops were successful and took many Prisoners⁶ & in all which Tour and service this Declarant acted in the capacity of Capt. -- at these Mills Declarant fell in company and got acquainted with Col. William Washington and other officers of the Continental Army -- after this Engagement Declarant with his Company was ordered by General Sumter to go and guard the Iron works of Hill & Hayne at which place there was a large quantity of cannon shot and other articles necessary and intended for the American Army. While at this Station Declarant was attacked by a Regiment of the British and Tories commanded by Col. Gordon and Capt. Hook [sic, Christian Huck]⁷ & who after all the Resistance that could be made Defeated Declarant & his Company and destroyed the works -- Declarant marched immediately and joined General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina -- Declarant acted under the command of General Davidson as Contractor for Salisbury District and with an express agreement that Declarant was to act as Capt. in any Engagement which the forces under General Davidson might have with the Enemy in a short time after this appointment the forces under General Davidson's command met the British forces under Lord Cornwallis at Beatties Ford⁸ on the Catawba River at which place an Engagement took place which Resulted in the Defeat of the American Army and the loss of our General who fell in the Engagement in this Engagement Declarant as Capt. of a company -- after the fall of General Davidson the command devolved upon General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] who

¹ The Battle of Rocky Mount occurred on July 30, 1780, between forces commanded by Sumter and forces commanded by Lt. Col. Turnbull. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rockymt.htm>. See also http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

² Gates defeat at Camden occurred on August 15-16, 1780

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

³ Skirmish at Fishing Creek occurred on August 18, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fishingcreek.htm>

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

Retreating
4

⁵ Skirmish at Hanging Rock occurred on August 6, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hangingrk.htm>

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

⁶ Applicant appears to be referring to the surrender of Rugeley's Fort on December 4, 1780.

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rugeley.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html

⁷ Hill's Iron Works were destroyed by Christian Huck on June 18, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hillsironworks.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hills_iron_works.html

⁸ Sic, General William Lee Davidson was killed at the engagement at Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781.

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

retreated with the Army to widow Torrence's⁹ 7 miles from the battleground we were pursued by Col. Tarleton and overtaken when another Engagement took place where we were again compelled to Retreat and give way to Superior Discipline and force here we lost about 100 of our men in killed wounded & prisoners -- we then marched and joined the Army under General Nathaniel Greene at Dan River this was some time in the beginning of the year 1781 Declarant continued under the Command of General Greene from that time until the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]¹⁰ -- at this Battle this Declarant acted as one of the aides of General Greene in consequence of some Indisposition of one the General's aides who was unable to act for him on that day this Battle was fought in the month of March 1781 as well as Declarant now recollects -- from this Battleground the Army under the command of General Greene retreated for some miles and again drew up in order to give battle to the British who it was expected were in pursuit of us -- but we soon had information that the British Army were on their retreat from the Battle ground -- the Army of General Greene not then being in a situation to pursue the British as we were then Exhausted and out of Military Stores Declarant at that time was known in the American Army by the name of the Big Virginia Captain. -- General Greene than and as soon as it was ascertained that the British were retreating sent for Declarant and gave him the command of five volunteer Militia Companies who volunteered their services with Instruction to this Declarant to keep the British forces under the Command of the Lord Rawdon at Camden in check or to annoy their march until the whole American Army could be got in good order to overtake them or join the companies thus [1 or 2 indecipherable words] Declarant went with his Companies thus [one or 2 indecipherable words] but when the Declarant and his troops arrived at the State line his men Refused to go any further here his pursuit ceased -- at the time this Declarant parted with General Greene, General Greene and his forces with the Exception of those sent with Declarant were on their line of march after Lord Cornwallis & his troops. When Declarant ascertained that the Militia under his command refused to cross their State line he relinquished the Command and immediately went to see his old friend and acquaintance General Sumter who at that time was confined in Charlotte by a wound which he had received in the shoulder some short time before¹¹ -- General Sumter gave Declarant on his arrival a Capt.'s commission in the State troops of Light dragoons of South Carolina -- Declarant immediately set out and in about ten days Enlisted one hundred men for ten months and immediately joined the Main Army under the command of General Sumter then on the Congaree Declarant attached his Company to the Regiment then Commanded by Col. William Hill the Regiment to which this Declarant was attached marched in company with the Regiments commanded by Colonels Lea [Lee] & Washington against the British post at New market and had an engagement with them and defeated them. We also had an Engagement at Camden also at Orangeburg and other places and took large quantities of Stores and Munitions of War which was deposited at Camden under the care of Capt. Godfrey Adams -- in some short time after this Declarant was ordered by General Sumter to take command of the Stores at Camden at which place Declarant continued until the Stores were dispersed off when Declarant returned to Camps -- again at this time on account of the number of men killed and many whose terms of service had expired -- what was then called a consolidation took place amongst the officers of the Army. I had then in the Army in which I was in service a

