

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Abijah McClain W7408

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Pennsylvania } SS.

County of Fayette }

On this 23<sup>d</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Hon. Thomas H. Baird & his Associate Judges of the Court for said County, now sitting Abijah McClain a resident of Cumberland Township in the County of Greene and State of Penna. aforesaid aged 78 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 the said Abijah McClain enlisted in the service of the United States in the year A.D. 1776 in the neighbourhood of the Flats of Grave Creek Va. [near present Moundsville WV] under the following named officers Viz. first under Captain Pegot for the term of three years, and attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel McCoy and Lieutenant Col. George Wilson, Major [Richard] Butler &c, and that the said Regt. was all recruited west of the mountains, for the express purpose of guarding the western frontiers, but after marching up to the Kittaning [sic: Kittanning], in Armstrong County, in the State of Penna. aforesaid and after remaining there for some time, there was an express came for the said Regt. to march immediately to the east, and to rendezvous at the City of Philadelphia, and to which place they was obliged to march, & from thence to the State of New Jersey, and had a battle at a place called Bound Brook [13 Apr 1777] where many of the said 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Regt. was kild, wounded, and many taken prisoners to the City of New York, and that soon after which the said Col. McCoy died at the City of Trenton N. Jersey, and his said Col. Wilson died at Quibble Town, New Jersey [sic: Quibbletown, now New Market, Feb 1777], and that the whole of the surviveing troops was then commanded under Col. Daniel Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead], and that some time after which, he the deponent with about 100 others of the said Regt. volunteered under Col. Daniel Morgan, for one year and marched in the northern campaign, in pursuit of the British army, commanded by Major General Burgoyne, against whom they fought at Saratoga, and from there returned and rejoined his Regt. in the Spring or Summer of 1778 at the Valley Forge, from which the survivors of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa Regt. aforesaid was permitted to return back to west Penna. to Pittsburg, and from thence to the building of Fort McIntosh [at present Beaver PA] in the said year of 1778, and from thence out into the Indian Country to the building of Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens on Tuscarawas River OH], & there remained for a considerable time, & from thence in the Spring they returned to Fort Pitt aforesaid, where said deponents time of service expired, and that he was there honourably discharged by Col. or Lut. Col. Stephen Byard [sic: Stephen Bayard], in the month of September 1779, as set forth in his preceeding declaration for a pension long since transmitted to the care of the Honourable Christian Tarr then a member of Congress for the counties of Fayette & Greene aforesaid, also agreeable to his second declaration executed before the Hon. Court on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1830, at Waynesburg Penna aforesaid, in the said County of Greene. Declarant further recollects that after they had returned from Fort Lawrence to Pitt aforesaid, they was taken out in a two months campaign up the Alegheny & headwaters of Susquehanna after the Indians [probably Brodhead's campaign against the Munsey Towns, Aug 1779], and that after they returned from that to Pitt aforesaid, where said deponent was then discharged as aforesaid, deponent states that this two months campaign aforesaid, had never been enserted in his preceeding declarations.

That he was entirely too frail to attend at either of the preceeding courts at Waynesburg in the County of Greene, and that he resides equally as near to the Town of Union in the County of Fayette aforesaid, and where he was also well acquainted, and also obliged to attend there on other business, and likewise where could have the present business done gratis, and that his health was somewhat recruited

which enabled him to attend. And that he the deponent was born in the State of New Jersey Middlesex County on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of September AD 1754, and bred in the County of Monmouth until the age of 20 years, and from thence he and his parents moved to the Flats of Grave creek Ohio County, in the State of Virginia, and there remained until he enlisted as aforesaid under the said Captain Pegot, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Rifle Regt. as aforesaid, and that after being discharged as aforesaid, he resided for some time in the County of Fayette aforesaid, and got married after which he resided for about 4 years in Allegheny County Pa and from thence he migrated to the said County of Green, about 40 years since, where he has ever since resided. and that relative to his documentary evidence &c, and had transmitted his discharge by the Hon. C. Tarr aforesaid to the War Department, who states that he left the same in the Clerks office before the close of the Session of Congress of which he was a member, and that he has no other original document except his receipt for his gun, which will be herewith enclosed. And that he will not delay in endeavouring to procure the affidavit of one of his only surviving officers in support of his claim, who it is said resides in the State of Kentucky. And that he served more than two years in the said service.

HE hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State whatsoever

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] Abijah McClain

Pittsburgh Sept'r. 20<sup>th</sup> 1779

Received of Abijah McCloan of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa R't. One Rifle Gun the Property of the United States

[illegible word] R Richardson

pr Order of B Neilly Q'r M'r. 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reg't

Fayette County } SS.

Pennsylvania }

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April [1833] personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of common pleas of Fayette county aforesaid now sitting Abijah McClean a resident in Jefferson Township in said County & state aged seventy eight years the second day of September last who being duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the seventh day of June 1832

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers & served as follows.

