

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Samuel McFerran: S1691

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee Hardin County

On this the 18th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the court of Pleas and quarter sessions (being a court of Record possessing the powers of fines & imprisonment) of the county of Hardin and state of Tennessee now sitting Samuel McFerran a resident of the county of Hardin & state of Tennessee aged seventy two years on the 29th day of April 1833 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 John Mills a Captain sometime in the spring of the year 1778 or 1779 he being drafted shortly previous to that time, and that George Skillern was the colonel who had the command of the Regiment in which this declarant was drafted, but he believes there was no officer superior in command to Captain Mills, who had control over the troops amongst whom I was, and one George Hutchinson was the Lieutenant under whom I served.

That he was at the time he enlisted the service a resident of Botetourt County in the state of Virginia and that he was drafted for the term of six months & was ordered to meet those who had been drafted in that county in Fincastle where I accordingly met the others & we were marched from there to Montgomery County Virginia on New River where we who were under the command of Captain Mills were stationed, being about five miles below Pepper's Ferry on said new river [near present Radford], the purpose for which we were drafted being to keep the Tories in check. we were stationed as aforesaid, & made daily excursions into the surrounding country for the purpose of fulfilling the object for which we were called out to suppress & keep the Tories in subjection who were very numerous in the County of Montgomery where we were stationed & he supposes that the company under the command of Captain Mills was stationed in said last mentioned county owing to the great number of Tories in that county, it being expected about the time that we were drafted that the Tories would embody themselves & do great damage to those who were opposed to the Government of Great Britain. I was never in any battle or engagement with the enemy during this service although myself & others of the company made frequent excursions into the country watching the movements of the Tories.

The said Samuel McFerran would state that he believes & is well satisfied that he served out the full time for which he was drafted (viz) six months & about the expiration of the said term of six months we were marched back to Fincastle in Botetourt County Va. & discharged. I rec. a discharge in writing from the said Captain Mills but do not know where it is, or what has become of it, but thinks he left it about his fathers house when he removed from his Fathers, it being thought of no value, & has never heard of it & presumes it has long since been destroyed. He would further state that he does not know precisely the time he went into the service of the United States and cannot make a more definite statement than he has made in the commencement of this declaration. This declarant would further state that there were no other officers than those above mentioned who were with the troops with whom he served during the term of service aforesaid in which service I was a private soldier.

Sometime after I received the discharge aforesaid, how long after I do not recollect I was again drafted in Botetourt county in the state of Virginia I believe for the term of six months & those who were drafted in said county rendezvoused in the [word illegible] of Botetourt County Va. not far from a place called the Beaver dams [sic: possibly Beaverdam Creek] where I remained for five or six weeks being unable to march further on account of a Rheumatism which rendered me unable to get further but those who were drafted at the time at which I was marched on to join Washington at Little York, except myself & some few others, who were sick. We were left with orders to join the troops that should afterwards go on to join the main army under the command of Genl. Washington so soon as we became able to march, but we never left the place where we rendezvoused as Lord Cornwallis surrendered before myself & the sick who were with me recovered, of which I was informed & when I recovered & returned home. [several words

illegible] enrolled or under the command of any particular officer the last time I was drafted, as I was deemed by the officers unfit for service.

I was born in Botetourt County in the state of Virginia on the 29th day of April 1761. I have no record of my age, but when I was about to leave my Father I took a copy of the private Register which my Father made of my birth & that is the only evidence I have of my age. Since the Revolutionary war I have resided at the following places & the length of time herein after mentioned. I resided in Botetourt County until the 14th October 1792 when I removed into Lincoln County in the state of Kentucky & from that county to Mercer & then to Clark County & from that county to Adair & from Adair County Ky to Smith County in the state of Tennessee. I left Kentucky in February 1804 at which time I came to Tennessee Smith where I resided until August 1830. from Smith County Tennessee I removed to Hardin County Tennessee where I now reside & have resided since that time. The discharge aforesaid was given by Captain Mills aforesaid.

I am known to Bowen Davy Thomas Meadows James Wright Esqs. William Canterbury John Davy James Montgomery.

I have no documentary evidence to prove my services nor do I know of any person whose testimony I can procure to testify to my service. I know no clergyman in my county or vicinity. The said Samuel McFerran 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. [signed] Samuel McFerran