

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Arthur McFalls (McFauls) <sup>1</sup> W9187<sup>2</sup> Enezy (Emzay) McFalls f88NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/9/09& 11/12/16

[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.]

[pp 80-82]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832  
State of North Carolina County of Yancey: SS.

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834 personally appeared before me William Dickson one of the Acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Yancey and State of North Carolina, Arthur McFalls a resident of Grassy Creek in the County of Yancey and State aforesaid aged Eighty-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 Provisions of the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1832. That according to the best information he can obtain he was born the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May A.D. 1751 in Bedford County in the State of Virginia, and that a few years before the Revolutionary War he moved into North Carolina and Settled in the County of Burke – and has lived in said County ever since until last Winter when this part of Burke together with a portion of Buncombe County was Stricken off and erected a new County by the name of Yancey. That he was living in the North Cove in Burke County when he volunteered into the Service in the Spring to guard the inhabitants from the head of the Catawba [River] to Charles McDowell's at the Quaker Meadows – and says the Indians attacked them on their march near the mouth of the North Fork of the Catawba where a severe engagement ensued. That they defeated the Indian; the Whites lost Captain Reuben White and a private by the name of Sabe Shelton killed and Captain Thomas Whitson wounded – the Indians had Eight killed, and wounded not known, this tour he was out two weeks, a few days after this battle in the month of July 1779 he volunteered into the Service again to go against the Indians – & Served under Captain William Davidson this tour he served three months – the following are names of some of the officers that were with the troops at this time – the is. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Colonel Christopher Bateman [Christopher Beekman] Captin Rudolph, Captain Meban (or Mayburn), Captain Leak, Captain Gillifalls [perhaps Gilbraith Falls] and Captain Alexander Ervin and Lieutenant William Cathy. That they marched to the Swannanoa River where he was sworn in as an Indian Spy together with nine others, whose names was Joseph McDowell (of the Pleasant Gardens ), John McFalls, James Daver, Thomas Todd, William Hutchinson, William Alexander, James Ellis and

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt40926-160-55

<sup>2</sup> McFalls was one of the Tories captured at Kings Mountain and sentenced to be hanged, but his life was saved by the intervention of Col. Joseph McDowell and others who had served with McFalls in the campaign against the Cherokees earlier in the war. See: <http://www.familyorigins.com/users/m/c/b/Danny-Albert-Mcbee-Gastonia/FAMO1-0001/d1590.htm>

Mr. Hendricks – the name of this other Spy is not Recollected, That the Spies went about three quarters of a mile before the main Army as they marched along with orders to give no false alarm. That at the Tuckaseegee Gap the Indians fired upon the Spies and wounded William Alexander and Joseph McDowell, wounded one of the Indians, from thence a few miles they entered the Watauga Town where they set fire to and destroyed all their corn, from thence they marched to the Valley towns and burnt seven towns & cut down and destroyed the corn, and while cutting down corn the Indians fired upon them and killed John Beck within a few Steps of him, that they had no general engagement but almost every day some Skirmishing & firing that they took several prisoners among whom was two white men, and says they gave up their prisoners to General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] of the South Carolina troops and they brought in General Williamson's wounded.

In January 1781 he volunteered again into the Service for nine months under Captain William Johnson but soon afterwards was placed under the command of Captain James Davidson and was stationed at the Wawfords Fort in Turkey Cove in Burke County where he was again sworn in and Served as an Indian Spy – Colonel McKissick and Charles McDowell was there head officers. That he [shot] and wounded an Indian while out Spying: that the Indians killed two men and wounded and Scalped his wife near the fort & left her for dead – and soon afterwards attacked the fort and killed Edward Lee and wounded Jesse Halley and shot the button off the waistband of the Applicant's bridges – the same night they started a man to the fort on the Catawba for a reinforcement but the Indians ran him back to the fort, they then mounted the Applicant upon a horse, & he ran through the enemy without receiving any injury and arrived Safe at the fort where he obtain[ed] a reinforcement & returned with them next day, when the Indians fled.

In the year 1782 he believes in the months [sic] of September he was drafted into the Service out of Captain Cannady's [Thomas Kennedy's] company and was marched down to Ramsour's Mill where he was received by Captain Brevard and placed under the command of Captain Decoats and was marched down the country where they got the news that peace was made or was about to be made, they then marched to Ramsour's Mill where they received a discharge from Colonel Holmes [Robert Holmes]. How long he was out before he got a discharge he cannot tell but believes it was upwards of three months. He was discharged by his officers at the expiration of each term but they are all lost or destroyed – and he further Saith that he knows of no living witness in the County of Yancey by whom he can prove his Services, – But believes that he can prove his Services by several witnesses that live in Burke County (to wit) by Colonel John Carson<sup>3</sup> (of the Pleasant Garden), William Balew near the Love Lady Ford of the Catawba, Christopher Pearson of Silver Creek, and Mr. Derryberry<sup>4</sup> & Joseph Dobson<sup>5</sup> Esquire all of Burke and Blake Piercey<sup>6</sup> of Macon & others but from his old age and infirmities is not able to travel about to obtain their certificates – And says he is not on any pension roll in this State nor no other State or United States and that this is the first time he ever made Application to be put on the pension roll of the United States or any other State – Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Attest

