

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael McLeary (McCleary) S8886

f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/22/09: rev'd 1/27/17

[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.]

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State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On this the 27th of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court, General Michael McCleary a resident of the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina, aged seventy years, lacking twelve days, 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 the 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated:

That he entered the Militia Service of the United States as he believes in the month of May 1780 -- That George Davidson¹ was Col. Commandant, William Alexander was Capt. of the Company to which your Declarant belonged -- Marched, from Mecklenburg County in North Carolina, into Lincoln County in the same State against a body of Tories that were embodied at Ramsour's Mills in said County, under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] -- The Battle between the Whigs and Tories at that place took place on the 20th of June 1780 -- The Tories were defeated -- Returned back to Mecklenburg County -- Continued in service until a short time before the Battle of the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780], which took place about the first of August 1780 -- Your Declarant having taken sick [word missing due to a hole in the paper] sent to Charlotte -- Returned in a short time to camp -- Continued in the Army -- Was with the Army when Lord Cornwallis with his Army entered Charlotte, the County Town of Mecklenburg, which was on the 26th of September 1780 -- The British Army remained in Charlotte until the 9th of October 1780, all of which time your Declarant was one who was actively employed in annoying the same -- Lieut. James Tagart² with a small Detachment of thirteen men of which number your Declarant was one captured two wagons loaded with valuable stores from Camden South Carolina to Charlotte, two miles ~~below~~ South of the last mentioned place, and within half a mile of their picket guard -- fired on the wagon guard, killed two of them and took the rest prisoners -- Destroyed the stores, marched all night -- Delivered the prisoners to Col. Davidson the next day -- We annoyed every opportunity by firing on their foraging parties -- capturing their expresses &c -- Your Declarant further states that he was one of a Detachment that being on their rear for the purpose of picking up stragglers -- Followed them to the old Nation Ford [Nations

¹ From later references to this officer, it is clear that the applicant is referring to William Lee Davidson, not George Davidson.

² [James Tagert \(Taggert, Taggart\) W4081](#)

Ford] on the Catawba River -- the River being high, they marched back about ten miles, crossed Sugar Creek, and then crossed the River at Land's Ford -- was in the service and lay at six mile Creek, where Col. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] came and lay with us for some time -- Also General Smallwood [William Smallwood] with Continental Troops which was before Tarleton's Defeat which took place on the 17th of June³ 1781 -- Continued in service until the British Army crossed the Catawba River at Cowan's Ford which was the first day of February 1781 -- Was still under the command of Col. Davidson who was advanced to the Rank of Brig. General, -- Lay with his Brigade at the Tuckaseegee Ford of said River, the British Army on the other side expecting them to cross where we were stationed -- had thrown up Works and were prepared for them -- The morning of the day they crossed the River, General Davidson left the camp to examine the Fords up the River -- got to Cowan's that night -- the British Army crossed at that Ford at the dawn of day and General Davidson was killed -- we received the intelligence that night by express -- broke up camp that night -- marched on to Salisbury and I believe over the Yadkin River -- lay there a while -- was discharged and returned home -- performed some duty afterward was chiefly guarding commissary wagons &c which was not more than two months -- three or four months of my service, I was a mounted soldier & found my own horse -- I have no documentary evidence of any of my services.

Interrogatory 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born on the 8th of December 1762, in York County in the State of Pennsylvania

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

Ans. My age was recorded in my Father's Family Bible, which I have not

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

Ans. I was living in Mecklenburg County North Carolina -- have lived in the same County & state ever since

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

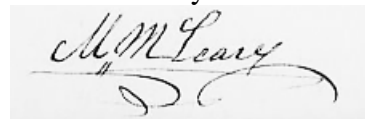
Ans. It seems to me that I was drafted once but cannot say certainly -- I volunteered as to the rest of my services -- I never was a substitute for any person.

5th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I received two discharges, each for three months service -- one of them was signed by Capt. William Alexander -- I cannot recollect who the other was signed by -- but this I know, that I laid my discharges before a board of Auditors, who audited the soldiers, and got a specie indent for six months service -- The other periods of service were shorter, and at a time when the enemy was treading our soil we thought nothing but of destroying by any means in our power. Your Declarant believes that he served nine months altogether during the Revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension and Declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ M. McLeary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. McLeary", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

³ Someone in a more contemporary handwriting wrote the word "January" above the word "June." The actual date of the battle of Cowpens is January 17th 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowpens.htm>

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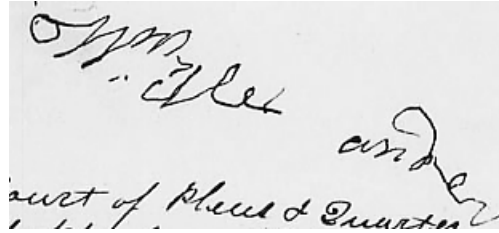
North Carolina Mecklenburg County

This day William Alexander⁴ personally came before me one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the said County and made oath in solemn form of law that Michel Mckleary [sic, Michael McLeary] entered the service as a volunteer in the Revolutionary war under him the said William Alexander Capt. the first of June 1780 and continued in service under him two tours three months each for which he gave him discharges these services were performed in this State and in the upper part of South Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed this 7th of November 1833

S/ Dan Alexander JP

S/ Wm Alexander

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Alexander", with the words "Justice of Peace & Quarter" written below it.

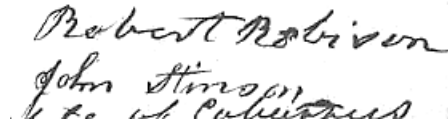
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I Robert Robison & John Stinson do hereby certify that Gen Michael McCleary did the services set forth in the within declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written.

