

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McDowel (McDowell) ¹ W7423 Sarah McDowell A73MD/NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/10/16

[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.]

[image 410]

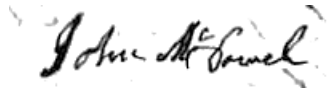
Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

On this 22nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Charles W Peters Judge of the Orphan Court for Morgan County, Alabama, being a court of Record now sitting, John McDowell a resident of said county & State, aged Seventy-four years on 10th of August last 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 as herein stated, to wit:

General Smallwood [William Smallwood], Colonel Guest [Mordecai Gist], Captain William Woodall, the month he entered the service he does not recollect, but the year he believes was 1775, and remained at that time for three months, this Enlistment was in the State of Maryland and he was during that service in the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] in [the] State of Pennsylvania. After this service he removed to [the] State of North Carolina & entered United States Service under the following named officers (he does not recollect the names of any officer except his Captain James Fair, but was in no battle during this service. Soon after this he volunteered in said Service under Captain Thomas Jennings of Richmond County North Carolina in which County he (deponent) also lived, ^{about eight months} during said Service he was in the following Battle, on Drowning Creek, Beatis Bridge [Beatti's Bridge, August 4, 1781], a Branch of Pedee River in North Carolina at which battle he was taken prisoner by the Tories & carried to Wilmington North Carolina and detained about two months then shipped as a prisoner to Charleston South Carolina and they are kept about six months as prisoner, then discharged by parole. He has no documentary evidence of said Service, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the president and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year of aforesaid

S/ John McDowell



¹ BLWt38502-160-55

[image 407: On September 1, 1841 in Lawrence County Alabama Sarah McDowell gave testimony that she is the widow of John McDowell a Revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband died at his residence in Lawrence County Alabama where he had lived for the space of 6 years prior to his death; that prior thereto he had resided in the County of Morgan, Alabama and prior to that he had resided in the counties of Madison and Lawrence, Alabama; and prior thereto had lived in the counties of Warren and Logan Kentucky. She signed this affidavit with her mark.

[image 395: family record]

Family Record

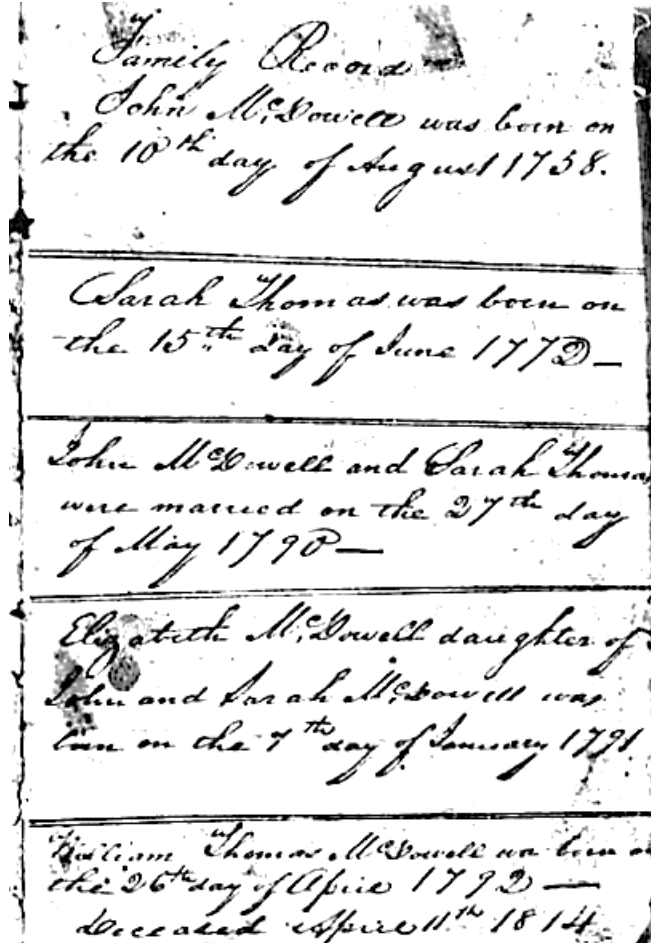
John McDowell was born on the 10th day of August 1758

Sarah Thomas was born on the 15th day of June 1772

John McDowell and Sarah Thomas were married on the 27th day of May 1790

Elizabeth McDowell daughter of John and Sarah McDowell was born on the 7th day of January 1791

William Thomas McDowell was born on the 26th day of April 1782 – Deceased April 11th, 1814