⁹ February 1, 1781. <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=M-5%20-%20TORRENCE%27S%20TAVERN> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

¹⁰ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

¹¹ Thomas Sumter was wounded at the Battle of Blackstocks on November 20, 1780. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

Brother older than myself holding also the Command of Capt. then known in Army by the name of Capt. William McKenzie. Declarant saw that both himself and Brother should not have commands as there were many valiant and Brave man Equally Entitled Compelled by this motive Deponent allowed his older Brother the Command but Declarant at this time being Desirous to promote his Country's cause and having been long in the habit of Commanding Companies and Detachments of men Declarant thought he could in that Situation render most benefit his cause [?] in company with Capt. Robert Tate and some other officers set out with the Army of General Sumter and again joined the Army under General Greene at Jacksonborough and joined a Regiment commanded by Col. de Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] in which Service Declarant continued until the Army of General Greene was disbanded or discharged in the year 1782 -- as well as this Declarant now recollects. Thus Declarant states that from the beginning of the year 1776 until the Disbanding of the Army of the South to which he was attached in the year 1782 the whole of this Period with the Exception of about one year and a half was by this Declarant spent in the Plains and tented fields with his Brothers in Arms defending his Country's wrongs. Deponent states that for about the space of five years he spent in the Service of his Country he never was lower in command than as a Capt. and when he acted in higher it was only for temporary or urgent Purposes -- this Declarant states that during the whole of his Services he acted for his Country as a volunteer in her Service.

Interrogatories put by the Court to the Declarant

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the State of Virginia in Albemarle County in the year 1757 on the 17th day of September

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

I have had a book in which my age was written for the purpose of preserving the same but it was burnt by accident many years ago

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

Answer -- in 1776 when the cause of my Country required my Services I lived in Halifax County in the State of Virginia from which place I volunteered -- after the Army was discharged I settled in the State of Georgia and continued to live there until 1816 or 1817 -- at which time I removed to Murray County Tennessee where I continued to live with my family until 1828 when I moved into the County of Carroll and State of Tennessee where I now live.

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

Ansr: I volunteered and at no period during the War did I wait either for a call or draft unattended and rendered by services then as now leaving my life could not be spent in a better cause.

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 was acquainted with Generals Marion [Francis Marion] -- Pickens Col. de Malmedy -- I was well acquainted with General Greene commander of the regular forces -- I was also well acquainted with General Sumter I was also well acquainted with Col. William Washington commander of the horse -- and with all the foregoing officers I have at different times served during the Southern Campaign -- and as to the general circumstances of my service that is answered in my declaration -- except for services rendered from 1790 up to 1795 for

upwards of 3 years of this time I was employed in building the forts & defending the country against the incursions & warfare of the Creek Indians at the United States Fort Rocklanding [?] Two Sisters a Fort built by myself and men then under my command the Rocklanding Fort was then 1791 commanded by Col. Gaither in the year 1792 I was with Col. Gaither put in command of the Rocklanding Fort against the Creek Indians in the service and building the forts & other service I lost from the year 1791 until 1795 making the [part of the text missing by tear in paper] 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: we had agreed to meet at New market in the State of South Carolina and at the time appointed I was the oldest officer belonging to the Regiment of Col. Hill to which I was then attached -- on that account this declarant got no discharge -- nor did declarant then [sentence ends here]

7th Did you ever receive a Commission and if so what has become of it?

