

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McKnight S32407

f49SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/23/09 & 5/31/15

[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.]

[p 8]

Territory of Arkansas, County of Independence: At the January Term of the County Court of said County A.D. 1833

On this seventh day of January in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Independence County and Territory of Arkansas now sitting William McKnight a resident of said county & said Territory aged Seventy two 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 he joined a volunteer Horse company under Captain Major Parsons [Thomas Parsons] at Spartanburg County in South Carolina in 1780 and mustered with the Regiment in service of which John Goings [John Gowen?] was Major, a Mr. White Lieutenant Colonel [probably Henry White] and a Mr. Roebuck [probably Benjamin Roebuck] Colonel and lived in Spartanburg at the time he entered the service as a private and so continued to the end of the war. That he has not and never had any documentary evidence of his services, but can prove the same by one Nathaniel McCarroll. That when he entered the service he continued scouting from place to place on the frontiers and in the Cherokee Nation until peace was established. That he was engaged in the battles of Musgrove's Mill [August 19, 1780] and Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] with several other skirmishes of no note or importance. That he did not serve under Captain Parsons all the time, but occasionally under several other officers whose names he does not now recollect nor does he recollect who commanded at Musgrove's Mill. That at the battle of Kings Mountain he was commanded by Colonel Williams [James Williams] who was wounded there and after died. That General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] was his commander when not at Kings Mountain. Then he marched through Rutherford and most of the counties on the frontiers of the state, sometimes in South Carolina, sometimes in Georgia and sometimes in North Carolina and continued in actual and active service in scouting on the frontiers of an in said three states until peace was established.

The following interrogatories were propounded by the court to the applicant, William McKnight:

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in 1761 the date not known in Union County North Carolina.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age and never had any.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: In Spartanburg South Carolina and where I continue to live after the war until 1807 when I moved to Caldwell County, Kentucky where I lived until 1815 when I moved to Missouri now Arkansas Territory and where I now live. Nor was [I ever a] substitute for any one.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: I was a volunteer, what is usually called a Minuteman and served from the time I entered the service until peace was established.

5th 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.

Answer: I recollect General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] both when he was Colonel of a Rifle Regiment and afterwards as General; nor do I recollect any others; nor of any Continental or militia regiments as the service I was engaged in did not bring me often among the troops and the general circumstances of my services, I have already stated to the best of my recollection.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer: I never received any nor do I believe any written discharges were given by the officers under whom I served to any of the men as it was deemed unnecessary.

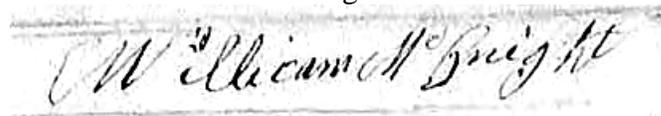
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: Nathaniel McCarrol can prove my services in the Revolutionary War as a soldier and the following named persons can testify as to my character for veracity and good behavior, to wit: Caleb S. Manly, John Weldon, William Brown and Townsend Dickinson.

I the above named William McKnight do hereby relinquish 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 & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William McKnight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William McKnight". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ J. Boswell, Presiding Justice

[Nelson R. Burley, a clergyman, Caleb S. Manly, William Brown, John Weldon & Townsend Dickinson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

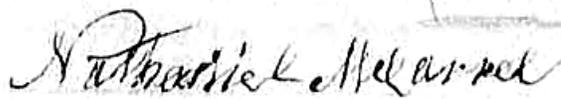
Territory of Arkansas County of Independence

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court Nathaniel McCarrol¹ who being duly sworn on his oath saith that he is personally acquainted with the within named William McKnight and knows of his knowledge that he did serve in the Revolutionary war and that they served together a part of the time in the same company and has known him ever since, And believes all the facts stated in the foregoing Declaration to be true.

