

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas McClorken (McClurken) W21792 Elizabeth f93SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 3/10/09: rev'd 9/13/16 & 1/25/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 10]

The State of South Carolina Chester District:

On this Second day of April in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Honorable Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of said District and State, now sitting, Thomas McClurken a resident of Chester District and State of South Carolina, aged Seventy Seven 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served from the year 1775 or 1776 to the year 1782 as herein stated -- "I was a substitute for Abraham Millar in the Snowy Camps in the winter of 1775 - '76¹ under the command of Capt. Alexander Turner a detachment of us was ordered to Reedy River after Capt. Cunningham, afterwards a celebrated and bloody Tory Major -- we discovered his party and fired at them -- they dispersed and we captured twenty-one of his Tory associates marched down to Ninety Six where we had them handcuffed and chained and then took them to Charleston and lodged them in Jail -- we then returned home."

"About the last of November or first of December 1778 I was drafted under Capt. Turner, we were ordered to the low country, and about Moncks Corner, we became attached to General Richardson [Richard Richardson] and after leaving there some time, marched to the quarter house, near Charleston, from thence to Jacksonborough and Pocotaligo to Purrysburg, where we fell in with General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], who commanded the Continental forces, our men were under the immediate command of Major Brown -- we stayed at Purrysburg until our term of service expired and I returned home."

"Sometime in the year 1779, before the fall of Charleston, I was then as a militia man, under Capt. Turner, and done duty three months in his company, I remember Col. Kershaw and General Moultrie [William Moultrie] -- from Charleston I returned home."

"In or about May 1780, Capt. Lacey [Samuel Lacey] raised a volunteer Company of about 100 men -- I volunteered under him we were ordered after a party of Tories supposed to be at Mobley's Meeting house² -- where we found them and killed a number of them, the remainder of their party fled when our company returned home. About the first of March 1781, Lieut. James Kennedy raised a small party of Whigs (I was one of the number) for the purpose of

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mobleys_meetinghouse.html

attacking a company of Tories who were at the Plantation of old James Wylie's³ -- we routed them through the old fields, after a short time they returned and owing to superior numbers, they compelled us to give way, after killing Samuel Wylie the son of old James Wylie -- our company killed a Tory named Fair."

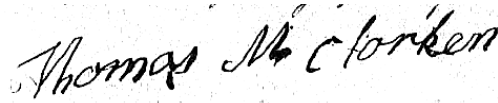
"About the month of April 1781, I was with Capt. Adams in the Indians Land where we remained a short time and was dismissed. In the month of May 1781, Capt. Adams again ordered me out -- our company were directed to procure provisions for General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army -- we did so; and was then ordered to Fort Granby (called the Congaree Fort)⁴ which surrendered to Lieut. Col. Lee -- we were then dismissed.

I was drafted, I believe in the month of February 1782 by Capt. Cooper; Major Wallis [Wallace?] and General Henderson [William Henderson] were our field officers -- we marched to Orangeburg where we were ordered to guard the Jail which contained a large number of Prisoners -- I remained there some time, and returned home -- this was the last of my revolutionary services. I now live in the same neighborhood that I lived in during the Revolutionary War.

Deponent says he has no written discharge; and hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory.

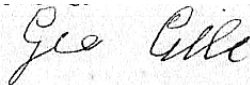
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court
S/ J. Rosborough, CCPs

S/ Thomas McClurken



State of South Carolina Chester District: I George Gill Senior⁵ aged Seventy Two years do hereby certify that I was personally acquainted with the above named Thomas McClurken in the time of the Revolutionary War and believe his statement to be true.

S/ Geo. Gill



[J. LeMoy Davies, a clergyman, and George Gill, Senior gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14]

Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department and administered to Thomas McClurken, by the Honorable Richard Gantt, presiding Judge of the court of General sessions and Common Please, for Chester District, Spring term 1833

First: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born in Ireland in the year 1756 and emigrated to Charleston in 1772.

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

Answer -- I have no record of my age -- my information on this subject was derived from my brother Robert McClurken, now dead.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_wylies_plantation.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fridays_ferry.html

⁵ [George Gill S21229](#)

Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer -- I was living in Camden District when first called into service -- and have resided in Chester District, on the same plantation I now occupy, ever since the Revolutionary War.

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 was first a substitute for Alexander Millar; afterwards I served occasionally as a volunteer, and was also, drafted several times.

