

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Mark McPherson W2144 Mary McPherson MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 9 Jan 2015.

State of Kentucky }
Lincoln Circuit } [11 Aug 1818]

Mark McPherson aged 65 formerly a Soldier in the Revolutionary war desirous of obtaining the benefit of the act of the Congress of the United States for the relief of officers and Soldiers of the army of the United States during the revolutionary War States that he Enlisted in port Tobacco in The Month of March in the year 1776 as a private in the company of Captain John Hodskins Stone [sic: John Hoskins Stone] the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Smallwood the Brigade commanded by General McDougal [Alexander McDougall]. that he served one year according to his enlistment as above and at its expiration he again enlisted for three years in the continental line, in the company of Captain Henry Gaither. that he was soon after is Enlistment appointed an orderly seargant in that Company in which character he Served during the said Term the regiment was commanded by colonel Stone. the Brigade was commanded by (not recollected) that the expiration of his second enlistment he obtained a commission as Ensign in the same Regiment and in that character served one year when he obtained a commission as Lieutenant in the third Regiment commanded by Colonel Adams and as such continued to the end of the war that he was in the following Battles on Long Island [27 aug 1776] the white plains [sic: White Plains, 28 Oct 1776] – Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] – Stony Point [16 Jul 1779] – and at the taking of Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. that he had a regular Discharge after his Three years service but by thim and accident he has lost it together with his commissions as Ensign and Lieutenant he states that he is poor and from his age and Infirmaties stands in need of the assistance of his Country.
Mark McPherson

Auditor's Office, Annapolis, April 28th 1819

I hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls remaining in the Auditor's Office, that Mark McPherson enlisted as a Sergeant in the First Maryland Regiment, on the Tenth day of Dec'r. 1776 and was discharged on the 27th dec'r 1779 Thos. Karney/ Aud. S. M.
Was Promoted to Ensign And Then To Leicut.

State of Kentucky 12th Judicial District and Circuit Court for Lincoln County Set

On this 17th day of August A.D. 1820 in open court before the court above mentioned, it being a court of Record by act of assembly, proceeding according to the course of the common Law Mark McPherson aged about sixty seven years personally appeared in court and being first duly sworn according to law declared that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows Viz. that in the month of February or march in the year 1776 he enlisted in the service of the United States for and during the war: that he was at first placed under the command of Capt. John H Stone, but after serving under him about a year, he was permitted to enlist under Capt. Henry Gaither for three years on the Maryland line upon the continental establishment, the Regiment was commanded by Col. Stone and the Brigade by Gen'l. [Mordecai] Gist, that he continued in the service of the United States as a serjeant in the company and Regiment last mentioned untill his term of service expired and was regularly discharged, having been promoted to Ensign and Lieutenant as will more fully appear by the affidavit under which he obtained his certificate for a pension No 10,207 dated the 1st day of May 1819. And I the said Mark McPherson do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust

for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed Viz:

100 acres of land of the poorest kind purchased and paid for worth not more than \$100	\$100.00
50 acres of the same kind and of the same value, the whole price of which he owes	
2 Horses of the value of thirty Dollars and no more	30.00
4 Head of cattle of the value of twenty four Dollars & no more	24.00
10 Head of Hoggs worth not more than	15.00
7 Head of sheep worth not more than	7.00
Household furniture worth not more than fifty Dollars	<u>50.00</u>
	\$226.00

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first mentioned Mark McPherson

And further stated upon oath that he is a tiller of the ground, but is unable to perform much labour owing to his age & infirmities, being afflicted with the rheumatic pains – that his wife Mary is about forty five or six years old scarcely able to maintain herself owing to some bodily infirmities and diseases which she is afflicted with: that he has four children namely Walter about 19 years old, able to maintain himself by his labour, living with his father; Henry aged about nine years living with his father, but unable to maintain himself, being much afflicted with sickness from his infancy and John D McPherson aged seven years living with his father but too young to render his father much service, and Mark aged 5 years living with his father but too young to render his father much service.

And the said Mark McPherson further stated upon his oath by way of addition to the schedule above that he is allowed the half pay of a Lieutenant \$13 $\frac{1}{3}$ per month by the State of Maryland, in consideration of his military services, payable annually; which he is willing to relinquish and does hereby relinquish, upon condition that he is permitted to receive the pension allowed him under the act of Congress beforementioned. sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Mark McPherson

To the Hon. Members of the Senate & House of representatives of the united States of America in Congress assembled

Your Petitioner, Mark McPherson humbly states that he enlisted as a Common Soldier in the revolutionary war, in the State of Maryland under (then Col.) Smallwood, during the war being Limited to the States of virginia Maryland Pennsylvania & Delaware: that in December 1776 your Petitioner re-enlisted for 3 years in the Continental Service, still under (then Gen'l Smallwood, which time your Petitioner served out, at the Expiration of said Term he received an Ensign's Commission from Congress, which Commission your Petitioner accepted & served under that Commission in said Smallwoods Division about 12 months, when he was promoted to be first Lieutenant, in which grade he served untill the End of the war: that during said war your Petitioner fought in the following Battles viz: in the battle on long Iland August 1776 at the white Plains october 1776 in the battle of Brandywine, Sept. 1777 in the battle of Germantown oct. 1777, in the battle of monmouth June 1778, at the Storming of stony point under Gen'l. Athony waine [sic: Anthony Wayne] July 1779, at the Seige of york & the taking of Cornwallis oct. 1781 – your Petitioner, besides the 7 foregoing battles, was in sundry other skirmishes with the Enemy. After the Seige of york he went to the South & served under Gen'l. green [sic: Nathanael Greene] untill the End of the war, and untill the troops were disbanded by Congress in Nov. 1783.