Answer I received two Commissions one from General Sumter the command of Capt. of a volunteer Company in the year 1778 or 1779 -- this commission I lost. The other I received in the year 1781 -- and is herewith transmitted marked D -- this is all the documentary Evidence of Service which I now have of my Service in the Revolutionary War But I herewith produce the deposition of 4 honorable and respectable men each of home are personally known to this court to wit the deposition of Col. Edward Gwin¹² taken before Samuel Ingram Esquire the chairman of this Court on the 16th day of September 1831 --

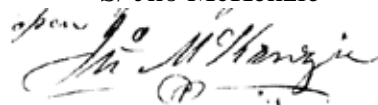
The Deposition of James Greer¹³ taken before W.W. Foreman Esquire of Carroll County on this 16th day of September 1832 -- The deposition of James Fergus¹⁴ taken in open Court September 13, 1832 --

The deposition of Capt. Benjamin Gilbert¹⁵ taken before Edward W. Gee one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for this County bearing date 12th of January 1832 -- the foregoing named gentlemen Declarant met at different places during his tour in the Southern Army of the Revolution -- and as there standing and character is known to this Court and the Citizens generally it is hoped the Court will certify their opinion of them

Declarant 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 any State or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court

S/ Jno McKenzie

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John McKenzie". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[Robert Baker, a clergyman, Edmond W. Gee and Edward Gwin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 36 appears to be the commission referred to in applicant's declaration. Signed by John Rutledge, Gov. of SC—document is largely illegible.]

[p 39]

¹² [Edward Gwin R4401](#)

¹³ [James Greer R4277](#)

¹⁴ [James Fergus W25573](#)

¹⁵ [Benjamin Gilbert R4013](#)

State of Tennessee Carroll County

Personally appeared before me William W. Foreman one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the said County James Greer and being sworn as the law directs deposeth and saith that he was acquainted with Col. John McKenzie and that said Mackenzie did serve in the Revolutionary War, in the State of South Carolina in Orangeburg and Charleston.

Sworn to and subscribed before made the September 13th, 1832.

S/ W. W. Foreman, JP

S/ James Greer



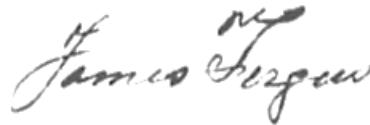
[p 40]

State of Tennessee Carroll County

This day appeared in open Court James Fergus and made oath in due form of law and saith That during this same time in the year 1779& 1780 this affiant personally knew Col. McKenzie to have been engaged in the Revolutionary War in defense of his Country as an officer affiant is now about 76 years of age and knew Col. McKenzie when in the service in South Carolina. Sworn to and open Court September 13th, 1832

S/ Edward Gwin, Clerk

S/ James Fergus



[p 57]

State of Tennessee Carroll County

This day appeared before Samuel Ingram one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Carroll Col. Edward Guin [sic] Senior and made oath in due form of law and saith that he is well acquainted with Col. John McKenzie [sic] a citizen of the County of Carroll and State aforesaid that he knows of his own knowledge that the said John McKenzie served under General Greene in the Southern Army of the United States in the Revolutionary War this affiant states that he knew the said John McKenzie to have acted as one of the aides of General Greene at the Battle of Guilford and also knows of his own knowledge that the said John McKenzie was detailed as an officer by General Greene to attend to command and fight the Enemy of the Country at other posts. Sworn to and subscribed this 16th day of September 1831.

S/ Saml Ingram, JP

S/ E. Gwin, JP



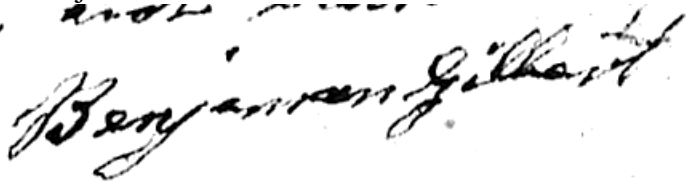
[p 87]

