

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John McAlister W1887
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah fn81NC
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State of North Carolina, Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions January Term 1833

On the 25th of January aforesaid Personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Court aforesaid now Sitting, John MacAlister [sic] a resident of the County of Richmond & State of North Carolina aged 67 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under Captain Moses Chambers, as a volunteer the first of October 1779 and Served three months in the Service of keeping guard at Haley's Ferry on Pedee River – the British being as was said in the Adjoining State viz -- South Carolina, that the 1st of January 1780 he volunteered his Services under Captain William Wall in the light horse of Richmond County as a minute man ready at all times when called into service and was in two engagements against the Tories at Betty's Bridge [sic, Beatti's Bridge] on Drowning Creek when Colonel Thomas Wade Colonel David Love Colonel Thomas Crawford and others commanded which first engagement was in the month of August and the last of September 1781 that he was in several skirmishes during the time of his service and in the month of February 1781 he was appointed Sergeant in Captain William Wall's Company that in the month of December 1781 he was sent with some Tories taken by Colonel Crawford and Captain William Wall as prisoners to the Town of Salisbury in Rowan County in this State as the officer of the Guard, and delivered them safe, but one that made his escape – that in the year of 1781 he was sent to Salisbury for ammunition that he had to go to General Rutherford's 15 miles N. W. of Salisbury before he could get any for Colonel Thomas Crawford and Captain Wall's company, that his Services is known to Walter Leak Sr.,¹ William Thomas,² Elias Gardner³ and others, and that the Court before whom he is making this declaration have always understood that John McAlister was a Whig and a Revolutionary Soldier and that he further made oath that he served two years and three months in the Service of the United States two years of which time he served in the capacity of first Sergeant in Captain Wall's company of Horse they being always called out to serve the neighboring Counties of Moore & Robeson, formerly Bladen, where the enemies of the Country or of the American cause resorted to and lived in, that the before mentioned, Wade, Love, Crawford and Edward Williams were the different Colonels he served under, that he believes he had a Sergeants or Cornet's Commission but has lost it by reason that he never expected to have any use or call for it, that after the British left this State the Tories were not troublesome and the Whigs slackened in searching for them, and they were not called out, and his discharge, if he had one, it is lost as well as his commission and that at the last Battle at Beatti's Bridge he John McAlister was the only Scotchmen who was in the American Army of perhaps 400 men that he well was known to be a Whig by many men in Anson & Montgomery and now Richmond Counties that are now deceased and gone to their long home.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the date above stated

Test: M. C. Crawford, Clk

S/ John McAlister

He 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, Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: M. C. Crawford, Clk

S/ John McAlister

[Martin T. Crawford, a clergyman, and Elias Sinclair gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories put by the Court

1 FPA S7136

2 [William Thomas S7711](#)

3 FPA S6875

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans, I was born on the 12th of February 1765 and Argyle Shire in Scotland

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

Ans, I have it in my family Bible at home

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

Answer, when I volunteered my Services I live with my Father in the County of Richmond, a part of Anson County formally and has lived in the County of Richmond ever since and live in the same County now

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

[no answer given]

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.

Answer, I never was a Soldier under a Continental officer served under Captain Wall & Colonel Thomas Crawford and Colonel Wade Colonel David Love, & Col. Edward Williams and some other officers, when we all assembled together and went on to fight Colonel Fanning & Colonel McNeill and Col. Elrod which commanded the Tories as we were told

6th 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 do not remember whether I ever had a discharge or not, If I had it is lost, I never thought it was worth much, I was young and fought every one of my old companions in arms would know I was a friend to my Country, for I call it so, for I came to this Country in the latter end of 1775 before Independence was declared

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.

Answer, Walker Leak Sr., William Thomas, Elias Gardner and Moses Knight⁴ which were with me in service and in Battles, and some others if they were here, Lot Stricklin,⁵ Captain Stephen Cole⁶ of Robeson [sic, Robertson] County, Tennessee, and his brother James Cole⁷ also of Tennessee, they were with me in services

State of North Carolina, Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions January Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court Walter Leak Sr., William Thomas, Elias Gardner and Moses Knight which being severally sworn according to law depose and say that they were well acquainted with John McAlister at different times during the War that he was a Whig and friend of his Country and that they have full confidence in the truth of his Statements.

Sworn & subscribed in open Ct. January 25, 1833

S/ Walter Leak, Sr.

