

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McKay W7429

Nancy McKay

A61NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/13/09: rev'd 1/18/17

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

[Ancestry image 526]

State of Virginia Tyler County

On this 17th day of August 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of Tyler County William McKay a resident of said County of Tyler and State aforesaid aged Seventy-three years the 23rd day of October 1832, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he enlisted in the 6th Regiment North Carolina State Troops for the Term of six months sometime in the early part of the year 1776, with Capt. John Griffin McCrae [Griffith John McRee], whose Company he was attached during his service of six months; That at the time of his Enlistment he resided in Bladen County in the State of North Carolina, in which County he enlisted, that he was marched to & stationed at Wilmington in the State last aforesaid, where he was discharged after having served the Tour of six months for which he enlisted. That the officer in command at Wilmington when he was stationed there was Brig. General Moore, who died before his six months expired. That attached to his company were Lieutenants Giles, Christopher Gooden & Ensign Richard Singletary.

That in the month of December in the year 1779, he resided in Rowan County, North Carolina, where he was drafted for a Tour of three months & rendezvoused at Charlotte Town, Mecklenburg County, that in this Tour he served under Capt. John Sloan [Johnson Sloan], in the North Carolina Militia, that from the place of rendezvous he was marched to Charleston South Carolina; the Regiment to which he was attached was commanded by Col. Hamright or Hamrod [Frederick Hambright]; The Station by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]; that he only recollects of his own company officers (in addition to the Capt. already named) Lieut. Sharp. That he knew in this service Captains Alexander & Graham or Grimes, who were also from the State of North Carolina: That he served three months, the time for which he was drafted & was discharged at Charleston, South Carolina, the 24th day of March 1780.

That in the summer of the year 1780 he was still residing in Rowan County aforesaid, when he was drafted for a three months Tour, & served under Capt. Hugh Gilmore, guarding the Ford of the Catawba River, between the farms then owned by William Kale & Samuel Huston, to prevent the British Army from passing or crossing said River; That he served three months the term for which he was drafted & was discharged in the fall of the year 1780 aforesaid.

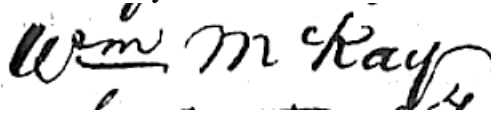
That in the winter of the year 1780 in the month of December, he still resided in Rowan County aforesaid, in the State of North Carolina aforesaid, when he was again drafted for a three

months Tour, that he was attached to a company commanded by Capt. James Crawford & was marched to & stationed at McCowan's Ford [sic, Cowan's Ford] on the Catawba River in said state. That on the first day of February (as well as he recollects) in the year 1781, he with the troops stationed at said Ford had an engagement with the British under Lord Cornwallis, who passed the River at said Fort, killing General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] his commander & taking him together with others of the American Army prisoners. That at the time of this engagement, he had served out his Term of three months within a few days. That the British kept him a prisoner until they reached Charleston, South Carolina, and afterwards, detained him as a Prisoner until after the capture of Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]; then they either set him at liberty, or he was regularly exchanged, he does not recollect which. In this Tour he served 3 months within a few days as aforesaid & was detained a prisoner with the Enemy as aforesaid from about the first of February 1781, until after Cornwallis's capture, which was the 19th of October 1781, say 8 1/2 months, making in all as a soldier & prisoner this last tour Eleven & an half months. That for the first two named Tours he received regular discharges, but which have long since been destroyed or lost, as he considered them of no value & took no particular care of them. That while in the United States service, he was acquainted with a number of officers among others Generals Lincoln, Davidson & one of General Davidson's aids — Pogue.