S/ Robert Robison

S/ John Stinson

Two handwritten signatures in cursive script, one for "Robert Robison" and one for "John Stinson".

[John Robinson, Dr. of Divinity, and William Davidson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Mecklenburg County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions November Term A.D. 1833

On this 26th day of November in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open Court, General Michael McClary a resident of the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina aged seventy-one years, lacking twelve days, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his Declaration bearing the date of the 27th of November A.D. 1832 -- in order to obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he was a Revolutionary Soldier, Entered the militia Service of the United States as a private soldier, volunteered for the term of three months in Capt. William Alexander's company the first day of June 1780, was at that time in service encamped at Codle Creek [sic, Coddle Creek] in said County under the following officers viz. Col. Robert Irwin's Regiment William Haggins [John William Hagan] Lieut. Col. James Harris Major, and served as here after stated -- But before we marched to Ramsour's in Lincoln County where a large Body of Tories was

⁴ [William Alexander S6496](#)

collected, Col. William Lee Davidson, a Continental officer, early in June was appointed by General Rutherford to the command of a Regiment of Light Infantry while at Coddle Creek, was at Ramsour's and continued in command until he was wounded at Colson's [Colson's Mill, July 21, 1780] near the mouth of Rocky River in a Contest with the Tories -- after which he was advanced to the Rank of Brig. General -- I was attached to his Regiment of light Infantry while at Coddle Creek marched with him to Ramsour's. The Tories were defeated. Dispersed and a number made Prisoners on the 20th day of June 1780 -- after which General Rutherford returned with his Brigade to Mecklenburg County, was encamped at or near six mile Creek in July 1780. In the last of that month I took sick was sent to the Hospital in Charlotte. Recruited in a short time, returned and joined my Regiment, was Discharged the first of September 1780 -- volunteered immediately for three months longer in Col. Robert Irwin's Regiment Capt. William Alexander's Company James Tagart Lieut. on the 26th day of September Lord Cornwallis with his whole force entered Charlotte, our County town, our troops Retreating before him. Exchanged a few shots with him as they entered Charlotte. Retreated near our old encampment at Coddle Creek on the Rocky River, where General Davidson took the most favorable position and made a stand -- The British Army evacuated Charlotte on the 9th of October 1780. All of which time I was one who was actively engaged in small detachments reconnoitering the British lines and harassing them in every possible way. Your Declarant was one of thirteen men under the Command of Lieut. James Tagert who captured two wagons loaded with valuable stores from Camden South Carolina to Charlotte two miles South of Charlotte and within half mile of their Picket Guard -- Fired on the wagon Guard killed two and took the rest prisoners Destroyed the stores -- marched all night Delivered the prisoners to General Davidson next day -- your Declarant was also one of a small Detachment who captured an express from Lord Cornwallis to Col. Turnbull Commander of his Majesty's forces in Camden South Carolina -- your Declarant further states that he was one of a Detachment that hung on their rear for the purpose of picking up stragglers. Followed them to the old Nation Ford on the Catawba River, where the [sic, they] encamped all night Hanged one of their men and left him hanging. The River being high could not cross -- marched back up the Road about ten miles, killed one of our men and took one prisoner crossed Sugar Creek marched down the River and crossed at Lands Ford in South Carolina -- General Davidson moved down and encamped near six mile Creek where he was joined by General Morgan and General Smallwood with some Continental Troops which was in the month of November 1780 -- General Morgan and General Smallwood did not continue long with General Davidson moved off to South Carolina in quest of Col. Tarleton Defeated him at the Cowpens on the 17th of January 1781 -- I was Discharged from my 2nd Tour of three months on the first of December 1780 -- volunteered again for three months as a horseman found my own horse in Capt. John Brownfield's Company, but was transferred to another before my time of service expired, in the same Regiment and General Davidson's brigade who was watching the movements of Lord Cornwallis who appeared Determined to recross the River and march through the Country. General Davidson made the best possible disposition of his force by placing Guards at every Ford that was thought the enemy would cross and Fortifying them in the best possible manner Had his Head Quarters at Tuckaseegee Ford, as it was thought the [British] would cross at that ford -- your Declarant and the Company he belonged to was stationed at that ford. General Davidson left his head Quarters on the morning of the 30th or 31st of January 1781 to inspect the different fords on the River arrived at Cowan's Ford on the evening of the 31st the British Army crossed the River at that place at the dawn of day the 1st day of February 1781 -- The General was killed. Received the news that night by express. Broke up Camp in the

night marched towards Salisbury Halted some time to collect the scattered Forces -- After which continued in service until after the Battle of Guilford which was on the 15th day of March 1781 - - which make nine months in the three Tours -- for which time I claim a Pension. Your Declarant also states that he served with an embodied Corps called into service by Competent authority, and that he was always in the field and such Detachments as he was ordered on by his officers -- And during the term in which his services was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit.

Your Declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity Except the Present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll or agency of any State -- all of which your Declarant prays may be taken as an amendment to the Declaration aforesaid.

Sworn to in open court

S/ B. Oates, CCC

S/ M. McLeary

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Robert Robinson⁵ maketh oath that Michael McLeary did the service set forth in the above Declaration, for he was with him in service.

Sworn to & subscribed

S/ Robt Robinson



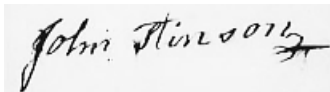
S/ B. Oates, CCC

[p 14]

John Stinson⁶ maketh oath that Michael McCleary did the service set forth in the above Declaration for he was with him in service.

Sworn to & subscribed

S/ John Stinson



Sworn to in open Court

S/ B. Oates, CCC

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]

⁵ [Robert Robison S7426](#)

⁶ [John Stinson S7656](#)