

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Francis McCraw W7410                      Sally McCraw                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Sep 2014.

State of North Carolina }                      [two illegible words] September 1818  
Surry County                      }                      before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of  
Law and Court of Equity for the state personally appeared Francis McCraw aged fifty eight years a  
resident of the County of Grayson and State of Virginia who being [several illegible words] according to  
Law, doth on his oath [several illegible words] in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of  
Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and navel service, of the  
United States, in the revolutionary war.

That he the said Francis McCraw enlisted in the Service of the United States in Henry County in the  
State of Virginia in the year 1780 under Captain Elijah King a Captain of Cavalry and continued in  
service untill the end of the war, when he was formally discharged from said service in the State of  
Virginia. That he was in the battles at Ninety-Six [Siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] and at  
the Ewtaw Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781]. Was then commanded by Colo. William  
Washington – that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for  
support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services. Sworn to and subscribed  
before me the day and year aforesaid [sic].                                              Francis hisXmark McCraw

State of North Carolina }                      Superior Court of law    September term 1820  
Surry County                      }

On this day of September 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record so created and  
declared by the laws of the State of North Carolina and others & held as such this day for the County of  
Surry, Francis McCraw aged in his 62<sup>nd</sup> year, resident in the County aforesaid, who being first duly  
sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows Viz,  
that enlisted in the year 1780 as well as he recollects in Henry County Virginia in the Company  
commanded by Capt. Thomas King of the 3<sup>rd</sup> corps of cavalry [3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Continental Light  
Dragoons] commanded by Colo. William Washington, that he continued in said service for the term of  
three years & two months, when he obtained a furlough from Major [John] Swan of said Ridgement to go  
to Henry County in Virginia where he was discharged by one Thomas Marshall Seargant Major who was  
authorized to grant discharges he was in the siege of Ninety-Six, at Augusta [GA], Orangeburg [SC, 8-10  
Jul 1781] and in the battle of the Ewtaw Springs as well as in some other skirmishes, which he now  
considers unnecessary to mention, as those facts were set forth in his former declaration made as appears  
from his certificate on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 1818, dated 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 1819. No 6594. And I do  
solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 & naval service of the Untied States in the  
revolutionary war passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. —

And I do further solemnly swear that I have no property in my own right. That I live on a small piece of  
land valued by the assessors at less that \$100 one hundred dollars the title to the land was formerly in  
Jacob McCraw & now in the heirs of Jacob McCraw; that I am by occupation a farmer; that my family  
are all to themselves except two small boys Viz, George aged about 8 years and Francis aged about 10  
years; that owing to my age and an accidental fall from a horse, by which my shoulder was broken I am  
unable to do much work or procure scarcely the articles necessary for subsistence

Francis hisXmark McCraw

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled

The Petition of Sally McCraw of the County of Grayson in the state of Virginia, would respectfully represent to your Honorable bodies – That she is the widow of Francis McCraw who was a revolutionary soldier and late a Pensioner of the United States , who departed this life on the second day of June 1839 leaving your petitioner upwards of eighty years of age, and very infirm and without any means of support except a small balance of his pension due to him at his death. Since the death of her husband under these circumstances, your petitioner has been visited with a stroke of the palsey, and is now almost entirely helpless and dependent on her children (who are extremely poor) not only for attendance and nursing, but for bread to keep her alive. Your petitioner has applied to the War Department for a pension under the act of July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 [see endnote] and furnished ample evidence of her marriage within the period prescribed by said act, as will fully appear by reference to her declaration and evidence filed in the War Office. Her application was rejected on the ground that her husband had died subsequently to the passage of the act aforesaid. Your Petitioner is advised that there is nothing in the Act to warrant the decision of the Department against her. She is very sure that her case is as strong a case as can be presented claiming the bounty of the Government under the law aforesaid. Her husband was a regular soldier in the Revolutionary War and did his duty as such with zeal and fidelity. She was married soon after the close of the war and was the sharer of his toils until in age and poverty he received a pension from the General Government which barely supported him and your petitioner. He is now dead, and your petitioner deprived of his assistance and pension lies helpless and bedridden – suffering even for the necessaries of life. Can the circumstance of his having died eleven months sooner or later cancel the obligation of the General Government voluntarily incurred to support his widow during the short remnant of her existence? Under the decision of the Department had it pleased God to have taken her husband to himself eleven months sooner than he did, she would now be in the enjoyment of a comfortable support from the bounty of her Country – as it is she is left in misery & helplessness. Her husband lived too long. He should have died sooner. Surely an enlightened Legislature cannot decide that the construction of the Department is a correct one. But if from the peculiar phraseology of the act, that decision shall be sustained by Congress, surely the case of your Petition will be considered worthy of the special interference of your Honorable bodies

