

American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Samuel McGaughy (McGaughey) W9981 Jane fn127NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/10/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

[fn p. 6]

State of Alabama, Lawrence County: June 15th 1833

On this day appeared in open court before the Judge of the County Court of Lawrence County now sitting, Samuel McGaughy, a resident of the County of Lawrence and State aforesaid aged near 70 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.

I was born in the York County, State of Pennsylvania on the 15th day of July 1763 according to the information given made by my parents and the record in their family Bible. At nine years of age my father moved to Holstein [sic, Holston] River near Washington County Virginia. I was living in a Fort when the Revolutionary war began. In the spring of 1778, the Indians made war & my father was called on and I substituted in his place and served one month as a guard under Captain John Shelby on Clinch River. In August of the same year I served in the same capacity at the same place one month under Captain James Montgomery, both these on foot. In the first of March 1779, I volunteered and enrolled myself as such under Captain James Montgomery to go against the Chicka Maggy [sic, Chickamauga?] Indians, they [were] at war with the whites. Six hundred troops were raised commanded by Colonel Evan Shelby Senior. We were joined by three hundred regular troops commanded by Col Montgomery of Virginia. We proceeded down Tennessee River in boats to their towns near the Suck[?]. We landed, destroyed three towns, killed some of their men & took a number of their women and children prisoners. Col Montgomery marched to join General Clarke at Illinois and Col Shelby returned home. I got home about the middle of May. I performed this service on foot. Shortly after this event a survey of [the] Virginia and North Carolina line was made by commissioners and my father's residence was found on the Carolina side, now Sullivan County, Tennessee and the services hereafter mentioned were rendered from North Carolina and under her laws.

4th [tour]: In the fall of 1779, the settlements in Kentucky being much harassed by the Indians, I again took the field and as a volunteer under Captain John McKee of Rockbridge County State of Virginia, as a Mounted Rifleman, became one of his spies and served in that capacity seven months and was discharged.

5^{thly}: In the summer of 1780 as well as I can recollect I again volunteered under Captain Andrew Cowan to go against the British and Tories in South Carolina, as a Mounted Rifleman. Colonel Isaac Shelby commanded this expedition. We marched to

South Carolina and there joined General Charles McDowell, chief in command. I was in several skirmishes, two hard battles, one on the Tiger [sic, Tyger] River and the other on North Pacolet River. We were successful in both. I was one of those who stormed on its Fort and took 100 Tories and one British officer prisoner. The British officer was sent to train and discipline the Tories. I was discharged after a tour of four months.

6^{thly}: In the fall of 1780 as well as I can now recollect, the British and Tories under Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] drove General McDowell over the mountains to the western waters. Almost every man was called on to meet them, Colonel Shelby from Sullivan County, Colonel Sevier from Washington County, North Carolina and Col Campbell from Washington County, Virginia each had the head of Mounted Rifle regiments. I was attached to the company commanded by Captain John Pemberton in the Regiment of Col. Shelby. Col. Campbell was appointed to take the chief command of our forces and we went in pursuit of the enemy who had retreated to King's Mountain where he made a stand. We attacked them, killed Ferguson, their commander, and killed and took nearly the whole Army. In this campaign I served as a volunteer Mounted Rifleman, six weeks.

7th: Some short time after the above campaign, I volunteered as a private under Captain Andrew Cowan and went a tour in the Mounted Rifle service against the Cherokee Indians. Colonel Russell of Sullivan County commanded a Regiment to which we were attached. We joined Colonel Arthur Campbell of Virginia who took the chief command. We proceeded to their towns on the Tennessee and French Broad Rivers, destroyed them and killed many of their warriors. They sued for peace and we returned home in February or March 1781. I was detained in this service four months as well as I can now remember.