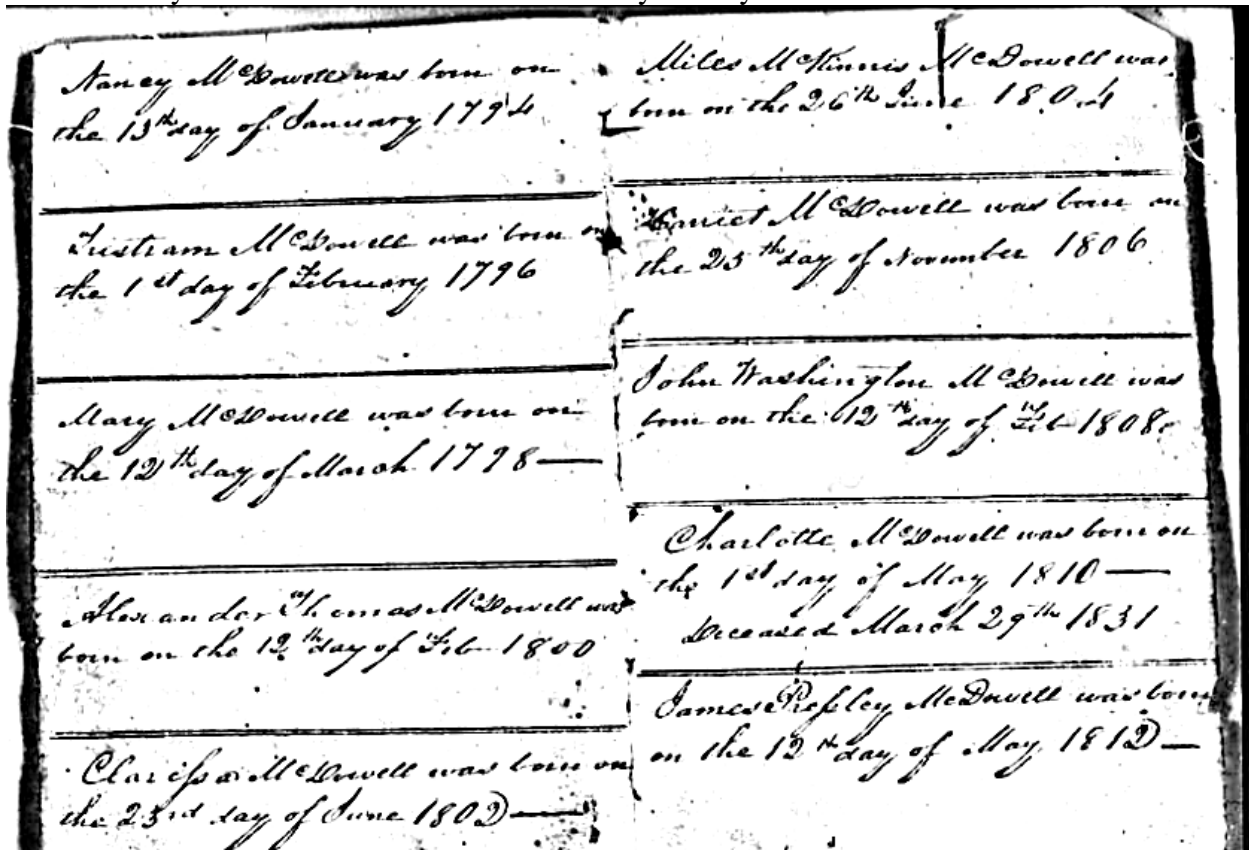
Nancy McDowell was born on the 13th day of January 1794

Tristram McDowell was born the 1st of February 1796

Mary McDowell was born on the 12th day of March 1798

Alexander Thomas McDowell was born on the 12th day of February 1800

Clarissa McDowell was born on the 23rd day of June 1802
 Miles McKinney McDowell was born on the 26th June 1804
 Harriet McDowell was born on the 25th day of November 1806
 John Washington McDowell was born on the 12th day of February 1808
 Charlotte McDowell was born on the 1st day of May 1810 – Deceased March 29th 1831
 James Presley McDowell was born on the 12th day of May 1812 –



[image 397: Betsy Ann Bluwett gave testimony in Sampson County Kentucky on December 5 1849 that she was well acquainted with John and Sarah McDowell; that she was present at their wedding in the house of the affiant's father Philemon Thomas in the year she thinks 1789; that affiant was married in 1791 at which time Sarah McDowell had one child who was 1-year-old. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[image 403: On November 5, 1855 in Lawrence County Alabama, Sarah McDowell, 83, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a Revolutionary war soldier; she states that she married him May 27, 1790; that her maiden name was Sarah Thomas; that her husband died in the year 1841; that she remains his widow. She signed this application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the Maryland and North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

[Another version]

Pension Application of John McDowell, Nat'l Archives Microfilm Series M804, Roll 1678, Application #W7423

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

On this 22nd day of October, 1832, personally appeared in open court before Charles W. Peters, Judge of the Orphans Court for Morgan County, Alabama, being a court of record now sitting, **John McDowell**, a resident of said county and state, aged seventy-four years on 10th of August last, who being first duly sworn, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed on June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit: General Smallwood, Colonel Guest, Captain William Woodell. The month he entered the service he does not recollect, but the year he believes was 1775, and remained at that time for three months. This enlistment was in the state of Maryland, and he was during that service, in the Battle of Germantown in the state of Pennsylvania.