That he cannot from the lapse of time recollect the number or names of any Continental or Militia Regiments with which he served, other than the one in which he first served. That he was born in Scotland the 23rd day of October 1759, that he has no record of his age, but has a distinct recollection of the account, his Parents gave him of his age, which is that before stated. That his Parents emigrated with him from Scotland to the State of North Carolina, about the year 1772 or 3. That since the Revolutionary War he resided in Rowan County, afterwards a short time and Iredell County taken from Rowan, afterwards in Richmond County, afterwards he removed to Chesterfield County in the State of South Carolina, from where he removed near 40 years ago to Ohio County, from which Tyler was taken, where he lived one year, thence he removed to this County, which was then part of Ohio, where he has ever since continued to reside. That he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

That he is acquainted with the Rev. Thomas Jones, Joseph McCoy, William Wales, John Nicklin, John McCoy, John Martin & others of his neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services in the Revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity but the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Wm McKay¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm McKay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Wm McKay¹".

[Thomas Jones, a clergyman, and Robert Gorrell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Ancestry image 521: On April 11, 1839 in Tyler County Virginia Nancy McKay, 69, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William McKay a private in the revolutionary war; that she married him sometime in the first week of February 1787; that he

¹ I don't believe this is the actual signature of the veteran as the handwriting is identical to the body of the document itself.

died October 16, 1836; that her husband removed from South Carolina in 1795 2 Ohio County Virginia; that one of his brothers named John came with them to Goochland County in Virginia where he left them with a view to returning to the Carolinas; that her husband never heard from his family until he received a letter from his brother Hugh in 1816; that at the time of their removal from South Carolina in 1795 she and her husband had 4 children, the eldest being named Neil born April 19, 1788 some 14 months after they were married; she signed her application with her mark.]

[Ancestry image 517]

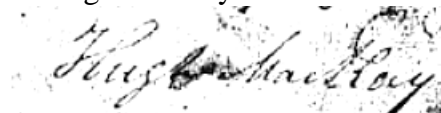
January the 5th 1816 Rocky Farm

Dear Brother and Sister

Never did I expect to hear from you or any of yours – the tidings give great Satisfaction to me and also to the rest of our Relations – the news is great to me and of great satisfaction. I have a number of circumstances to relate my Father died April the 4th 1802 Brother John died in Goochland County November the 11th 1795 he never Returned since joining with you moving Sister Isabella died August the 24th 1811 my Mother died January 1813 and Sister Catherine died August the 15th 1814. The thought of what is mentioned in the lines above perhaps may cause great Melancholy in the minds of those that did not witness the Since of all those death Sister Isabella died in the State of Georgia she was used with the greatest Brutality of any She lived six years at my brother's and raised six children, their names 1st Nacy [Nancy?], 2nd Peggy, 3rd John, 4th Neily, 5th Daniel the name of the other Child I know not – Brother William is a Merchant in Wilmington worth about one hundred thousand dollars Much beloved and respected by all that have dealings or acquaintance with him. Brother Alexander lives a Bachelor life in good Circumstances Brother Adam is living at the old mill he married last fall to Mrs. Catherine Henderson a daughter of Manasseh Henderson Sister Peggy married to John Gordon a son of Captain Gordon or Alexander Gordon they have 4 Children their names 1st Alexander 2nd Isabella 3rd Effy – 4th not baptized as yet – for my part I have 5 in family the name of the first John 2nd Nancy 3rd Daniel 4th Hugh 5th Catherine I married in the McLean family a Daughter of Hugh McLean a niece of Kenneth Campbell we are all in good Circumstance there is one of your acquaintance alive except John [too faint to discern several words] Malcom is our preacher at this time. I have many things to Relate but not certain whether this letter should ever come to your hand or not if it should I hope you will write to me again I hope that some of us will see each other yet brother William talks of writing to see the Country and I expect when he will here of this letter he would rather go that way than any other way.

You will please to mention in your next letter the distance you live from Petersburg in Virginia. I conclude in hopes of hearing from you again and my best Respects to you both and the rest of the family

S/ Hugh MacKay



you Direct your letter Richmond County Laurel Hill post office near the Rocky Ford
H Mackay

[Ancestry image 538]

State of North Carolina Robeson County March the 19th 1816

Dear Brother and Sister

Brother Hugh received your Extended Letter dated the 27th of February last which afforded us great Satisfaction to learn you were all in perfect at that time.