8th: In the month of April 1781, Thomas Wallace and myself raised by voluntary enlistment a large company of Mounted Infantry for four months service. Wallace was elected Captain and I was chosen Lieutenant. Isaac Shelby commanded the Regiment as first Colonel and Isaac Bledsoe as Lieutenant Colonel. As soon as our forces could be organized and in the same month, we marched to the seat of war in South Carolina and joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who was then in command there. We were sent in advance of General Greene to General Marion [Francis Marion]. We continued with Marion [until] our time [was] out. Col. Shelby and Captain Wallace being called home on some account, Colonel Bledsoe took the command of the Regiment and I was appointed Captain in place of Wallace. General Marion made an animated appeal to our patriotism and requested that we would remain with him longer. I as Captain beat up for volunteers and obtained sufficient number to constitute a company and we agreed to continue in service two months longer, believing that time would close the war. At the end of the said two months service, we were discharged. I will further state that when Colonel Shelby went home, many of the man went with him, and by that means the number of regiments was reduced and my company was attached to Col. Sevier's Regiment from whom I received a commission as Captain and I believe the enclosed defaced paper to be the same, which I have found among my old papers since I made my former declaration. In relation to it being the commission attached [here]to, I cannot speak with any degree of certainty, it being so much defaced as to be almost entirely illegible. I only affix it for inspection to be received in the investigation of my claim to the justice of my country for its worth.

In this last tour of two months service, we pursued the British & Tories. General Greene commanded us, and at the Eutaw Springs, we fought the most bloody battle I was in during the war. We gained a complete victory over the enemy. As well as I remember this was in the month of September in 1781. In this battle Col Washington commanded our light horse & General Marion the troops of militia I was in. This tour of service, including the six months in actual service in the field and the time necessary marching to and from the seat of war, was eight months.

It may be that in the references I have made to dates and the periods of the war in which I served on account of lapse of time and decay of mind and body there may be found some slight errors but they are all unintentional, if any exist. Whether I received discharges from all the tours of service above-mentioned, I cannot recollect. For some I know I had discharges, but they are all lost so that they cannot be found. I have no recollection of having a commission as an officer during my service except the enclosed paper [if it] be one, which is presented to the department under the circumstances above stated. I have no knowledge of any person within my reach by whom I can prove all my services. Agness Alexander, my sister, knows that I was in the service and Jeremiah Alexander was with me one tour.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/Samuel McGaughy

[John C. Stevenson, a clergyman, George Washington McGaughy and Samuel J. Wilson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the Honorable James E. Wallace, Judge of the County Court for Lawrence County, State of Alabama in open court, to the aforesaid Samuel McGaughy, on his application for a pension:

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

Answer: I was born in York County, State of Pennsylvania on the 15th day of July 1763.

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

Answer: I have in the family Bible of my father, now in my house.

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

Answer: I lived in Sullivan County as stated in my declaration; moved from there to Green [County] & lived four years; then settled on the French Broad [River] & lived there until 1818. I then moved to Lawrence County Alabama where I now live.

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 in all the tours except two as stated in my declaration.

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: This question is as fully answered in my declaration as I can possibly recollect now.

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 have answered these questions in my declaration as fully as I could do by a repetition of what I have there stated. I recollect nothing more in relation to the subject.

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: the Reverend John C. Stevenson, Colonel George W. McGaughy, Samuel J. Wilson, Esquire and almost all the public man of the County.

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as an officer as he states, and the Court further certify us that it appears to the Court John C. Stevenson by whom the forewarning certificate is signed is a clergyman resident in the said County of Lawrence and that George W. McGaughy and Samuel J. Wilson who have also signed the same are resident citizens of said County, are credible persons and that their statements are entitled to credit.

S/James B. Wallace, Judge County Court of Lawrence County

This Deposition of Agness Alexander the Sister of the foregoing applicant for a pension taken in open Court before the above named James B. Wallace Judge as aforesaid taken on the 15th day of June 1833

The Deponent states that she knows said Samuel McGaughy her brother was out in the service many campaigns and tours of duty during the Revolutionary War and that she had to work in the field, to make bread for the family in consequence of his absence. -- he was scarcely ever at home. She does not recollect the different battles, except King's Mountain that was nearest us, and I recollect that so many of our neighbors were killed there, my mother expressed great uneasiness about my brother Samuel, who was then in the service -- I am younger than my brother, but I recollect distinctly that he was out against the Indians wants on a long tour and often against the British and Tories.