After this service, he removed to the state of North Carolina and entered United States service under the following named officers (He does not recollect the names of any officers except his Captain James Fair, but was in no battle during this service. Soon after this he volunteered in said service under Captain Thomas Jennings of Richmond County, North Carolina, in which county he (deponent) also lived, about eight months. During said service he was in the following battles: on **Drowning Creek, Beatie's Bridge**, a branch of Pee Dee River in North Carolina, in which battle he was taken prisoner by the Tories, carried to Wilmington, North Carolina, and detained about two months, then shipped as a prisoner to Charleston, South Carolina, and then kept about six months prisoner, then discharged by parole. He has no documentary evidence of said service, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service...

Signed by himself, John McDowell

August term, 1841, Lawrence County, Alabama, Orphans Court-I, Wiley Galloway, Clerk of the Court holden at the Courthouse in the town of Moulton for said county...that **John McDowell** was a pensioner of the United States...and that he left a widow, whose name..."

State of Alabama, Lawrence-On this 27th day of September, 1845...appeared Wiley Galloway and Charles Gibson...The said Wiley Galloway saith that John McDowell the husband of the identical **Sarah McDowell** mentioned in the foregoing declaration, died at the house of Charles Gibson...on the first day of January, 1841...that the deponent saw him expire. That he, deponent made a record of his death on the next day and since transferred it to his, deponent's own family record and has it still on his possession.

Deponent further saith that the said **Sarah McDowell** is still the widow of said John McDowell. This fact deponent knows from the circumstances of **Mrs. McDowell's** having continued to live in the same vicinity with deponent ever since the death of her said husband,

John McDowell and she having frequently visited deponent's family and remained several days at a visit at his house, and that said **Sarah McDowell** has continued to advise with deponent relative to her support and comfort ever since she has been a widow.

Deponent further deposeth and saith the he transcribed the annexed family Record of John McDowell deceased and the said **Sarah McDowell** in the early part of the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen from a family record in an old family Bible, which was so much worn and tattered by use that it was then in great danger of becoming unintelligible. But whether the old Bible has been entirely destroyed or whether it at that time belonged to a different branch of the family, deponent has never known, he not having ever seen or heard of it since that time that he remembers. That the family record hereto annexed is the identical one made by deponent in 1817, he is certain from his having often seen it in the possession of the said John McDowell and **Sarah McDowell**, since the time at which he transcribed it. Wiley Galloway.

Family Record

John McDowell was born on the 10th day of August 1758.

Sarah Thomas was born on the 15th day of June 1772.

John McDowell and **Sarah Thomas** were married on the 27th day of May 1790.

Elizabeth McDowell, daughter of John and Sarah McDowell, was born on the 7th day of January, 1791.

William Thomas McDowell was born on the 26th day of April, 1792. Deceased April 11th 1814.

Nancy McDowell was born on the 13th day of January, 1794.

Tristram McDowell was born on the 1st day of February, 1796.

Mary McDowell was born on the 12th day of March, 1798.

Alexander Thomas McDowell was born on the 12th day of February, 1800.

Clarissa McDowell was born on the 23rd day of June, 1802.

Miles McKinnis McDowell was born on the 26th of June, 1804.

Harriet McDowell was born on the 25th day of November, 1806.

John Washington McDowell was born on the 12th day of February, 1808.

Charlotte McDowell was born on the 1st day of May, 1810. Deceased March 29th, 1831.

James Presley McDowell was born on the 12th day of May, 1812.

...That the deceased resided in Lawrence County in the state of Alabama for the space of six years before his death, and that previous thereto, he resided in the County of Morgan, State of Alabama, and that previous to that, he resided in the counties of Madison and Lawrence in said State of Alabama, and that previous thereto, he resided in the counties of Warren and Logan in the state of Kentucky. Sworn to and subscribed the 1st day of September, 1841. Sarah, her mark, McDowell

...She further declares that she was married to the said John McDowell on the seventeenth day of May, 1788, that her husband, the aforesaid John McDowell died on the first day of January in the year 1841...

