

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McGaw W4291

Mary McGaw

f85SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/20/09: rev'd 11/16/16

[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.]

State of Ohio Preble County

On this 6th day of September A.D. 1839 virtually appeared before me Robert Martin one of the associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Preble and State of Ohio Mary McGaw a resident of Israel Township in the County of Preble and State of Ohio aged 83 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the I know of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of Capt. William McGaw formerly of Abbeville District in the State of South Carolina who was Capt. of a company of South Carolina Militia in the war of the Revolution that at the time he entered the service of the United States he resided in the said District of Abbeville and served in the Militia of that State, that he entered the Service in the fall or forepart of the winter of 1775 shortly after her marriage with him, as a private in the South Carolina militia in which capacity he done considerable service but she is not able to say how much or how many tours he performed. She states that something like a year or 18 months after his first in running the service he was appointed Capt. of what was then called John Anderson's company of South Carolina Militia and that he continued to serve as Capt. of said company until the close of the Revolutionary War. She is unable to give a regular history of the services of her said husband as Capt. of said company during the War of the Revolution. She recollects that he served a tour of duty as Capt. under the command of General Williamson [Andrew Williamson]. She often heard him speak of General Williamson in not very favorable terms: She knows that most of her said husband's services as Capt. were rendered or performed in the militia under the command of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens]. She recollects that her said husband served a 6 months tour of duty as Capt. of a company of South Carolina militia under the command of General Pickens in what was then called the North Carolina campaign or expedition. She declares that she has no hesitation in saying that she fully believes that her said husband performed all the tours of duty mentioned in the affidavits of William McDonald, John Laird,¹ Alexander Patterson² and Andrew Weed³ and she would refer you to those Depositions which are attached hereto for a history of her said husband's services. She often heard her said husband speak of having been in the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] the Kettle Creek Battle [February 14, 1779] and some other Battles names of which she has forgotten. She further states that she knows that her said husband always estimated his services in the war of the Revolution

¹ [John Leard S21862](#)

² [Alexander Patterson S7288](#)

³ [Andrew Weed BLWt80034-160-55](#)

as Capt. of said militia company at more than 12 months in the aggregate. She also further declares that from the length of time her said husband was absent from home on duty and from his own declarations she knows that he served in the capacity of Capt. in the War of the Revolution in the aggregate not less than 12 months of this she has no doubt. She states that he her husband had a military commission as Capt. at the time he was in the service & for a long time afterwards. She thinks it is now lost as she has not seen it for many years. She recollects General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] well he was her husband's favorite and he done most of his military services under him. She was also personally acquainted with William McDonald, John Laird, Alexander Patterson, Andrew Weed & Adam Wideman whose Depositions are attached.

She further declares that her said husband (the said William McGaw) was of insane mind for 4 or 5 years before his death and that he never received a pension she further declares that she was married to the said William McGaw on the 5th day of October in the year 1775 and that her husband (the said William McGaw) died on the 31st day of May in the year A.D. 1836 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period. She has a record of her marriage which was made by her husband which enables her to speak with certainty as to the time.

(The words "Stono and Kettle" interlined before signed)

S/ Mary McGaw, X her mark

Sworn and subscribed on the day and year first within written before me

S/ Robert Martin, Associate Judge

[pp. 15-53 is some sort of account book which MAY be McGaw's accounts from when he served as captain of his own militia company. The pages contain a number of names with figures but no real explanation or way of making sense of them.]

South Carolina Abbeville District:

These are to certify that Alexander Patterson of the State & District aforesaid appeared personally before me and being duly sworn saith that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William McGaw formerly of this State and District during the Revolutionary War and for many years after until he left this for the State of Ohio. That he had a family previous to the war, that his wife's name before marriage was Mary Patterson that they raised a number of children before they removed together to the Ohio and further saith that Mr. McGaw succeeded Capt. John Anderson in the command of a Militia Company of which the deponent was a member that when they were not in actual service (the company) they held themselves ready to march whenever called, on that he was out in service several times with Capt. McGaw. That on one tour they crossed Savannah River and penetrated the Cherokee territory and burned some of their towns and killed several Indians, that he thinks and believes they were out in this tour not less than 30 or 40 days. That General Pickens was the Superior in command. Another time he was with Capt. McGaw in service when they crossed the Savannah River at Fort Charlotte in pursuit of Tories marched down through Georgia towards Savannah as far as Brier Creek and returned by the way of Augusta that General Pickens was their Superior officer this Expedition. Also, that he believes they must have been 30 days in service on this occasion. That he the deponent was in the Kettle Creek Battle in the State of Georgia and recollects seeing Capt. McGaw in the engagement but was not under his immediate command. That he believes they were 3 or 4 weeks out in this Campaign. This deponent further saith that his memory is so impaired by reason of old age he being now upwards of 80 years he cannot be particular as to dates or the specific services but recollects perfectly that Capt. McGaw was an active and efficient officer

and faithful friend to his Country in her struggles for liberty until the termination of the War.
Sworn to this 14th day of November 1838 Before
S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ

