

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McElroy S2786

f29SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/19/09: rev'd 11/16/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Allen: Sct.

On this 23rd day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Asher W. Graham Judge of the Circuit Court of Allen County in the State aforesaid now sitting James McElroy a resident of Allen County and State aforesaid aged seventy-three 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That in the year 1776 about the first of September he volunteered to fight against the Cherokee Indians under Capt. John Gowan [also spelled Gowen in other documents], and served about a month or 6 weeks tour. That he then resided in Spartanburg County South Carolina when he volunteered under Capt. Gowan; the Indians broke out on the 4th of July 1776 and were committing depredations on the borders of said state and on the Georgia lines, the name of the Col. of our Regiment was John Thomas and the General was by the name of Williamson [Andrew Williamson]. During our service under said officers and on said expedition we had a battle at Seneca [August 1, 1776]<sup>1</sup> in which there were several Indians killed and but one of the Whites as the applicant now thinks and his name was, Salvidore [Francis Salvador], and they also had a battle with the Indians at Keewee town or Fort Keewee. There were several Indians killed here also and many scalps taken and some whites were killed but he does not recollect. After the battle of Keewee we returned to our homes or rather to Fort Gowan where this applicant remained about fifteen months under Capt. Gowan, who stayed at said Fort with men to guard and protect the line, and the Country and occasionally reconnoitering the country. There were several skirmishes during this period. The applicant further states that about the lapse of fifteen months, he was drafted under Lieut. Edward Hampton, the Lieut. to Capt. Gowan to go to Savannah when General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] came from the northward and was about to besiege it, he went accordingly to Savannah and staid about 6 weeks [Siege of Savannah, September 16-October 9, 1779].<sup>2</sup> The British were in possession of Savannah and had it well fortified. The Americans under command of General Lincoln and the French under command of Count Pulaski made an attack upon Savannah and continued storming the Fort for six weeks and were finally unsuccessful. The French having left the Americans, General Lincoln concluded to relinquish the project, and dismissed the militia and marched off his regulars. Had they remained three days longer they would have succeeded as the British were nearly starved and were entirely without provisions. From Savannah after we were dismissed we went home. This applicant further states that he was

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_seneca\\_town.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_seneca_town.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

on many other occasions called on to fight against the Tories and the British many of which he cannot now recollect, but the country was in a very unsafe and unsettled condition for a long time but on one occasion he recollects that himself and one or two others voluntarily joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] in an attack on a Fort of the British called Ninety Six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781],<sup>3</sup> which was very strongly garrisoned. General Greene was here successful,<sup>4</sup> and got possession of the Fort from the accounts we received from prisoners there must have been many of the British killed. They finally deserted said Fort in the night and General Greene took possession of the Fort. The applicant supposes he must have been engaged in the service of his country about four years from the first of September 1776. The applicant has no documentary evidence and that he now knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service -- and has lost his discharges; that he was born the first day of September 1759 near Cape Fear in North Carolina.

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

S/ James McElroy, X his mark

[Benjamin Bailey, a clergyman, and Walter Thomas gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Kentucky Allen County & Circuit

On this 14th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court now sitting before the Judge thereof James McElroy and made oath to the following amendment to his former declaration for a Pension under the Act of 7 of June 1832 which said amendment is attached to said declaration. He makes oath that he served six weeks under Capt. Gowan against the Cherokee Indians. That he served fifteen months at Fort Gowan under Capt. Gowan. That there was an error in his former declaration as to the time he served under Lieut. Hampton, that instead of six weeks, he was drafted for three months & served the whole of said three Months -- when he volunteered under General Greene in the attack on Fort 96 he was in service one month & this declarant further states that he is certain he served on other sudden calls against the Tories two years, three months & a half for he was almost constantly in service. Sworn to in open Court before me

S/ Asher W. Graham

S/ James McElroy, X his mark

[Facts in file: There is a finding entered by the Clerk of court of Allen County Kentucky in which the Clerk finds that James McElroy, a Revolutionary war pensioner, died in Allen County Kentucky on February 9, 1848 leaving no widow. William McElroy (relationship, if any, not stated) filed to collect the pension due the veteran from the date of his last payment until the date of the veteran's death. William signed with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina service.]

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ninety\\_six.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html)

<sup>4</sup> Contrary to applicant's statement, Greene was forced to retreat from the Siege of Ninety Six when the British garrison there was reinforced by Lord Rawdon. I believe there is a scrivener's error in the transcript and that the word "successful" should have read "unsuccessful."