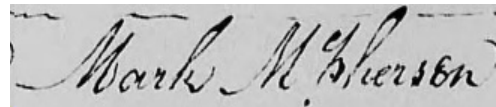
But now, so it is, your Petitioner has arrived at the age of 72 years, & during his whole life has been destitute of such a support as would have rendered his life only in a small degree comfortable, and he is now constrained, contrary to the natural impulse of his feelings to communicate to our Hon'bl Body, that with great difficulty only, he can supply himself & family with decent clothing & the bare Necessaress of life – your Petitioner born unfortunately of poor parents was ushered upon the worlds wide state, like many of his indigent fellow men, without anything to recommend him to nature, Except his integrity & his honer. He went into the service of his Country at an early period of his life, but at the

End of the war, his pay – being in paper was to him of poor comfort indeed: necessity forced him to sell a part of his bounty Land – at a clear loss – the Ballance, proved to be absolutely good for nothing lying in the allegany mountains near the Potomac – unfit for Cultivation,

your Petitioner further states that he did not marry untill he was considerably advanced in life, that consequently, his children, or a part at least, are yet in a helpless situation, and himself situated as He is at present unable to afford them even the chance of a common Education; that he lives on a verry poor, almost unproductive spot of Land – that his Eldest son, hitherto his chief support, has lately married, &, being also poor & needy, is obliged to work for himself – your Petitioner, old and infirm, unable to perform any labor, has still a wife and 3 Children to maintain, his wife being equally sickly & incapable to contribute towards the support of the family – With deep regret your Petitioner is forced to state that he was unfortunately struck from the Pension List by the Secretery of war under a late law of Congress, for no other reason as your Petitioner has Been informed, But Because he was receiving from the State of Maryland a pension of \$160 pr annum This pension has certainly hitherto kept your old & war worn petitioner from actual suffering, but with all the economy he is able to practice, that sum of \$160 falls short of providing himself and helpless family with the mere necessities of life – the highest boon, your petitioner would crave in this world

your Petitioner prays that your Hon`bl Body would take such measures, as would replace him on the pension list, as He stood before the late act, by which list your Petitioner was entitled to \$240 pr annum, – He cannot bring himself to presume that any patriotic member of your Hon`ble Body would deny to an old Revolutionerry Soldier, as your Petitioner, so humble a request – a Benefit so small and for a few years only, which still would sensibly lesson his cares and in some degree sweeten the last hours of his otherwise dolefull existence

your Petitioner refers your Hon`ble Body to a full corroboration of the foregoing facts now deposited in the Secreterrrys office at the City of washington, a statement made out in due form under the late act above Mentioned, all which is Humbly Submitted
February 15th 1826



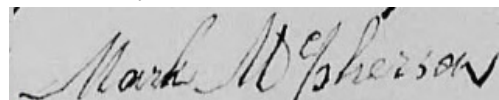
[The petition was endorsed by a large number of McPherson's friends.]

For the purposes of obtaining the Benefit of an act of Congress entitled an act for the relief of Certain surviving officers of the army of the revolution approved on the 15th day May 1828 I Mark McPherson of the County of Lincoln and State of Kentucky do here by declare that I was an officer in the Continental Line of the army of the revolution and served as such to the End of the war at which period I was Lieutenant and adjutant in the first Maryland regiment of the Continental line – Receiving Forty dollars pay pr. Month – Twenty Six and $\frac{2}{3}$ as Leiutenant and Thirteen and $\frac{1}{3}$ additional pay as acting adjutant to the said regement

and I also declare that I afterwards received certificates commonly called commutation certificates for a sum Equal to the amount of five years full pay which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress of the 22^d of March 1783 instead of the half pay for life to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of october 1780

and I do further declare that I Have received of the united states as a pensionner since the 3 day of March 1826 the sum of four hundred and Forty Seven dollars and Thirty Cents paid to me by the agent for paying pensions in the State of Kentucky – Witness my hand this 27th day of June 1828

Sign'd



NOTES:

The file contains a power of attorney to obtain bounty land, dated 19 Oct 1809. On 1 May 1815 William Bruce, former Captain in the 1st Maryland Regiment, certified McPherson's service in support of his application for a pension from Maryland.

Documents in the file state that Mark McPherson received a pension under the act of 18 May 1828. On 7 Sep 1848 Mary McPherson applied for the amount of pension that her husband would have been entitled to under an act of 4 March 1823.

A document in the file states that Mark McPherson left a will with Walter McPherson as executor, which was probated on 5 April 1847.

On 18 April 1850 Mary McPherson, 73, applied for a pension in her own right, stating that as Mary Middleton she was married on 27 Nov 1795 by Benedict Swope, a Baptist minister, to Mark McPherson, who died on 8 Feb 1847. She submitted the family record written by him, which is transcribed below.

The file contains a copy of the marriage bond signed on 25 Nov 1795 in Lincoln County KY by Mark McPherson and Henry Middleton, and also a copy of the marriage record.

Lydia [page torn]pherson was Born Feb'y. 1st 1796

Alexander Mcpherson was Born March 14th 1798 died June 27th 1819

Samuel Mcpherson was Born Jan'y 14th 1800

Walter Mcpherson was Born Ap'l. 6th 1802

William Mcpherson was Born Ap'l. 14th 1807

Henry Mcpherson was born Feb'y 20th 1810

John Bai[page torn]n was Born June 30th 1812

Mark Mcpherson was Born May 9th 1815