S/ Moses Knight

S/ William Thomas

S/ Elias Gardner

State of North Carolina, Richmond County

This day personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, John McAlister who being duly sworn according to law depose & saith

4 [Moses Knight R6028](#)

5 FPA S7657

6 FPA S3176

7 [James Cole S3174](#)

That by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot furnish the war department with any other data corroborate his of his length of service except that which is set forth in his declaration he distinctly recollects that he entered the service under Captain Chambers in the fall of 1779, that afterwards he was under Captain Wall in January 1780 as a minute man and was held in constant readiness at all times to combat the Tories who in this Section of the Country were commanded by Colonel Fanning & Colonel McNeill, and that although they were not constantly engaged in actual Service for frequently a week or two might intervene, yet they were so much so, that all other avocations with him were abandoned and he devoted himself entirely to the service of his Country, and although he cannot procure any persons now living who can swear to the actual time or length of service yet he has not a doubt left upon his mind that he served as before set forth two years & three months, two years of which in the character of 1st Sergeant – and however improbable it may be to the War department, that he should have been promoted as Early as 1780, which would make him at that time 15 years old and not 13 or 14 as the war department says he would mention that he was remarkably well grown and as Evidence of it he married between his 17th & 18th year, He states that his age as put down in his declaration is a mistake, that he was 68 the 12th of February 1833, and as a proof that it was a mistake in those who drew off his declaration he cites the attention of the department to his answer to the first Interrogatory, as put by the court, where he states that he was born 12th of February 1765; another circumstance which he would mention which might go to explain the cause of his being so Early promoted, viz., he was as he before stated a Foreigner, had not long been in the Country, and had given sufficient Evidence by his having volunteered under Captains Chambers & Wall that he was attached to the American cause, while hundreds of others who were native citizens proved Traitors. It is to this circumstance that he thinks he is an know small degree indebted for having thus Early held the appointment of 1st Sergeant.

He further states that the way he arrives at the length of his service, and it's being so strongly impressed on his mind is that he recollects that he was engaged from his commencement until the spring or summer after the British had evacuated Wilmington, which he thinks was in the fall of 1781. Another circumstance which goes to Impress his length of service, that he was engaged from the commencement until some months after the Battle at Beatti's Bridge, that he recollects well when the Whigs from this Section returned from Wilmington, bringing the news of the Surrender of Cornwallis.

He further states to the department as proof indubitable, of his being continually engaged in the service the fact that 4/5ths of those who have applied from this County for a Pension refer to him as having been with them fighting the Battles of his Country.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 4th May 1833

S/ J. O. Knight, JP

S/ J. Macalister

State of North Carolina, Richmond County: This day personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions Walter Leak Sr a Revolutionary Pensioner & William Thomas who made oath that they were well acquainted with Jo. McAlister during the revolutionary war, that they were with him in one or more Battles at Beatti's Bridge and that he was a Whig & friend of his Country.

I Walter Leak do further state that I am now in my 72nd year & that the first time I ever saw John McAlister which was in 1780 that he was then as I considered grown & always thought older or as old as my self. Sworn to and subscribed before me May 4th, 1833

S/ J. O. Knight, JP

S/ Walter Leak

S/ William Thomas

North Carolina, Richmond County: court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions July Term 1833

Personally appeared in open Court John McAlister of the County of Richmond who being first duly sworn deposed & saith that neither in his original nor in his amended declaration did he intend to

convey the idea that he was two years in one continuous service for such was not the case; but the two years of service alleged in the capacity of a Sergeant embraced different periods with short intervals.

In consequence of the loss of memory the applicant cannot swear positively to the length of his service, or the length of the intervals spent at home; (which time spent at home was on leave of his commanding officer) but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades: -- For three months he served a private under Captain Moses Chambers, and for two years he served as a Sergeant under Captain William Wall: and for such service he claims a Pension. The fact of the applicant having been a Sergeant is proved by the accompanying affidavit of John Dawkins⁸ now a Pensioner.

Test: Elias Linclon, D. C.

S; J. Macalister

State of North Carolina, Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions July term 1833

This day personally appeared in open court John Dawkins aged 84 who being first duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposes & saith that he was well acquainted with John McAlister in the Revolutionary war, that he knew him to have been a Sergeant as set forth in his declaration for that he well recollects that he was himself detached from the company to which he then belonged & went to Salisbury with some prisoners, under John McAlister who acted at that time as a Sergeant as he sets forth in his declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the 17th of July 1833.

S/ John Dawkins, X his mark

Test: S/ E. Lincoln, D. C.

[On April 18, 1853, in Richmond County, Sarah McAlister, 58, made application for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of John McAllister, a pensioner under the 1832 act; that she married him on July 12, 1819 in the town of Fayetteville North Carolina; and that he died December 24, 1848.]

[information in the file: Sarah McAlister filed in 1870 for the reinstatement of her pension after the Civil War.; her maiden name was Sarah Hailey; she was said to have been the veteran's fourth wife.]