She therefore prays that she may be placed on the pension list and receive a pension from the time of her husband's death and as in duty bound she will ever pry.

Sally McCraw

[Certified on 24 Jan 1842 by William Lewis, Daniel Carlan, and Archibald Stuart of Patrick County.]

[The following are from certified copies in [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

It appears from the size roll of the 4<sup>th</sup> troop that Francis McCraw enlisted for the War in Baylors [George Baylor's] Dragoons March 15<sup>th</sup> 1781 & serv'd, agreeable to muster

Ab. Crump Com't. [Abner Crump, pension application R13459, Commandant]

Wm Barret [William Barret VAS1197] for[mer]ly Capt. Baylors Dragoons/ Jan'y 12<sup>th</sup> 1786

Sir, Settle my acct with Wm. McCraw for my Services in Baylors Dragoon, & his rec't. shall be good against

Yr. M'st. Ob./ Francis McCraw

Mr. Dunscomb Com't./ Richmond

Sir Please to deliver Sam'l. McCraw the certificates due my Brother Francis McCraw for his services & oblige Sir yr M't Ob. Ser't./ Wm McCraw

Mr. Dunscomb

NOTES:

The federal file contains a document dated Nov 1802 by which Francis McCraw transferred to Jesse Franklin, Esq. his right to any bounty land to which he may have been eligible. This document was

witnessed by James Bryson and Jacob McCraw. On 13 Jan 1803 Samuel McCraw certified that he had known Francis McCraw since before he enlisted. For Francis McCraw's first declaration the Judge certified that he had "a large family of children."

On 4 March 1829 Francis McCraw applied to have his pension transferred to Virginia, stating that he had belonged to the company commanded by a Captain Gorden, and that he moved to Patrick County because "he owns a small tract of Land in Virginia." On 8 June 1829 Francis McCraw certified that he purchased the land from Elizabeth McDaniel in exchange for "a small horse worth about thirty dollars that he has no legal title to the Land and is not certain he ever will have."

A record of the marriage of Francis McCraw and Sally Burruss was searched for unsuccessfully in Surry County NC.

Sally McCraw's pension application is not in the file. On 7 July 1838 the act of 4 July 1836 was modified to cover the widows of soldiers who died after 4 July 1836. On 25 Aug 1846 Sally McCraw was awarded a pension under the act of 1838, payable to her children, from the date of Francis McCraw's death, 2 June 1839, up to the date of her own death.

A letter by George W. Cloud dated 8 Aug 1840 stated that Sally McCraw, widow of Francis McCraw, "has not walked one step for about 12 months she has lost the use of one side entirely Towit Arm & leg but is as harty as she ever was as to eating her children are all bad managers and none of them able in opinion to support her as she should be." On 2 June 1846 it was certified that Sally McCraw died in Carroll County VA on 27 Sep 1843 leaving the following surviving children: William McCraw, Martha McCraw, Francis McCraw, and George McCraw. On 16 Feb 1846 Mitchel Thompson, 80, stated that Francis and Sally McCraw were married in 1786, and their son, William McCraw, was "at least fifty eight or sixty years of age." On 17 July 1846 Cloud wrote that "he supposes the certificate of the court shewing the death of Sally McCraw as early Spt 1843 to be a mistake."