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 remember General Greene, Lieut. Col. Washington [William Washington] and General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] (Col. Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] took my brother from his house and had him hung to a Red oak tree) I do not, at this time remember the names of any of the Continental or Militia Regiments -- I was attached to Col. Winn's Regiment and refer to my narrative for the general circumstances of my service.


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 a written discharge from service it was usual to give a verbal discharge

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 -- Rev. Mr. Davis, James Harbison, Esquire -- Dr. John Douglass, and also refer to the whole neighborhood in which I reside.

S/ Thomas Mclorken [sic]



S/ J. Rosborough S/ R. Gantt, P.J.

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Declaration

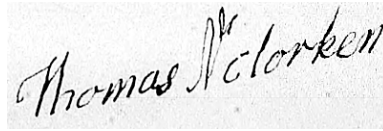
South Carolina Chester District:

Personally appeared before me John Roseborough Clerk of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas for the district and State aforesaid, Thomas McClurken, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: -- For 4 months I served as a substitute for Abraham Millar in the year 1775-6. For two months and sixteen days under Capt. Turner, I was drafted -- 1778. For three months in the militia under Capt. Turner in the year 1779. For Two weeks as a volunteer under Capt. Lacey in 1780. For one night and day under Lieut. James Kennedy as a volunteer in the year 1781. For two weeks as a volunteer under Capt. Adams in the year 1781. For two months as a volunteer under Capt. Adams in the year 1781. For two months I served under Capt. Cooper I was drafted this tour 1782. For two months as a volunteer under Capt. Turner in the Dutch fork, South Carolina. I think in the year 1779 and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed this 6th of July 1833 before me

S/ J. Roseborough, Clerk

S/ Thomas M^cclorken

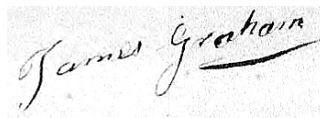
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas McClorken". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

South Carolina Chester District: James Graham⁶ makes oath that he was personally acquainted with the above mentioned Thomas McClurken in the Revolutionary war having served with him at Orangeburg, at Purrysburg and at Charleston.

Sworn to & submitted July 6th, 1833 Before me

S/ J. Roseborough, Clerk

S/ James Graham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Graham". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 43]

State of South Carolina Chester District: Personally appeared before me Hugh Simpson Magistrate for the District and State aforesaid, Mr. John McDill⁷ who being duly sworn according to law, saith that he knew Mr. Thomas McClorken [sic] and that said McClorken served with him in the war of the Revolution and further saith that after said Revolution Mr. Thomas McClorken was married in his presence to Miss Elizabeth Smith of the District in State aforesaid, in the fall of 1790, the month and day not recollected, and further saith that the said Thomas McClorken and Elizabeth McClorken lived together as Husband & wife as far back as the Date above mentioned and Declarant further saith that he was married himself January 9th 1791 and that he has in his possession a family record of the births of his first Child which was born January 12th 1792.

S/ John McDill

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John McDill". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[pp 61-2: Certificate from the South Carolina Comptroller General showings payments made by the state of South Carolina to Thomas McClorkin [sic] on account of military service rendered after the reduction of Charleston per Anderson's return; among the payments listed is an amount paid for services for 71 days as a Lieutenant under the command of Colonel Fair commencing October 8 and ending December 18, 1781; another amount for 30 days service as a horseman under the command of Captain John Ridgway commencing May 1st and ending May 30th 1780; another amount for services for 30 days under the command of Colonel Joseph Hayes by order of Captain John Ridgway B: 68 days as a footman and 73 days as a horseman under the command of Captain John Turner in Colonel Winn's Regiment.]

[p 5 Bible record]

⁶ [James Graham S21786](#)

⁷ [John McDill S21879](#)

John McClurken was born in May the 4 1792
 Archibald McClurken was born in November the 11th 1794
 Nancy McClurken was born in December the 25th 1797
 James McClurken __ of January 17__
 Thomas McClurken march 31st 180__
 David McClurken was born June 22nd 1811

1794
 24
 John McClurken was born in may the 4 1792
 Archibald McClurken was born in november the 11th 1794
 Nancy McClurken was born in December the 25th 1797
 James James McClurken of January 17__
 Thomas McClurken March 31st 180__
 David McClurken was born June 22nd 1811
 David McClurken

[p 73]