He entered the service of the U. States in the month of August 1776 under an Enlistment for three years which term he served out fully & obtained an honorable discharge from the service – he enlisted under Nemiah Stokely [sic: Nehemiah Stokeley] (a lieutenant he thinks) at a place called the flats of Grave Creek on the Ohio river in Virginia (Ohio County) and marched from there to Hannahstown [Hannastown] (now in Penna.) where he met with most of his regiment they went on to Kittaning on the Allegheny river where they rendezvous'd and remained there until the fall when they were marched over the mountains to Philadelphia under the command of Col. Enos McCoy of the Eighth Penna Regiment, Lieut. Col. George Wilson & ~~Major Richard Butler~~, his Captain's name was James Picket. From Philadelphia they marched to Bound Brook in New Jersey where they joined the army under command of Gen'l. Geo Washington Col. McCoy died on the march before they joined the main army under the comander in chief The Leuet Col. Wilson also died he thinks at Quibbletown in the Spring before they joined Washingtons army He lay in winter quarters at Phil'a. with most of the regiment who were afflicted with the small pox which he himself had badly. many died of it. this was the winter of 1776-7 – after they joined the main army having lost their Colonels McCoy & Wilson they were placed under command of Col. Dan'l. Broadhead (afterwards Surveyor Gen'l. of Pa.) of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reg't. They remained under Gen'l Washinton until he with others of his regiment were detached to the north under Col Dan'l. Morgan of Virg'a. of the Riflemen and joined Gen'l. Gates' [Horatio Gates's] army at a place called Stillwater on

North river (or Hudson) that they remained under Gen'l. Gates till after the Battles [Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 Sep 1777; Battle of Bemis Heights, 7 Oct 1777] and Capture of Burgoyne's army which took place the [blank] of [blank] 1777 [17 Oct] the first & most severe action was several days before the capture of Burgoyne retreated back to Saratoga about ten miles from where the first action took place & was then captured after which they returned under Col. Morgan & joined Gen'l. Washington at the Vally Forge in the spring 1778 he again joined his old regiment under Col Broadhead (8<sup>th</sup> Pa.) they then marched to Lancaster thence to Carlisle and were then ordered to the North and divided into companies to protect the people on the Susquehanna river near Northumberland, [one or two illegible words] against the indians while taking in their harvest, then they marched to Pittsburgh from there they marched to Beaver and Built Fort McIntosh under Gen'l. McIntosh. Then the marched into Ohio to the Tuscarawas where they built Fort Lawrence. Thence They return'd. to Fort McIntosh & to Pittsburgh where they were during the winter of 1778-9 In the spring an Express arrived with information that the Indians had attacked the troops at Fort Lawrence [23 Feb] they then went back to Fort Lawrence where they remained there under command of Major Frederick Varnum for three months when they evacuated the fort. They then return'd to Pittsburgh where he remained till September 1779 when he was was discharged his discharge was signed by Leut. Col. Stephen Bayard of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Regt. which he delivered to the Hon. Christian Tarr when in congress about 14 years ago and has never been able to recover it Mr Tarr said he filed it in the war office That he was out frequently afterwards in the militia against the Indians, under different officers & different times but cannot now recollect with precission the lenth or numbers of times. That he lived when he entered the service at the Flats of Grave Creek Virginia about 50 miles from where he now resides, that he has lived ever since in the western part of Penna. and for forty years of the time where he now resides in Greene County he was born on the second of September 1754 which he has recorded on a paper kept by his father That he has no documentary evidence of his service except the discharge above mention'd delivered to Hon'bl. C. Tarr. he can prove his service by Gideon Long [pension application W3270] who served in the same Regiment and perhaps by Gabriel Abrams [Gabrial Abrams, R12] or Amos Roberts Esq [Amos Robbarts, S41107] (if living) of Virginia. In answer to the questions propounded he answers, That he was Born in the State of New Jersey Monmouth Co. the 2<sup>d</sup> of September 1754 and removed to grave creek (where he enlisted) in 1774. 2 That he has a record of his age on a paper kept by his father now in his (the deponents) possession

3. he refers to his answer to the first question [where he had lived since the war] in answer to this

4. By enlistment for three years

5 His officers as named within Gen'l. Washington Gen'l. Gates Cols. McCoy Wilson Broadhead Major Butler, Capt Picket

6 He received an Honorable discharge signed by Col. Byard & lost by Hon C Tarr as within mentioned

7 The Hon Andrew Stewart & the Hon. Charles Porter one of the Judges of this court will certify as to his reputation That he belongs to the Rev'd George Venemon's Church who lives about 18 miles distant & could not be conveniently brought to court he makes his declaration in Fayette county because it is now in session & the court in Greene does not sit for several months and because it is quite as convenient for him to attend this court where he is as well if not better known than he is at Waynesburgh the Seat of Justice of Greene County

He relinquishes every pension or annuity whatsoever except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension rolls of the agency of any state. [signed] Abijah McClain

NOTE:

John McClain in his pension application S2775 stated that he substituted for one month for his brother Abijah McLain.

On 18 Feb 1854 Lydia McClain, about 80, of Greene County, applied for a pension stating that as Lydia Way she was married to Abijah McClain in Feb 1836 at the house of William Mitchener in Jefferson

Township in Green County by a Presbyterian clergyman, and that her husband died 11 July 1848. A certificate states that Lydia McClain was totally blind at the time of her application. In Apr of 1855 she applied for bounty land.