

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William McElyea S33084

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Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Illinois, Franklin County

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the County of Franklin & State aforesaid William McElyea a resident of the County of Franklin and State of Illinois, aged 74 years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was a private in Captain Elijah Moore's Company when I entered the service, as a drafted man. I was marched out to Ashley Hill within 12 miles of Charleston South Carolina, when I was detached & put under Captain \_\_\_ [blank in original] Bevard [sic, Alexander Brevard?] & afterwards under Captain Joseph Thomas Rhodes, in Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment of Brigadier General \_\_\_ [blank in original] Guess' Brigade under Major General Nathaniel Greene. I entered the service some time in July, August or September, I do not recollect which, either the day or the month in 1781 or '82, & continued in the service until the Peace of 1783. I lived in Caswell County. I was drafted into the service. I never was in any Battle, but I was at Ashley Hill when the British evacuated Charleston. I marched from Hillsboro, where I was mustered into service, to Salisbury, from Salisbury to Charlotte, thence to Camden, thence to Ashley Hill, then to winter quarters on James Island within 3 miles of Charleston from there to the ten mile house towards N.C. from Charleston where I was discharged. I served in the company & Regiment above stated of the line of this State of North Carolina, in the North Carolina Continental Establishment. I knew Captain Hall, Captain Hadley, Captain William Lytle, Major \_\_\_ [blank in original] Blunt [sic, Blount], Colonel A. Lytle, & Major General Greene of the Regulars, being in a low state of health I do not recollect many of the incidents of the period but I recollect very well the illuminations on James Island the night of the proclamation of Peace. I know of no documentary evidence of my service and I know of no witnesses except Moses Jones<sup>1</sup> & James McElyea & the latter it is not now in my power to obtain.

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.

Questions by the Courthouse

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

Answer: I was born in York County, State of Pennsylvania in the year 1758.

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

Answer: My Father had a record of my age, but my brother, going to school laid it down, and the hogs tore it up and no other was made.

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?

Answer: I lived in Caswell County N. C. when I was called into service; since the Revolutionary War, I have lived on the Adkin [sic, Yadkin River] in Surry County N. C., on New River and Wyeth County Virginia, and Sumner County Tennessee, in Wilson County Tennessee and now I lived in Franklin County Illinois

4<sup>th</sup> 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 drafted for 18 months.

5<sup>th</sup> 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: Captains Brevard, Rhodes, Hall, Hadley, Lytle, Major Blount, Colonel Archibald Lytle,

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Brigadier General Guess & Major General Greene. I cannot recollect the names of any of the Continental and Militia Regiments. All the circumstances of my service that I recollect are that we were stationed at the Laboratory at Salisbury a while before we went to Ashley Hill, and the illumination as before stated.

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?

Answer: I received a furlough, if not called upon by proper authority, which was to be my final discharge. It was signed by Captain Rhodes or Captain Lytle, I sold it, for a tract of land.

7<sup>th</sup> 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: Moses Jones & Thomas Spence, Thomas M. Jones, George P. Dorris.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William McElyea, X his mark

[Thomas Spence, a clergyman, and Moses Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois, Franklin County

Before the circuit court of said County, the same being a court of record, now sitting, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 1832, personally came Moses Jones who upon oath made and subscribed the following statement: That he has been acquainted with William McElyea a resident of said County of Franklin about 50 years. That he, this affiant, is personally knowing to a part of the services of the said McElyea as a soldier of the revolution; this affiant finding said McElyea a private in the company commanded by Captain Joseph Rhodes, in Colonel Lytle's Regiment, at the time he, this affiant, joined said Company, which was in the year 1782. That they, the said McElyea and this affiant, served together as privates in said company until the close of the war. That the statements of said McElyea contained in his declaration made before this court, on this day, so far as relate to his service as herein before stated, are true to the best of this affiant's knowledge and belief.

Sworn to & subscribed this day & year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ S. M. Hubbard, JP

S/ Moses Jones, X his mark

State of Illinois, Franklin County, to wit:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace in and for the said County of Franklin, William McElyea, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods stated below, and in the following grades: for \_\_ [blank in original] years, Two \_\_ [blank in original] months and \_\_ [blank in original] days I served as a drafted private under Captain Elijah Moore; for two months – I served in the same grade under Captain Brevard; for eight months – I served in the same grade under Captain Rhodes; and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ William McElyea, X his mark

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, said justice as aforesaid, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1833.

S/ Thos. M. Dorris, JP

[On June 18, 1855, in Franklin County, Illinois, Alonzo McElyea, a minor and son of William McElyea filed a bounty land petition stating that William died in Franklin County on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1845 survived by his widow, Frances who also died in Franklin on or about the month of August 1849; that Alonzo is the only child of their marriage still in his minority, that he was 20 years of age on October 6, 1854; this petition was filed by Alonzo's legal guardian, John Gazaway.]

[Bible Record

Melissa McElyea Born December 5<sup>th</sup> 1831  
Alonzo McElyea Born October 6<sup>th</sup> 1834]