

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of John McCanlass S1695

fn22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/28/09

[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.]

State of Tennessee Giles County: November term of the County Court held at Pulaski for said County in the year 1832

On this 19th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of said Court now sitting & holding said Court John McCanlass aged 78 years since the 10th day of June last, 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. -- when he first entered the service in the Revolutionary War he resided in Orange County North Carolina, where he continued to live during the whole war except when absent in the defense of his Country. He first volunteered & entered the service in Capt. William Norris Company of Mounted troops -- in General Butler's Brigade said General Butler resided in the said County of Orange. This term of service only lasted 3 months, & was entirely performed in the said State of North Carolina. During which they did ferry little except to take a number of Scotch Tories, who resided in different parts of said State of North Carolina. He went into service next as a volunteer in the Cavalry under Capt. James Atkison -- he was marched through various parts of North Carolina having entered said last service in the said County of Orange. He was then stationed at Cross Creek, where he and his associate troops, remained during the rest of this term of service, which was in all 6 months. The object of this Expedition was to guard Campbell Town by intercepting the Highland Scotch Tories so as to prevent them from crossing Cape Fear River at the said Campbell town for the purpose of joining the British forces. He next volunteered as a light horse man, for another 6 months tour & went into service under Capt. George Hodge & he was ordered back again to guard Campbell town where they performed the same service which he had in the former expedition under Capt. Atkinson. He was principally at the ferry on Cape Fear River near Campbell town General Butler was again their Superintending officer -- from home they received general orders. General Butler had been his headquarters in Wake County in North Carolina. He was then discharged & again joined the service of his Country in Capt. James Guinn's Company of light horse -- in which he served for the term of 3 months -- during which he was engaged in scouring the country -- to effect which they marched through the Dutch settlements in Chatham County & various other parts of the Country & was engaged in quelling the Tories. They then returned to General Butler's headquarters where they were discharged. He next went into service under the command of Capt. Coble in his Company of Cavalry in General Armstrong's Brigade for the term of 3 months -- as a volunteer -- in said troop. During this term they marched through North Carolina into South Carolina. On nearing Camden where the British forces were then lying -- he was under the immediate command of Col. Kanyon [sic, Kenan?]. He was in no important battles during any of the above services -- But they had many skirmishes & took a number of Tory prisoners.

The next & last expedition in which applicant served during said War, he was under the

command of Capt. William Williams -- he was marched this term principally through North Carolina. The object of this expedition was to intercept the Tories and prevent them from stealing and carrying off horses to the British. During this expedition upon this march from Dan River to Hillsboro in North Carolina at Pains Tavern [also spelled Paine's or Payne's] Applicant was taken prisoner by the British -- and was kept sometime as a prisoner in Hillsboro whither he was conveyed after he was taken. During the term that he was with the British as a prisoner, he was in hearing of the battle at Guilford -- At this time he & other American prisoners were put up in high pins [pens] & guarded -- Still at the places where the British would successively stop as they marched through the Country. He received several paroles & discharges which he well remembers -- but has lost or mislaid them all, -- He yet has in his possession the Oath of Allegiance which he took in the United States in 1778 which is marked A & herewith transmitted to the War Department. He resided some time after the war in the said County of Orange North Carolina thence he moved to Williamson County Tennessee where he lived 4 years, he thence removed to Giles County & said State of Tennessee, where he then lived for that he last 20 years or upwards & where he now lives. Applicant further states that he was an orderly Sgt. in all & every tour of the above service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State and that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove the above facts, whose testimony he can obtain.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ German Lester, Clerk

S/ Jon McCanlass

Questions required to [be] put by the war department

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the year 1754 June 10th in New London County in the State of Pennsylvania

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

I had a record of my age in my family Bible, but my grandchildren sometimes since tour it out & it has since been lost.

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

I have fully answered this question in my declaration

4<sup>th</sup> 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 in all the service above set forth.

5<sup>th</sup> 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 have answered this question as fully as I can in the said declaration

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

I have received several discharges but lost them all as set forth in my said declaration

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans: Major Nathan Farmer, Robert Gordon, Thomas B. Gordon, Richard Briggs, Harrington L. Field, John Wilson and many others.

S/ John McCanlass, X his mark

[John Wilson, a clergyman, and Nathan Farmer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]