Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John McBride
Transcribed by Will Graves

S4193

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[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 1

[p 3]

18 Months Service

Declaration of John McBride in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7^{th} June 1832

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 11th day of January 1834, personally appeared before us Nicholas Perkins, Gilbert Marshall, and John Hughes Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held at Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee. John McBride, a resident of said county, age 82 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 provisions of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted under the following named officers and served as herein stated

Ans to Question 1st: I was born in Pennsylvania Bucks County in the year 1752

Ans to Question 2nd: I have a record of my age in my bible at home

Ans to Question 3rd: I was living in North Carolina, Orange County, when called into the service. I left there some where about the year 1784 or 6 and settled in South Carolina, York District, where I remained until some where about the year 1802 when I left there and settled in East Tennessee where I remained until 1806 or 7. I then removed to Maury County, Tennessee where I remained till 1826 when I removed to Giles County, Tennessee and remained there until about three weeks ago. I moved to this county, Williamson, of course

Ans to 4 Question: I volunteered in all my tours

Ans to 5 Question: I recollect names of no officers who were with the troops where I served saved that I shall mention in a statement of the general circumstances of my service. I first entered as a Sergeant under Captain Nathaniel Christmas. We rendezvoused at Hillsborough and marched from thence against the Tories in Chatham County. They retreated down to Deep River where we had a battle and our Lieutenant Robert Christmas, brother to the Captain, was wounded. We lay encamped here some time and I apportioned the provisions among the soldiers as First Sergeant. This tour lasted three months. Nothing further of importance occurred to my recollection on this tour.

I entered under Captain Little in my second tour and was stationed at Hillsborough to guard the prisoners and while in this duty the British having come in these parts under Cornwallis it was thought necessary that the prisoners should be removed to Halifax about 110 miles, and 18 other men and myself did guard them to that place. This tour lasted three months.

My third tour was under Captain Allen [Abraham Allen] whose company was attached to Colonel or General Butler's [John Butler] regiment. This expedition was generally against deserters and Tories which very much infested the surrounding country. This tour also lasted three months.

My fourth and last tour was under Colonel Malmadie [sic, Francois Lellorquis Marquis de Malmady (also Malmedy, Malmèdy)] a French officer. Our Captain was Samson. As I was taking some horses into Virginia I was pressed into the service under him about 50 miles from Virginia. I do not recollect what county. He was on his march down towards Cross Creek. We were marched on down by Cape Fear to Wilmington and during the march we came within eighteen miles of my father's and I got a furlough by leaving my horses in pon [?]¹ and went to see my father. I stayed but a few days and returned to the army which marched on toward Guilford and before we arrived there we heard the cannon of the battle. I entered this tour at least two months before this battle which was on the 14th or 15th of March 1781 [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] and continued until the surrender of Cornwallis which was on the 19th October 1781, which would make this tour at least nine months which I served which makes in all eighteen months service which I rendered my country.

Ans to 6th Question: I received a discharge from all four of my tours signed by my Captains on all of them but in my last I think the Colonel signed. That they were some of them sold for trifles and the others lost.

Ans to Question 7th: As I have been but about three weeks in this county I have but a few acquaintances here and slightly known to them. I am acquainted with no preacher in this county. I am acquainted with one in Maury County, where I formerly lived whose deposition together with Mr. Mitchel's, I wish to provide before this declaration is forwarded. The preacher's name is Joseph Paton.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity whatever, except the present and declare my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

S/ John McBride, X his mark

Sworn to in open court 11 January 1834. S/ Thos Hardiman, Clk [p 5]

I, Andrew R. McBride, certify that I am well acquainted with John McBride who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration: that I believe him to be 82 years of age; that he was reputed and believed in neighborhoods where he has resided to have been a soldier of the Revolution. That he has been residing in his present neighborhood only about three weeks and so far as he is known there he is reputed and believed to have been a soldier of the Revolution. I have no personal knowledge of his service but I have heard him during the space of 20 years frequently telling over and over a statement of his services not differing in any respect from the present declaration and I believe him to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that he served as herein stated.

Sworn to in open court 11 January 1834 S/ Thos Hardimon, Clerk

S/A. R. McBride

[p 14: Joseph Payton, a clergyman, resident of Maury County, Tenn. gave the standard clergyman's supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Maury County

Be it known that on this 7th day of February 1834 before me James Forgey an acting

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Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared James Mitchell and made oath in due form of law that he is well acquainted with John McBride who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration that he believes him to be 82 years of age, that he served in the revolutionary war with him under different officers during a tour of three months: I was with him in the battle where Robert Christmas was wounded I lived nigh neighbors to said McBride from the commencement to the conclusion of the revolution and I do well know that he was a determined Enemy to all the Enemies of his Country and was generally out in the service for his Country, that he was a brave soldierly man and did not turn aside from danger at any time that I know of when his Country demanded his aid. Sworn to before me this the 7th day of February 1834.

S/ Jas. Mitchell²

S/ James Forgey, JP {Seal}

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina militia.]

² James Mitchell S1854