State [of] Tennessee Carroll County 12th of January 1832

Personally came Capt. Benjamin Gilbert of Weakley County and State aforesaid & being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he this deponent was at a General muster in Cammell County [sic, Campbell County] in the State of Virginia some time in the old Revolutionary War and then and there saw Col. John McKenzie whom I had no acquaintance with nor had ever seen him before I understood he was a Recruiting officer from

the South and on the Recruiting Service and appeared very [indecipherable word]¹⁶ on that Subject and was dressed in a Military uniform and wore a sword I recollect and heard the title of Capt. there he met with some gentlemen of his acquaintance that was from Portsmouth or some place in that Quarter where our Army lay and they appeared to meet with great satisfaction and had formerly been in the Army together and report said that McKenzie been in the service of his country most all the Revolutionary War I heard my brother Capt. Michael Gilbert say after the Battle at Guilford that he saw Capt. McKenzie in that Battle And that he had got badly [word obliterated by an ink blot but probably "wounded"] there in the battle and lost his Negro boy and portmanteau and all his clothes & horse worth thousand dollars he said then I recollect when the war was over this Deponent removed to the State of Georgia and resided in the same County where Col. McKenzie lived who was a member to the General Assembly and acted in the Commission of the peace and as Col. of a Regiment of Militia and then a judge of a County Court and a man of worth and of good property and of late it is said by his being security he has got nearly broke But the great length of time and not ever expecting to be called on in a case where I am in no wise interested has obliterated from my recollection a number [of] circumstances that might be more permanent [pertinent?] to the case. And this Deponent further saith not. Sworn to before me the day and date above.

S/ Benjamin Gilbert



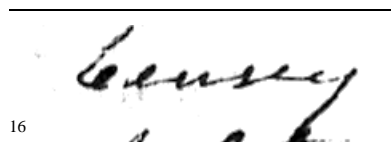
S/ Edmund W. Gee, JP

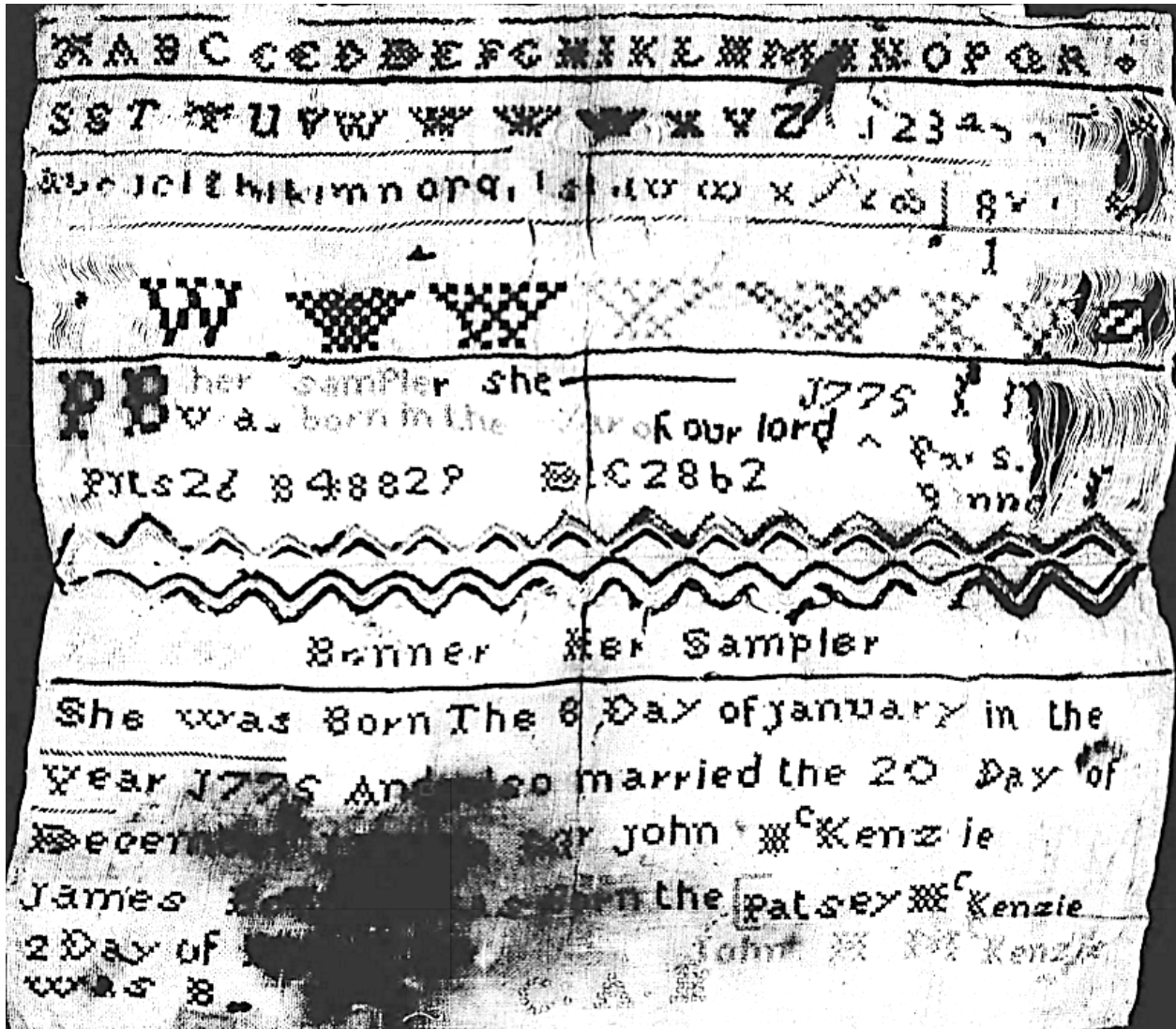
[p 90: On October 3, 1843 in Carroll County Tennessee, Martha McKenzie, 68, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John McKenzie, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$480 per annum for his service in the revolutionary war; that she married him December 20, 1792; that her husband died November 5, 1842; that she remains his widow; that they were married in Georgia by one Hunter an acting JP; that she knows of only one person, Emilly Gilbert who was present at her wedding; that the family record containing the date of her marriage in the births of her children was destroyed by fire; that the only record she has of her marriage is reflected in a sampler she made in the same year of her marriage.