State of Illinois County of Washington: SS

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within & for said County David McClurken who being duly sworn upon oath states that the above attached paper is the true, genuine and original record of the births of his Father's Thomas McClurken's family a Pensioner of the Revolutionary war, Late Deceased and said County: that it is in the handwriting of the said Thomas McClurken, that said attached record was taken out of the old family Bible by this affiant was in his Father's family ever since this affiant can remember, until his Father's Death: since which time it has been in the keeping of this affiant.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of January A.D. 1847

S/ Isaac Parlier, JP

S/ David McClurk [sic]

David McClurk

[p 46: On September 11, 1846 in Washington County Illinois, James McClurken gave testimony that he knew Thomas McClurken and Elizabeth McClurken in the years 1792 & 1793; that they then lived together as man and wife in Chester South Carolina where they raised a large family of children; that in the spring of 1845 Thomas McClurken died leaving Elizabeth his widow.

The relationship, if any, of the Affiant to the veteran is not stated.

James McClurken]

[p 48: On May 17, 1847 in Washington County Illinois, Mary Maxwell, 56 years old last September gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Thomas McClurken a revolutionary Pensioner and Elizabeth his wife when living in Chester South Carolina; that Affiant attended school with John, Archibald & Nancy McClurken, children of the said Thomas & Elizabeth.

Mary Maxwell]

[Facts in file: Veteran moved to Washington County, Illinois, in 1834 "to accompany his sons" (p 75); veteran died March 22nd, 1845; veteran married September 4, 1790 in South Carolina, Elizabeth Smith of Chester District, South Carolina; she was allowed a widow's pension on her application executed August 20, 1846 at which time she said she was 76 years old and was then living in Washington County, Illinois. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 16 ½ months in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁸ relating to Thomas McClurken [sic] pp 19
Audited Account No. 4934
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 1/25/24

[p 9]
[No. 472 Book Y]
21 November 85 [1785]
Thomas McClurken [sic] his Account of 68 days duty as footman, and 73 days as Horseman under the command of Capt. Turner [John Turner] in 1779, 1781 & 1782
In [old South Carolina] Currency £107
Amount Stg. [Sterling] £15.5.8 ½

[p 10]
Rec'd Columbia 28th January 1791 from Commissioner [of the] Treasury an Indent No. 472
Book Y for 15 Pounds 5/8 in full for the within per Order
£15.5/8 Thos McClurken

⁸ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.



[p 11]

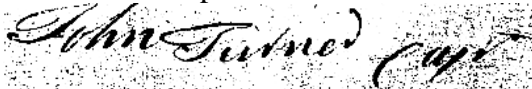
The State of So. Carolina to Thomas McClurkan [sic]	Dr.
1779 to 12 Days Service under the command of Capt. John Turner in Col. Winn's Regiment at 10/Currency per day	£0.17.1 ½ Sterling
1781 to 73 Days Service under the Command of Capt. John Turner at 20/Currency per day	£10.8.6 ½ Sterling
1782 to 42 Days Service under the Command of Capt. John Turner at 10/Currency per day	3.0.0 Sterling
Do to 14 Days under Capt. John Turner at 10/Currency per day	<u>1.0.0 Sterling</u>
141 Days	Total £15.5.8 Sterling

Appeared Thomas McClurkan and made oath that the Above Account is Just and True and that the State is Justly in Due to him for the Same & likewise the Service done by him [undeciphered word or words] amounts to Fifteen Pounds five Shillings and eight pence Sterling Sworn to Before me this 29th December 1783

Edward Lacey, JP

Sertified by me

John Turner Capt.



[p 12]

gentlemen

Please deliver my Public Indent as also the Interest to Mr. Thomas McClurkin Senr. And his Receipt to You Shall be a Discharge for the same. Your Compliance Will Much oblige your very humble servant

Thos McClorken Junior



To Thomas Nicholls Esquire
Commissioner of the Treasury
Test James Craig, JP

[p 13]

45 Chester District

The petition of Thomas McClurkin praying to be placed on the pension list
Eavy

Pensions
Rejected

[p 14]

