

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William McGowan [McGowen] S1692

f19SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/21/09: rev'd 11/17/16

[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.]

State of Tennessee County of Henry

On this 4th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court for the State and County aforesaid now sitting William McGowan Senior a resident of Henry County Tennessee, 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 the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in July 1776 to the best of my recollection, and served under the following named officers and as herein after stated. I volunteered under Capt. John Pickens -- Col. Andrew Pickens, General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] -- the troops to which I was attached were ordered from Fort Independence in South Carolina -- during the succeeding fall we were taken from Fort Independence and marched to Liberty Block House on Savannah River South Carolina and in the course of this year we were marched to Seneca an Indian town in the Cherokee nation where we remained till the Treaty was concluded -- how long we can continued at Seneca I do not recollect -- we returned to Block House -- I was ready and served as a Spy whenever called on -- I was in the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779]¹ as a drafted man -- I was also, as a drafted man, at Orangeburg under the command of Col. Goodwin -- after the battle of Stono I went to the Indian Border and continued in the service as a Spy and was in frequent engagements with the Indians for one year or more -- I do not recollect how I was discharged from the service, whether by discharge or otherwise -- I have no documentary evidence and know of no person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my service.

I 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 --

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Orange County North Carolina in August 1756 --

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

The record of my age was burned when my house was burned in Montgomery County Tennessee --

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

At the time I was called into the service there were but three Counties in South Carolina, I think it was Johnson I lived in -- from there I moved to Randolph County North Carolina where

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

I think I lived 21 years -- from there I moved to Montgomery County Tennessee where I lived perhaps 22 years -- from there I moved to Henry County Tennessee where I have lived, I think 5 or 6 years and I now live in Henry County Tennessee --

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

I volunteered every time except one when I was drafted -- I never substituted --

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I do not know any of the Regular officers but the Militia officers were Capt. Pickens -- Col. Pickens, and General Williamson -- when drafted I served under Col. Goodwin and was attached to Col. Henderson of North Carolina & while with him acted as quarter master during Stono, SC

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

I do not recollect in what way I was discharged --

7th 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

For character for veracity &c I refer to John D. Love Esquire and James Greer In consequence of an injury received by the falling of [off] a branch of a tree upon my head my recollection is much impaired --

[John D. Love and James Greer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

S/ B. C. Brown, D. Clk

[This application does not bear the signature of the applicant.]

[p 7: William McGowan also executed a power of attorney naming Thomas Ward of Stewart County Tennessee as his attorney to pursue his claim for a pension.



[p 13]

State of Tennessee Weakley County:

This day being the 25th day of June 1833 before me Moses T. Spann one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County & State and being empowered to administer an oath William McGowan who on his corporal oath makes the following amendment to his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the pension law of July 1833.

He states that he served as a volunteer at the time he entered the service under Capt. Pickens not less than one year of this he is certain, three months of this time he served as an Indian Spy and the balance of the time as a private volunteer.

He states that he was drafted and served as a drafted man at the least three months two months of which time he served as quarter master Sgt. & the other month as a private he states that when he made his declaration he had not thought of these events for years and part of his service he is not now able to state with that precision required by law & has left them out. At the

time he made his declaration he resided in the County of Henry he now resides in the County of Weakley.

S/ Wm McGowen [sic]

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm McGowen".

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & date above written.

S/ M. T. Spann, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months and as a sergeant for 2 months in the South Carolina militia.]