S/ Agness Alexander, X her mark

Jeremiah Alexander appeared in open Court and makes oath that during the Revolutionary War, he lived in the County of adjoining to the residence of the foregoing Samuel McGaughy. He knew him then and knows that he was in the service, this affiant was with him, in the campaign to Kings Mountain, but was not in that battle. -- he states that in the neighborhood, he was reputed to have been often in the service, during the War, and a good friend to his Country. -- I recollect that after said McGaughy returned home from South Carolina, then the southern seat of War, he was called Capt. McGaughy.

S/ Jeremiah Alexander, X his mark

[fn. 22: On March 22, 1842 in Lawrence County, Alabama, Jane McGaughey, 78, files for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Samuel McGaughey; that she married him February 4, 1784; that he died January 5, 1841.]

[facts in file:the widow's name prior to her marriage was Jane Laughfland; the widow died in Lawrence County, Alabama, April 1, 1847 survived by the following children: Polly Henry (widow), John McGaughey, James H. McGaughey, Sally Ewing, wife of John Ewing, Margaret Stephenson, wife of Pleasant W. Stephenson, Elizabeth Reynolds, wife of William Reynolds, Jane Stenson, wife of John L. Stenson, Merry A. Simpson, wife of Asbury H. Simpson, Samuel E. McGaughey, and the following who are children

of William E. McGaughey, deceased, William B. McGaughey, Mayant J. Lackey, wife of Noble R. Lackey, Samuel H. McGaughey, John L. McGaughey and Robert E. McGaughey.]

[Samuel Burney, Sr.,¹ of Lauderdale County, Alabama, gave testimony on June 16, 1846, that he knew Samuel McGaughey and Jane Laughfland both before and after their marriage in Sullivan County, NC in 1784 and that he lived in the same neighborhood with them at the time of their intermarriage.]

[fn p. 84]

State of Alabama Lauderdale County

Be it known that before me John Cooper a justice of the peace acting in and for Lauderdale County, personally appeared Samuel Burney who is a pensioner of the United States under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, and made oath in due form of law that he the said Samuel Burney was well acquainted with Samuel McGaughey a Citizen of Sullivan County & State of North Carolina and Samuel McGaughey was drafted in said State and County and ordered to serve a Tour of duty in the North Carolina Militia and afterwards was appointed first Lieut. in Capt. James Wallace's [sic, Wallace's] Company of North Carolina Militia then was ordered out into actual service by general Government, in Col. Isaac Shelby's Regiment of North Carolina militia, and by general order of government Col. Isaac Shelby's Regiment of North Carolina Militia was sent to South Carolina near Charlestown where we joined General Greene's Army at the high hills of Santee River in the State of South Carolina in the war of the Revolution, where the before named Lieut. Samuel McGaughey was kept in actual Service against the British and Tories they being then the Common Enemy to the United States and served in Capt. James Wallace's Company 6 months as Lieut., and then Capt. James Wallace left his company in the full command of Lieut. Samuel McGaughey for the term of 2 months after Capt. James Wallace left the Army this Deponent further show with that the whole term of service which Lieut. Samuel McGaughey rendered while I Samuel Burney was in service with him was as follows 6 months as Lieut. and 2 months commanding as Capt. the whole time was 8 months as I messed with him until finally dismissed from the Army at the expiration of 8 months, This Deponent further show with that he was well acquainted with Jane McGaughey the surviving widow of Lieut. Samuel McGaughey before the marriage took place & since and knows that the above named Samuel McGaughey was a pensioner of the United States who is now dead.

Sworn to and subscribed on this 19th day of May A.D. 1843

S/ Samuel Burney

S/ John Cooper, Magistrate

[fn p. 91 is the document signed by John Sevier which is the 'commission' referred to by applicant. It is heavily water damaged and largely illegible.]

¹¹ FPA W9374