To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Thomas McClorkin Humbly Sheweth that your petitioner was a soldier in the Revolutionary Warr – Turned out under Capt. Turner whose Company was attached to Genl. Richardson's Brigade went to the Snowey Camps – from Thence to Reedy River after a parcel of Torries & took Twenty one prisoners & was ordered from Thence on the Guard to Charleston & was there the time the Battle was at Fort Moultrie and from Thence to Purrysburg under the Command of Brigadier Richardson & Major Genl. Lenkorn [Benjamin Lincoln] – & was at the Defeating a Number of Torries Embodied at Mobley's Meeting House Little River – and was under the Command of Henry Hampton [at] Wateree – and was at the Surrender of Fryday's Fort at Granby & Then was Under Genl. Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] in the Indian Land, in the year 1782 Served a Campaign under the Command of Major Wallace at Orangeburg – And was at Scrimmage at the House of James Wylie under the Command of Lt. Kennedy – and was also at Stono, under Military Service and but very Seldom [undeciphered word] appear about Home at My Father's House, Whose House was Completely plundered of every thing and his Stock of Cattle Counting of thirty Head & Seven Horses all Carried off & Myself & the Family left in Real Extreme poverty – Had a Brother Murdered or Hung by the Tories a few Hundred yards from the House – And Through the long lapse of Time Have now forgotten Many of the places where I have been & Much of the Great & Severe fatigue I have endured through our Revolutionary Struggle. I am now about or nearly 73 years of Age and very unable to Support myself by labor afflicted with a Complaint in my stomach & [undeciphered word] which occasions much bad Health and at many times unfit for labour. He Humbly prays Your Honorable Body to place him on the Pension list as He is Now become comparatively poor & having but Slender Claims on life at the Age He has above specified and your Petitioner as Ever in Duty bound will pray

Thomas M^cclerken



[p 15]

South Carolina Chester District} Thomas McClorkin personally appeared before me the
Subscribing Justice and being duly Sworn says that the statements made in the within Petition
are all True, and that He Owns
some land One Horse & Small Stock of Cattle and nearly Clear of Debt.
Sworn to before Me
the 17th of November A.D. 1827
David Jamison, JP

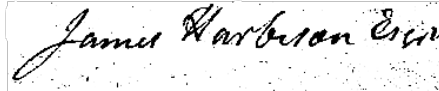
Thomas M^cclerken

[p 16]

So. Carolina Chester District } Personally came James Harbison Senior⁹ Before Me the Subscribing Justice and Being Duly Sworn Saith that he knew Thomas McClurken as a soldier in the Revolutionary War that he served with him at Purrysburg in 1778 and then in 1779 at Augusta and Georgia and at Stono he was at the taking of Friday's Fort and in 1782 was at Orangeburg still was in the service until the End of the war that he was a firm friend to his Country at all times through the whole Struggle that he is Now about 76 years of Age and of course not able to gain a living by Labour and Become Poor & Stands in Need of the help of his country.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 2 day of November 1827
David Jamison, JP


James Harbison Esqr.



So. Carolina Chester District } Personally came James Graham before me the Subscribing Justice and being Duly Sworn Saith that he Knew Thomas McClurkin as a Soldier in the Revolutionary war that he was with him at Purrysburg under Major Genl. Lincoln & Brigadier Genl. Richardson in 1778 & then in 1782 at Orangeburg under the Command of Major Wallace – he was also at the taking of Friday's Fort near Granby 1781 Then on the Wateree [River] under Col. Hampton. Then in Capt. Turner's Co. in the Scrimmage at James Wylie's in 1781 – & Then under Genl. Sumter in Indian Land & that he believes he stood a firm friend to his Country in the Struggle for Independence – & that he always bore the Character of an Honest man that he is now old & poor – & is not possessed of any Slaves – but is possessed of a House & Land to Live on.

Sworn to This 2nd Day of November 1827
before David Jamison, JP

James Graham



[p 19: The following is a very heavily edited transcription of an affidavit the image of which appears below for comparison.]

So. Carolina Chester District } Personally appeared John McDill before me the subscribing Justice and being sworn saith he was acquainted with Thomas M^cclurkan as soldier the time of the Revolutionary war that he served with me in the American service and can affirm that he was a good Whig and I believe a true friend to his Country and bore the Character of a good soldier and I believe he deserved it and that [undeciphered word or words] him in turning out to do duty his first trip was in the year 1775 against a number of Tories that was embodied betwixt Broad River and Saluda [River] and was Called the Snow Camps he was as a soldier a number of times in Charleston one of the times was about the time that the battle was at Fort Moultrie next he went a trip to Purrysburg under the Command of Brigadier Richardson and Major Genl. Lincoln he also was at the defeating of a number of Tories who was embodied in a meeting house on Little River he also was for some time under the Command of Colonel Henry Hampton on the Wateree [River] and there about and he was at the surrender of Friday's Fort nigh Granby and he

⁹ [James Harbison W17039](#)