¹ I cannot find anyone by this (or any reasonable variant) name who filed for a federal pension for services rendered in the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid
S/ J. Boswell, Presiding Justice

S/ Nathaniel McCarrel



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Territory of Arkansas County of Lawrence: At the April Term of the County Court of said
County of Lawrence A.D. 1834

On the twenty second day of April in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the County Court for the County of Lawrence and Territory of Arkansas now sitting William McKnight a resident now of the said County of Lawrence in said Territory aged seventy-two 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 the 7th A.D. 1832 viz. That he was born in Rowan County North Carolina in the year 1761 that he has no record of his age and never had any. That in the early part of the year 1780 he joined a volunteer horse company in the service of the United States commanded by Capt. Major Parsons and that the officers by whom the Regiment was commanded to which he was attached were John Goings Major Major Mr. White Lt. Col. and Roebuck Col. and that he and that he this deponent at the time he joined said company lived in Spartanburg South Carolina and that many of the particulars of his services have from age and lapse of memory faded from his recollection. The company to which he was attached marched through the State of South Carolina and North Carolina and that from the time he first entered the service he was continually engaged in the defense of his Country, and that he cannot state precisely many of the journeys or marches which he made, that he was stationed for some time at Jimmerson's Fort [Jamison's Fort] in South Carolina and that he was also at Fort Calle in the vicinity of Fort Jymmerson and while he was at Fort Calle Fort Jimmerson was taken by the Indians and Tories and he was sent after the enemy and he assisted in the rescue of the prisoners which the enemy had taken. That he was actually engaged in the Battles of Musgrove's Mills and King's Mountain. That he did not serve during all the time he was in the service under Capt. Parsons but was frequently attached to other companies in scouting expeditions and that he does not now recollect who commanded at Musgrove's Mill but recollects distinctly that at the Battle of King's Mountain he was commanded by Col. Williamson [sic, James Williams] who was wounded in the battle. That at other times than the last mentioned Battles he was under the command of General Pickens that while in service he marched through Rutherford and most of the Counties on the frontiers of the State of South Carolina sometimes on the frontiers of both South Carolina and North Carolina and sometimes on the frontiers of the State of Georgia and in the Cherokee nation. That the kind of service in which he was engaged required constant duty and activity. That he entered the service as a private and so continued to the end of the war and was considered what was usually termed a minute man that he was frequently attached to an embodied Corps raised as it was understood by the authority and received into the Service of the State of South Carolina and that he was in actual service from the time he entered the service until the termination of the war and that he was not during the whole time engaged in any civil pursuit. That his service was of such a nature as did not frequently bring him into the company of other regiments or officers than those with whom he served but that he knew General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] when he was first Col. of a Rifle Regiment and afterwards a general officer in addition to those heretofore

named with whom he served and with them he was well acquainted. And that he was in the service 3 years & that when discharged from the service of the United States he was in the State of South Carolina. That he did not receive a written discharge nor does he believe any was given to the Company to which he was attached. That he has not and never had any Documentary evidence of his services but can prove the same by one Nathaniel McCarrel. And that he knows of no other person by whom he can prove the length of his services. That after peace was est. he lived at Spartanburg in South Carolina until 1807 then moved to Caldwell County Kentucky and resided there until 1815 when he moved to where he is now living in Arkansas Territory and that he can prove his character for veracity and good behavior in the neighborhood where he at present resides by the following named persons to wit

S/ William McKnight

I William McKnight do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or Annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory.

S/ William McKnight

Sworn to and subscribed before me in open Court the day and date above written.

S/ D. W. Lowe, Clerk

Nathan McCarroll residing in the County of Lawrence this day personally appeared in open Court and having heard the foregoing statement of William McKnight and being duly sworn according to law says that he is well acquainted with said William McKnight. That he knows of his serving as a soldier of the revolution for the space of 3 years and that he served as he states in his declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed before me.

S/ Nathaniel McCarroll, X his mark

S/ [D. W. paper torn] Lowe, Clerk

[p 30: David W. Lowe, James M. King Kendall, Edmond McDonald and Henry R. Hynson gave the standard supporting affidavit. They also state as follows: "and we do further certify that we are well acquainted with the within named Nathaniel McCarroll that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution and also that he is a man of truth and veracity and that the said William McKnight is a man of truth and veracity and in good standing in his neighborhood where he resides."]