[p 20]

[This is a digital image of a hand sewn sampler which the veteran's widow submitted to prove her marriage to him.]





[p 62 is an affidavit given in Gibson County, Tenn, on October 23, 1846, by Jeremiah H. McKenzie, 53, in support of his mother's claim in which he offers the sampler shown on fn p.20 as proof of the date of the marriage of his parents.

Jeremiah H. McKenzie

[p 9: On October 26, 1846 in DeSoto County Mississippi, the widow filed an affidavit in which she states she is on a visit with one of her daughters (not named); that she, the widow, was 71 years old January 8, 1845; that she married her husband in Washington County Georgia, December 20, 1792; that her husband died in Carroll County Tennessee November 5, 1842; that he was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum; that he drew his pension in Jackson, Tennessee; that she can prove her marriage by a sampler she made which reads in letters and figures as follows: "Patsey Bonner was born the 8 day of January 1775 and also married the 20 day of December 1792 to Mr. John McKenzie" (to the best of her recollection); that she made the entry

on the sampler a few weeks after she was married; that she started to enter the birth date of her brother James Bonner but did not finish it; that the sampler has a full alphabet worked on it both in large and small letters; that her husband kept a family record showing the date of her marriage in the birth of their children but it was accidentally burnt some 20 years ago; that her firstborn child was Jeremiah H McKenzie born November 6, 1793.

Martha McKenzie
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[p 69 is an affidavit given in Carroll County, Tenn., on November 28th? 1846 by James M. McKenzie youngest son of his parents in support of his mother's claim in which he states his mother is now on a visit to "her Daughters in Distoto [sic, Desoto] County Mississippi"

James M. McKenzie
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[Facts in file: Veteran died November 5, 1842; married Martha (Patsey) Bonner December 20, 1792 in Washington County, Ga.; she was born January 8, 1775; her application executed October 3, 1843 while living in Carroll County, Tenn; they had two sons alive in 1843, Jeremiah H. born November 6, 1793 and Alexander A., 44.]

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum. He was subsequently pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending when he died November 5, 1842. His pension was based on his having served as a Captain of Cavalry in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]