I have acquainted you that I and family do enjoy good health as also all the rest of your Brothers & Sister – you in yours request to know how Isabella's children was [indecipherable word] they are with their Father in Jones County in the State of Georgia on the Oakmutzy [Oamulgee] River near Fort Hawkins – Sister Catherine was not married neither is Brother William. Brother Alexander is not married he has sold out all his immovable Property and one of his Negroes and he has two yet unsold & his plantation sometimes he has a talk of going to you but it is not certain as yet but will determine by our next – you requested to know whether they were thicker settled now than when you left here they are Double were nearly as thick – they were at that time but is in a good way of making money since peace – Every produce sales well at this time best winter at 26 cents per pound we made a tolerable quantity in this neighborhood Bacon sales and \$.15 per pound corn at 75 to 80 cents per bushel & all other country produce in proportion also you requested to know something concerning Maxwell McKay's wife and you we know nothing particular about them the last we heard his son was then living the other side of Cheraw Hill. The range of cattle has Broke much since you left here and there price risen in proportion to their Scarcity –

I scarce have anything else to write worth the merit of your attention I was married on the 31st day of August last to Miss Catherine Henderson daughter of Manassah Henderson on the 9th day of February 1809 sister Margaret was married to a young man by the name of John Gordon – they are now living up Shoe Heel where Angus McAllister formerly lived, they have 4 children 2 sons & 2 daughters their oldest named Alexander (after her husband's father) the next Isabella – 3rd Effey and 4th William. I will conclude with requesting of you to write some of us as soon as this comes to hand Catherine & your Sister Margaret joins in their best respects to you all. I am Dear Brother & Sister yours while [indecipherable word]

S/ Adam MacKay



Direct your letters to North Carolina Robeson County Cowper Hill Post Office John Gordon would take it as a particular favor if you would write to him.

[Facts in file: William McKay died October 6, 1836; he married in February 1787 Nancy whose maiden name was McKay or MacKay; she filed for a widows pension April 11, 1839 while living in Tyler County Virginia and aged 69 years; the widow died April 16, 1840; the widow stated in one of her applications that she moved from Carolina and 1795 at which time she had 4 Jordan but only names that are given are Neil (who was born April 19, 1788), Reuben and Isabella; there is extensive family correspondence in this file submitted died the widow to prove her marriage to the veteran. The following is a paragraph from the war department summarizing the genealogical information in that correspondence:

"The following were brothers and sisters of the widow, Nancy: Hugh who in 1819 was living in Richmond County, North Carolina, with post office at Laurel Hill, had married a daughter of Hugh McLean and had children, -- John, Nancy, Daniel, Hugh, Catherine, George and Lochland; Isabella who died in Georgia on August 24, 1811, leaving children, -- Nancy, Peggy, John, Neily, Daniel and another (name not given) and in 1816 said children were living with their father (name not given) and Jones County, Georgia, on the Ocmulgee River near Fort Hawkins; John who died in Goochland County, Virginia, November 11, 1795; Catherine who

died August 15, 1814 & was married; Adam who lived in Robeson County, North Carolina, with post office at Cowper Hill, married August 31, 1815, Catherine Henderson, the daughter of Manassah Henderson, and 1819 they had a son and have lost a daughter (their names not given); Margaret who married February 9, 1809, John Gordon (the sum of Alexander Gordon) they lived "up Shoe Hall" where Angus MacAlester formerly lived and had children, Alexander, Isabella, Effey, William and another tour (name not given) said John Gordon died may one or 2, 1818; William who in 1816 was a merchant living in Wilmington, North Carolina, and about 1818 he married Anny D. Berry; Alexander who in 1819 was a bachelor.

"Hugh McKay or MacKay, brother of the widow, Nancy McKay, stated that his father died April 4, 1802, and that his mother died in January 1813, but their names were not given. In 1821 said Hughes stated that his sister, Peggy, had a son born March 4, 1821, but no reference was made to a 2nd marriage of Margaret Gordon and the name of the Sun was not given.

"In 1816 reference was made to Madwell or Maxwell McKay's wife and son who, when "last heard" from, the Sun was living the other side of Cheraw Hill."]

[Note: There are other family letters in this file that may be of interest to family members.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$78.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 23 ½ months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]