

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George McLain (McLean) W21793

Rebecca McLean f67NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/21/09 & 1/25/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 10]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County: SS

On this Seventh day of November personally appeared in open Court before John B. Armstrong, Samuel Phillips and John L. Neill Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, now sitting, George McClain [sic] a resident of the County of Bedford and State of Tennessee aged about seventy two 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

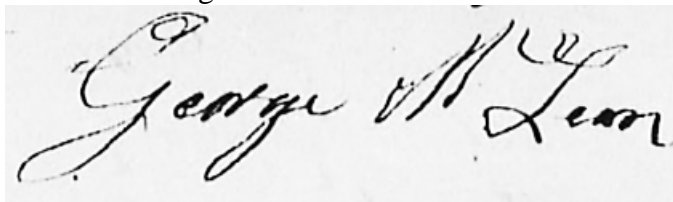
That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he was born October the 14<sup>th</sup> in the year 1760 in Lincoln County North Carolina; that he has no written record of his age and only speaks from what he has always understood from his parents; that when first called into service he lived in said County of Lincoln where he continued to reside until the year 1798 when he removed to the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina and lived there until Autumn of 1816 when he removed to the County of Bedford aforesaid, where he has ever since resided and now resides; that in the month of July 1780 he thinks he volunteered in the County of Lincoln for three months under Captain Samuel Martin with John Barber as his Colonel [sic, Major], James Patterson was Lieutenant and John Walker was Ensign under Samuel Martin: that he marched to Camden South Carolina and from there to Ninety Six to observe the Tories and that they continued to scour the Country during the three months without having any engagement: that at the end of the three months he returned home and in the next April volunteered for another tour of three months under Captain John Mattocks whose Lieutenant was named Aaron McKinzie and whose Ensign was named John Hall; that their Colonel was named William Graham of said County of Lincoln; that a part of said term they were scouring the County of Lincoln for Tories, and the balance they were in the County of York South Carolina and ranging between that and Broad River, all with the object of keeping down the Tories; that at the end of the term he again returned home; that in the next Fall he again volunteered for three months under Samuel Martin with John Berry his Lieutenant and James Glenn the Ensign and John Barber the Colonel; that during this Tour they marched in the direction of Kings Mountain to join Campbell [William Campbell] against Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]; that on the evening before the battle at Kings Mountain they were about encamping a short distance from the Mountain when they were routed by some of Ferguson's dragoons and scattered and when they heard the firing on the next day he and five others made towards where it was and joined Campbell just after the battle [October 7, 1780] had closed; that he was left with four others of his company to guard the Tory prisoners and take care of Campbell's wounded; that there were about 20 men for that duty; that the balance of his company went on

with the other troops and that he joined them no more during that Tour; that immediately upon the close of the last mentioned Term, he volunteered for another Term of three months under the same last mentioned officers; and marched into South Carolina and joined Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] at Clem's Branch in York County and remained with him during the remainder of the Term; that during that time Sumter kept his head quarters at Clem's Branch; that immediately after the expiration of said last mentioned Term he again volunteered for another Tour of three months under Captain John Walker of Lincoln County, with William Rankin his Lieutenant and John Hoyle his Ensign, and John Barber his Colonel; that they marched into South Carolina and again joined Sumter at Clem's Branch near where Fishing Creek empties into the Catawba River; that he was out on foraging party when the British surprised Sumter and his encampment at Clem's Branch and defeated him [sic, Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780]; that he was returning to Camp from the foraging expedition when he met Sumter at Colonel Bratton's [William Bratton's] on the day after the defeat and Sumter took him and five others north with him to pilot him across the country towards Virginia; that they crossed the Catawba at Tuckaseegee Ford and crossed the Yadkin [River] at Long's Ferry where he left Sumter – and returned home and joined Captain Frank Long [?] and spent the balance of the Term in reconnoitering about Charlotte which was then occupied by Cornwallis; that he returned home and remained there he does not recollect how long when he again volunteered for another Term of three months under Captain John Walker, William Graham was the Colonel, but he was not with them during the Tour; that Major Joseph Dixon [Joseph Dickson] had the principal command of them; that when they heard that Cornwallis was making for Virginia, they followed him until he crossed the South Fork of Catawba River; that between the South fork and the main river at a Creek called Dutchman's Creek they killed four Tories; that when Cornwallis came to the main river it was up and he lay there two days and nights; that on the night before Cornwallis crossed the river, this affiant with about 40 others under Major Joseph Dixon lay about half a mile behind the British and on the opposite side from where Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed [Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781]; that Dixon sent him to South Carolina with an express to Colonel Barber to join him in pursuing Cornwallis; that he took the express to Barber, and that Barber was marching to join Dickson when they learnt at the South fork of Catawba that Cornwallis had not halted in Salisbury but marched across the Yadkin to Guilford and they pursued no further; that he returned home and there remained until the next August when he again volunteered for three months under Captain Robert White, the Lieutenant was named Philip Null and the Ensign Matthew Armstrong, the Colonel was Robert Smith, who was once an officer in the regular Army; that they marched to a place called Little River and there joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], and remained with him only two days when they left him and marched down the Country through the Scotch Settlements towards Wilmington; that they met with a company of Tories at a place called the raft [Raft] Swamp [Raft Swamp, October 15, 1781] and entirely routed them and killed about 20 of them; that they marched down to the Brick house near Wilmington and met with another company of Tories and took about 20 of them prisoners and killed about a dozen; that whilst in the neighborhood of Wilmington their term expired and Smith wanted them to stay a month longer; that Captain White refused to stay and marched home with all the men except 18 of whom affiant was one, when they elected Lieutenant Null their Captain and remained another month; that a party of British had occupied the Brick house and they attempted to dislodge them [November 15, 1781], but that they were compelled to retreat with the loss of two men two men wounded; that during the balance of the month they ranged the Country between Wilmington and Georgetown South Carolina when they returned home and were verbally discharged by their Colonel; that he never acted with any of the Continental regiments except under Sumter; that he belonged to the mounted infantry in all of his tours and was principally employed in Scouting parties to over awe the Tories and to hang upon the rear of

the enemy; that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his claims as he never received any but verbal discharges, but he can prove by William Maxwell<sup>1</sup> of Rutherford County in this State that affiant was in the skirmishes of the Raft Swamp and the Brick House and also that he was under Captain Frank Long [?] when the British were stationed in Charlotte as stated above. That he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his other tours of service. 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.

S/ George McLean

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George McLean". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 7th day of November 1832.


S/ Jas McKisick, Clerk

[George Newton, a clergyman, and Edward C. Harrison gave the standard supporting affidavit]

[p 4: On March 4, 1844, in Bond County, Illinois, Rebecca McLean, 74 on the 18<sup>th</sup> September last, made application for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of George McLean, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$73.33 per annum; that she married him on the 25th day of 1781; that he died on November 30th 1834 and that she remains his widow; she adds that she was married to him in the County of Mecklenburg in North Carolina and that the ceremony was performed by \_\_ Tygert, Esq., a justice of the peace. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Her application is supported by an affidavit of Elias W. Alexander and a separate affidavit given by of Josiah N. Alexander.]

[p 7: Josiah Thomas McLean [he signed his name Josiah T. McLain as shown below], 46, of Bond County Illinois, gave testimony that he is a son of George and Rebecca McLean, that his father died in Bedford County Tennessee November 13, 1834 at which time the affiant was living with his parents; that he remained with his mother until 1837 when they moved to Bond County Illinois; that his mother never remarried and remains his father's widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josiah T. McLain". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$73.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 22 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

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<sup>1</sup> [William Maxwell R7046](#)