

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of David McNeely (McNeeley) W1051

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Alabama

In the Circuit Court of Madison County held at Huntsville on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in October 1832 His Honor William I Adair presiding — Then personally appeared in open Court David McNeely resident of said County aged Seventy four 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 June the 7th 1832, That he was born on the 15th Octr 1758 in the State of Virginia in County of Augusta that at about the age of Eighteen years affiant enlisted in the united states service under George Matthews Captain and Samuel Bell Lieutenant This affiant believes it was the 14th Regement to which he was attached the line not recollected Some considerable time elapsed after the inlistment of affiant before they joined Head quarters, but when they did join affiant was put under the command of Col [Daniel] Morgan. Some time after affiant was placed under Col Morgan they went into winter quarters on Whitley Creek, in Pennsylvania, the first important action in which affiant was engaged was the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] in which he participated, affiant inlisted for three years but was not discharged for four months after the expiration of the three years on account of the new recruits not coming in. Affiant lay eighteen months in the Hospital near Brandywine on account of an attack of Rheumatism occasioned by exposures. Shortly after his recovery this affiant was Honorably discharged, which discharge amongst other things mentioned that affiant was intitled to two hundred acres of land which he has never obtained. His discharge was signed by Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson and has been lost or mislaid so that affiant is intirely deprived of the benefit of it. Immediately after his discharge from the Regular Service of the United States he returned to his native state In a few months after his return, this affiant volunteered in the militia service to repell the British & tories who had passed successfully through South Carolina North Carolina & had entered virginia. Affiant voluntier under Captain David May & Lieutnat John Mitchell and was joined to the command of Major Thomas Rowland, Cols. W. Campbell & Wm. Preston and others at Staunton River From thence they marched against the British & tories who retreated before them into Guilford County [see endnote] Near which place the army to which affiant was attached united with that of Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] Shortly after the union with Genl Green, affiant was ordered with others to bring on an attack with the British & Tories at Alamance Creek [Skirmish at Clapp's Mill, 2 Mar 1781] The officer who commanded in this engagement was Major Thomas Roulin [sic: Thomas Rowland, actually under Lt. Col. Henry Lee] The Americans in this attack were unsuccessful & had to retreat with the loss of seventy or 80 lives. four days after this a part of Genl. Greens Army Commanded by Cols. [William] Campbell & [William] Preston [under Col. Otho Holland Williams] and others had a sharp engagement with the British & Tories on the Reedy fork of Haw river [Skirmish at Wetzel's Mill, 6 Mar] in which the British & tories were again successful. In a few days after this affair these skirmishing parties in all of which this affiant bore his part were again united to the main Army under Genl Green [see endnote] when the ever memorable Battle of Guilford was fought in which this affiant bore his full share. affiant further states that shortly after this last named battle Lieutenant Mitchell left the Company & went home and one Wallace Estell [sic: Wallis Estill, pension application S1759] succeeded him. After the Battle of Guilford, Genl. Greens Army meandered[?] about through parts of North Carolina & Virginia manoevering with the British & Tories to Richmond [sic: see endnote], from thence to Hotwater [Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, site of a battle on 26 June], from thence to James Town, and from thence to Yourk where the Siege commenced [28 Sep], in all the labors & duties of which this affiant was engaged. after the Surrender of the British at York [19 Oct] affiant aided in guarding the prisoners to Winchester at which place he was discharged & served as a militia volunteer about nine months Affiants discharge as a Volunteer Militia is herewith filed marked A [not found] as well also as the affidavit of Wallis Estell marked B both of which are prayed to be made a part of this declaration

NC. After chasing the Americans across the Dan River in Pittsylvania VA on 14 Feb 1781, Cornwallis took his troops briefly to Hillsborough to gather provisions and Loyalists. Afterwards Cornwallis pursued Greene hoping to bring on an engagement, which occurred on 15 Mar at Guilford Courthouse.

According to John Tate's pension application (S6191), after the Skirmish at Wetzel's Mill "Captain May and all his officers of his company and all his men, except myself and thirteen others, left the field of Battle and came home."

After the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Greene did not "meander" anywhere and did not return to Virginia at all. He pursued Cornwallis as far as Ramsey's Mill on Deep River, then returned to South Carolina. Few militiamen continued with him, since their normal three-months tours of duty were about to expire.

On 18 Sep 1854 Nancy Barnett, 64, of Madison County TN, applied for a pension jointly with Martha Culver, George McNeely, and William McNeely, children of David and Rebecca McNeely, who were married in Madison County KY on 23 Feb 1789. She stated that her father died in Madison County Alabama on 19 July 1836, and her mother died on 19 Sep 1852. The file contains an original family register of her family which records the deaths of her father and of her mother at age 85 or 86. There is also a record of the marriage of David McNeely to Rebecca Dickey dated 7 May 1789.