

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John McCormick W9557

Catherine McCormick PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Indiana }
Fayette County } Ss.

On this fifteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the honorable Edward Webb and William Miller associate Judges of the circuit court of the county of Fayette now sitting John McCormick a resident of Harrison Township in the said county of Fayette and State of Indiana aged seventy eight 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

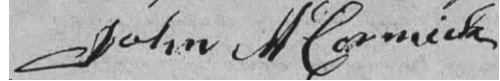
That on or about the last of April or first of May in the year 1776 on the Nolachucky river [sic: Nolichucky River] in what is now called East Tennessee he entered into the service of the United States by volunteering into a company commanded by Capt. James Robinson for an indefinite period. That immediately after he joined said company they were employed on to the waters of Nolachucky in erecting a fort, but before the same was completed they were driven from their works by a body of Cherokee Indians and immediately retreated to a fort on the Wataga river [sic: Watauga River] where they found that several families had assembled for protection. In about a week or ten days after arriving at this fort it was attacked by a body of about three hundred Cherokees who we succeeded in repulsing after about one or two hours fighting. After which battle we remained in the fort until some time in the latter part of September or first of October when we were again marched on to the Nolachucky, where we joined some virginia troop commanded by Col. Christie [William Christian] and some N. Carolina troops commanded by Col Williams, to the former of which command this applicants company was attached. From thence they marched to the Cherokee town on the Tennessee river five of which towns [Tellico, Settico, Chilhowee, and Big Island towns], together with all the corn, beans and other articles of produce we entirely destroyed after which we were dismissed (but received no written discharge as he this applicant recollects) and returned direct to the Long Island [of Holston at present Kingsport TN] where this applicant again immediately volunteered into a company commanded by Captain Shelby (whose christian name was James [James Shelby] as well as he can recollect) for no stated period and was stationed in Fort Henry [Fort Patrick Henry] at Long Island with some other volunteers the Captains of whom he does not at this day remember but all of which troops were under the command of Major Anthony Bledsoe. At which fort we remained stationed until about the middle of February following when he was discharged, but whether he received a written discharge or not he does not now remember, but if he received one it is long since lost. From thence this applicant emigrated to Bedford county in the state of Pennsylvania at which place some time about the latter part of the Summer or beginning of the fall (he thinks) in the year 1780 he entered into a company commanded by a captain (whose name was he thinks McCall) for three months to protect the settlement from Indian depredation. This company was employed in scouting about the country in the neighborhood of Bedford, but this applicant did not march with them, he having been retained by Colonel Robert Culbertson (the commandent there) as a centry in the town. This applicant served his engagement of three months and was discharged but whether his discharge was in writing or not he does not remember but if it was it is lost. At the time of this applicant's service at Bedford there were no other militia troops, nor any regulars on duty. But a short time before or after this tour of duty applicant does not recollect which he remembers a company of militia commanded by Captain Dunlop and a company of regulars commanded by a captain whose name he believes was [John] Boyd, these companies became engaged with a party of Indians in Frankstown Valley [3 Jun 1781] and were sorely defeated leaving many dead on the battleground amongst whom this applicant thinks were the above named

captains Dunlap and Boyd.

This applicant further saith that he has no documentary evidence of his services, and that he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, his services were performed on the frontiers against the Indians and his comrades are all dead or if any remain they live in parts unknown to him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid



The Court now here propound the following interrogatories to the said applicant and the answers by him made are under oath & are as follow towit:

1st. Where, and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born within eight miles of Winchester, Frederick county Virginia on the 30th day of August A.D. 1754.

Ques.2d Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Ans. I have none. My parents kept a record of their Childrens ages in the family Bible but I know not what has become of it. I know my age only from having frequently seen their record of it.

question 3^d Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Ans. I lived when I first entered the service on the waters of Holstein [sic: Holston] River, and when I last entered I lived in Bedford county Pennsylvania, after the war I lived in the latter county until the year 1795 when I emigrated into what is now called Butler county Ohio where I remained about 9 years and moved into Preble County in the same state, from thence in the year 1813 I removed into the county of Fayette Indiana where I have since resided and where I now reside.

question 4. How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom

Ans. I volunteered as I have in my declaration above stated

question 5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service

Ans. There were no regular officers with the troops where I served in the waters of Tennessee. I volunteered to protect the inhabitants of the frontiers from Indian depredations. The Indians were supposed to be & I believe were allies of the British and carried on a continual warfare in that part of the country named above by me. I knew the regiment of N. Carolina militia commanded by Col. Williams & the Virginia regiment commanded by Col. Christie to the latter of which regiments my company was for a whole attached. About the time of my service at Bedford I knew a company of regular troops which was commanded by a Capt. Boyd (I think was his name) who was defeated as above in my declaration is stated. The General circumstances of my service are in my declaration correctly stated.

quest. 6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it

Ans. I am not certain that I ever did receive a discharge. There is a faint impression on my mind that I did for the last term on Holstien & Tennessee but if I did it is long since lost.

question 7 State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

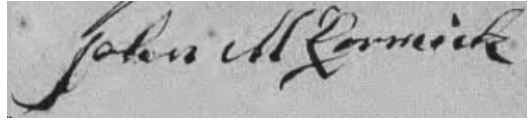
Ans. I name the Samuel Drennen Boaz Tharp Genl. Jonathan McCarty and Judge Webb a member of this court. and John Tate Esqr recorder of this county

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Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace within and for the said county of Fayette John McCormick aged seventy eight years who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades.

For one year I served as a private and for such service I claim a pension – which service is the same set forth in my declaration made before the Fayette Circuit court at the September term thereof last past – and which declaration is hereby amended &c.

Sworn to and subscribed before
me the 4th day of January A.D. 1833

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John McCormick". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

NOTE: On 25 July 1844 Catharine McCormick, 75, applied for a pension stating that she married John McCormick on 24 March 1785, and he died on 18 April 1837. On an application for bounty land dated 23 July 1855, Catherine McCormick, 86, stated that her name before marriage was Catherine Drennen. On 19 Sep 1848 Lewis W. McCormick wrote to the Pension Commissioner requesting that the pension of his mother, Catharine McCormick, be suspended, because she had assigned power of attorney to collect the pension to C. H. Trabue, a stranger.