[p 37]

State of Arkansas County of Lawrence: Amended Declaration of William McKnight applicant for a pension

Be it remembered that on this 5th day of December A.D. 1837 I Samuel Raney an acting Justice of the peace of Strawberry Township of the County and State aforesaid, have repaired in person to the residence of William McKnight, who in consequence of old age and feeble health is not able to leave his home, and having duly sworn in according to law he owned oath deposes and says, that in consequence of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time that he served, But that according to the best of his recollection he served not less than 3 years and 6 months. That he enlisted under Capt. Parsons and during the war belonged regularly to the company of Capt. Parsons as a private -- and during the whole time was not elevated to any office. Though he often was detached -- with other commanders for short periods. But as to the precise length of the different tours he cannot state

definitely. The general place of rendezvous was at one Earles in Spartanburg district -- which was then on the frontiers. That he was 3 times through the Cherokee Country -- under the command of General Pickens and that his captain's names was Cowan or Gowan. In one of these tours he was detached by Capt. Parsons under Capt. Cowan to meet General Pickens -- and that they joined him in the long cane Country. That in one of the Indian expeditions burned several towns, among which were Pine Log and Kewee -- at Keewee they made a treaty with the Cherokees -- and took from them 5 Tories one of which (by the name of Williams) they hung. The remainder were discharged by General Pickens. But that he cannot recollect the length of these tours -- having no letters, documents or papers by which to refresh his memory. And he now recollects that in the battle of Musgrove's Mills he was under the immediate command of Capt. White. Also in a battle on the waters of Buck River -- at an attempt to take a Fort from the Tories, the detachment was commanded by Col. Rhoebeck [Roebuck] -- and he was in the action commanded by Capt. Parsons. And as to further particulars this deponent says he cannot state. But prays that this may be made a part of his former Declaration. And for these his Services he claims a pension.

S/ William McKnight

S/ Samuel Raney, JP

[pp 43-47—McKnight gave yet another full text application, this one dated July 1, 1833, the text of which is substantially identical to the various versions, except this version has the following attesting affidavit:

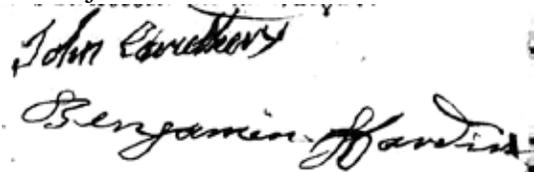
"Benjamin Hardin² & John Caruthers³ both residing in the County of independence this day personally appeared in open Court and having heard the foregoing statement of William McKnight and being duly sworn according to law say that they are well acquainted with the said William McKnight -- that they were both engaged in the Battle of King's Mountain, the said Caruthers being a prisoner in the custody of the British forces. And that from their owned knowledge and from circumstances they are well satisfied that the said William McKnight was a soldier of the revolution and that he was at the Battle of King's Mountain and that he is a man of truth and veracity respectability and good behavior in the neighborhood where he resides.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and date aforesaid

S/ William Arnold, Presiding Justice

S/ John Caruthers

S/ Benjamin Hardin"

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature is "John Caruthers" and the bottom signature is "Benjamin Hardin". Both signatures are written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Joseph H. Egner, Alfred Arnold, Thomas S. Carter and Townsend Dickenson gave the standard supporting affidavit for this application.]

[Facts in file: In December 1837, the veteran lived in Lawrence County, Arkansas; he died January 22, 1844; there is no family data in this file; someone named James McKnight was

² [Benjamin Hardin \(Harden\) S32293](#)

³ [John Caruthers S32163](#)

appointed administrator of the estate of William McKnight, his relationship, if any, with the soldier is not given in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$65.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the South Carolina cavalry for one year, 3 months and 22 days.]