[On another page in 1845, she says]...She further declares that she was married to the said John McDowell on the 27th day of May, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety, in the District of Marlboro, in the state of South Carolina, by publication...

State of Missouri, Moniteau Co, March 10, 1846-William H. Salmon-"That at the time I first knew them, they lived together as husband and wife, and had children, who at that time appeared to be about forty or forty-five years old, which children they recognized as their own. That he has no doubt of the fact that the said John and Sarah were married as early as 1790, from the fact that he, said deponent, resided in a branch of the family of said John and Sarah about two years, and frequently heard their marriage spoken of, and that after the death of the said John, affiant was employed as an Under Clerk in the office of the Clerk of the County and Orphans Court of Law, Lawrence County aforesaid, during the pending of the settlement of the estate of said decedent and whose papers had on several occasions to pass through his hands and be examined by him."

State of Alabama, Jefferson County, February 27, 1849, John Thomas-"He, said deponent, was intimately acquainted with John McDowell who was a Revolutionary pensioner on the Alabama rolls of the County of Lawrence in said state at the time of his death, and with Sarah McDowell, late his wife, now his widow, who is making application for a pension...That the identical John McDowell and Sarah McDowell (Thomas before her marriage), were living together as man and wife..."

The deposition of Betsy Ann Blewett taken at the house of Melinda Evans in Simpson County, KY on the 15th day of March, 1849...for the purpose of **enabling Sarah McDowell** to recover and receiving the lawful pension due her as widow of John McDowell, deceased...by request of **Sarah McDowell**, by Wiley Galloway.

Question by John Copeland:

1st- "Were you acquainted with the above named **Sarah McDowell**? If so, state how long you have known her."

Answer-"I was acquainted with her from about the time of, and for a short time previous to her marriage with said John McDowell until her removal to Alabama."

Question by same-“Were you present at the time of the marriage of said **Sarah** and John McDowell?”

Answer-I was present at their marriage, saw and heard them pronounced as husband and wife, lawfully married.”

Question by same-At what time did said marriage take place, and where were they married?

Answer-They were married previous to the year of 1791, in the state of South Carolina.”

Question by same-What was the name of **Sarah McDowell** previous to her marriage with said John McDowell?

Answer-“Her name was **Sarah Thomas.**”

Question by same-Was said John McDowell reputed to be a Revolutionary soldier?”

Answer-“I have often heard him speak of having been a soldier in the Revolutionary War and was also commonly reputed as such, and I have never heard the fact of his having served in the Revolution doubted by anyone and further, this deponent saith not.

The deposition of Betsy Ann Blewett, taken before me at the house of Robert Turner in Simpson County, KY, on the 5th day of December, 1849...

Question by the justice-Were you acquainted with said John **and Sarah McDowell**? If so, say how long you have known them, or either of them.”

Answer-“I have been acquainted with John McDowell and with **Sarah McDowell** ever since I was about thirteen years old.”

Question by same-Do you know anything about their marriage? If so, state what you know about it.

Answer-“I was present and saw their marriage. I heard the parson pronounce them husband and wife. They were married in South Carolina at the house of her father, **Philemon Thomas.**”

Question by same-“In what year were they married?”

Answer-“I think they were married in the year 1789.”

Question by same-“By what circumstances do you recollect their marriage to have been in that year?”

Answer-“I know that I was married in the year 1791, that **Sarah McDowell** had one child when I was married. That her first child was one year old, and from January to April ?old? when

her second child was born, and her second was born in 1892 [*she meant 1792*] and this I know from the fact that her second child and my first were born the same year (viz.) 1792.

Question by same-“When were you married?”

Answer-I was married in 1791.”

Question by same-What do you know about John McDowell having been a soldier in the Revolutionary War?”

Answer-I have heard said McDowell often tell of his sufferings in the war and he was always reputed to have been a soldier, and I have never heard the truth of it called in question by any person.” And further, this deponent saith not.

The State of Alabama

Lawrence County} On this 5th day of November, AD 1855, personally appeared before me, A. P Rainwater, a justice of the peace within and for the County aforesaid, **Sarah McDowell**, aged 83 years, a resident of the County of Lawrence in the State of Alabama, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of John McDowell who was a private in the Revolutionary War and for the names of the captain, the colonel and regiment under whom and in which her said husband served, declarant refers to her pension papers under which she draws a pension.

That she was married to said John McDowell on the 27th day of May, in the year 1790. That her maiden name was Sarah Thomas. That her said husband died in the year 1841 and that she is now a widow (for evidence of her husband’s services and of her marriage and his death, she refers again to her pension papers under which he now draws a pension.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the Act of March 3rd, 1855, never having received or applied for bounty land under this or any other act of Congress...