S/ Alexander Patterson, X his mark

[p 67; Adam Wideman of Abbeville District, SC gave testimony that he knew Capt. William McGaw towards the end of the revolutionary war and knows that he bore the title of Capt. and was esteemed as a zealous friend of his country.

now - 10/18/38
Adam Wideman]

South Carolina Abbeville District:

Personally appeared Major Andrew Weed who being duly Sworn saith that he was well acquainted with Capt. William McGaw formerly of this State and District that he knows and believes he was an active and intrepid friend to his Country during the Revolutionary Struggle and knows that he bore the title of Capt. and further saith that he the deponent was out one Tour of duty in pursuit of Tories & Indians when they crossed the Savannah River and through the State of Georgia until they crossed the Oconee River overtook and dispersed the Enemy he recollects Mr. McGaw was along during this Campaign but is unable to say whether as an officer or as a private as the deponent did not belong to the same Company he thinks and believes they were out on service at this time 3 or 4 weeks and further saith that Capt. McGaw had a family that he knew them until they removed to the Ohio State and that they unimpeachable character. The said deponent is near 75 years of age.

Sworn to this 15th day of November A.D. 1838

Before S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ

S/ And^w Weed

Andrew Weed

State of South Carolina Abbeville District:

These are to certify that Josiah Patterson Esquire did this day appear personally before me and being duly Sworn saith that he was personally acquainted with the within named William McGaw from his earliest recollection until his removal from this State to the Ohio about that the year 1811. That the said McGaw had a family at the close of the revolutionary war, that his wife Mary was own Sister to said deponent that he has no doubt of their having been legally married according to the laws of the State but that he has made search in vain for any record of the transaction which leads him to believe that there is few marriages could be established on this ground in this State. He knows that their marriage was never called in question and that his father recognized Mr. McGaw as his son-in-law in his last will and constituted him one of his executors to the same. He also deposeth that the said McGaw bore the title of Capt. and was reputed as having been an efficient and active friend to his Country during the War of the Revolution. He further states that he is well acquainted with the witnesses to the within depositions that they are credible witnesses and they did severally depose on oath before him that the services of Mr. McGaw set forth in their depositions were performed on horseback which through his neglect was not inserted at the proper line and places. Sworn to this 14th day of

February A.D. 1839.

S/ Jno F. Livingston, CH & JQ

S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ



South Carolina Abbeville District:

These are to certify that William McDonald appeared this day before me and being duly sworn deposes and saith that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William McGaw formerly of this District and Mary his wife, that he believes they were married about the commencement of the Revolutionary War that he knows that he succeeded John Anderson in the Command of a militia Company and that he the said MacDonnell did serve as a private one tour of duty under Capt. McGaw. That they were drafted and crossed the Savannah River and traversed a portion of the State of Georgia. That they passed Phillips fort that they must have been in actual Service on that Tour as he believes at least five weeks. That General Williamson was their Superior Officer and that Capt. William McGaw had a family at that time. Sworn to and subscribed the 14th day of November A.D. 1838

Before S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ

S/ Wm McDonnell

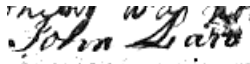


South Carolina Abbeville District:

These are to Certify that John Leard of the State and District being duly Sworn deposeseth and Saith that he was personally acquainted with Capt. William McGaw during the Revolutionary War and for many years after until he removed from thence to the Ohio. That said McGaw had a family previous to the revolution. That his wife's name previous to marriage was Mary Patterson who was still living with him when they left this State. That said McGaw succeeded John Anderson to the command of a militia Company in which Company said Leard was a private Soldier -- That he served one tour under Capt. McGaw when they crossed the Savannah River in pursuit of the Indians, that they penetrated some distance into the State of Georgia crossed the Oconee River but had no Battle that General Pickens was the Superior officer in this expedition. That he thinks and believes they were absent at least 2 or 3 weeks. That he knows that Capt. McGaw went an expedition to North Carolina under General Pickens in the capacity of a Capt. and that he thinks and believes they were in actual Service this tour 6 months that said deponent was not out with this detachment. Sworn to this 14th of November 1838

Before S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ

S/ John Lard



[Facts in file: Veteran married Mary Patterson; she died April 3, 1842, survived by Abigail Pinkerton, William McGaw and Martha Smith, all residents of Preble County, Ohio in 1851, the year in which son William, then 49, filed a claim asserting that his mother was entitled to a larger pension than that she received; Mary had a brother, Josiah Patterson, who was a resident of

Abbeville District, SC in 1838.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$179.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband service as a private & Captain in the South Carolina militia.]