S/ Wm Dickson, JP

S/ Arthur McFalls, X his mark

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<sup>3</sup> Probably the same man as [John Carson S9132](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Andrew Derryberry \(Deberry, Derreberry\) W10312](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Joseph Dobson W19187](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Blake Piercy R8243](#)

[Moses Washburn, a clergyman, Jacob Holifield and James L Young gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15]

The Declaration of Arthur McFalls in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1832

State of North Carolina, Yancey County: SS

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Peace for the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions not sitting Arthur McFalls a resident of said county aged Eighty five years, who being duly sworn according to Law, doth make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> AD 1832. That he was born in Bedford County in the State of Virginia and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1751. That he resided in Bedford County until he was a man grown when he entered the service under Captain William English and marched to English's fort on New River where he served upwards [of] eighteen months mostly as an Indian spy and was in several engagements with the Indians, one at Cedar Creek which lasted about three hours & defeated them - lost one white man and four wounded and killed Eleven Indians in another action at Hans Meadows lost one man killed and three wounded—took two prisoners, killed a number unknown, and at the Dunker Bottom on New River had a battle killed two Indians and they fled, and at Walden's ridge had a skirmish lost one killed and killed one Indian. While in this service he was under Colonel Preston [perhaps William Preston], Captain English and Lieut. Draper. These tours were performed in Virginia just before the commencement of the Revolutionary War and about the beginning of the Revolutionary War or a few years before he moved into North Carolina and has resided in North Carolina ever since and is now living in the county of Yancey.

He was living in Burke County, North Carolina when he turned out as a volunteer, [in] the war of the Revolution, the first time, in the spring of the year 1776 the Indians broke in upon the frontier settlements on the Catawba when there was a call for men to guard the inhabitants and bring them down to the Quaker Meadows when he volunteered as a private and marched to their relief. And on their march back with the women and children, the Indians attacked [sic, attacked] them at the North Fork of the Catawba [River] and a pretty sharp action ensued but the Indians give way at last. The whites lost two men killed Captain Reuben White and Sabe Shelton a private & wounded captain Thomas Whitson. The Indians lost eight killed the number wounded not known - this battle was fought in the spring of 1776 he was under Captain John Harden after the Battle they took the women & children down to the Quaker Meadows where he was discharged after being out two weeks.

Shortly after he returned home there was orders sent out to raise men to march to the Indian nation. He thinks about the first of July 1776 he volunteered as a private for three months under Captain William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] and marched with the main Army to the Indian towns - the following officers names he still recollects as being with the troops this tour (Viz) General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Colonel Christopher Bateman [Christopher Beekman] and Captains Davidson, Rudolph, Meban [sic, Robert Mebane], Leak, Gillifalls and Ervin and Lieut. William Cathy [probably William Cathey] and says that after they marched over the Swannanoa River he was appointed and sworn in as an Indian spy together with the following men whose names were Joseph McDowell (of the Pleasant Garden), John McFalls, James Dever, Thomas Todd, Wm. Hutchinson, Wm. Alexander [William Alexander], James Ellis and another man. That the spies marched about three quarters of a mile before the main

Army with orders to give no false alarms and keep a good look out for Indians and Indians signs. That at the Tuckaseegee Gap the Indians fired upon the spies & wounded Wm Alexander and Joseph McDowell wounded an Indian, soon after passing this gap they entered the Indian town Watauga which they burnt & destroyed the corn and potatoes. That he was marched as far as the Valley towns that they burnt about seven towns and cut down & destroyed the corn and potatoes [potatoes] - killed some Indians and took some prisoners & two white men found among them and gave them all up to the South Carolina troops under General Williamson [Andrew Williamson]. And we brought in General Williamson's wounded—they lost some few men killed & had some wounded but was not in any close engagement - at the expiration his term of service got his discharge in Burke [County].

In January 1781 the Indians broke in upon the frontiers and there was a call for men and he volunteered as a private for three months and was placed at first under Captain Wm. Johnson [William Johnson] but shortly after was placed under the command of Captain James Davidson and stationed at a fort in the Turkey Cove on the North fork of Catawba he was ordered here by the commands of Col. McKissick [Daniel McKissick] and Colonel Charles McDowell. Here he was appointed an Indian spy again & served as such for the three months. The Indians killed two men and wounded a woman near the Fort before they got the Fort finished & a ball took off the waistband button of his breeches. They had a pretty close fight for a while. After the expiration of this term he volunteered again in April for three months more and was stationed at the same Fort and still acted as an Indian spy to the company stationed at this place. And after this tour was out he volunteered again for three months as a private and served as before as an Indian spy. That he served three tours at this fort of three months each time—which he believes he can prove by living witnesses. The Fort was called Wareford's [sic, Wofford's] Fort—he says as he was one day out spying he shot an Indian and says during the time he was stationed here at one time thirty three Indians attacked the Fort so fiercely that they were afraid they would take it that after night they started a man to Cathy's [also spelled Cathey's] Fort on the Catawba [River] for a reinforcement but the Indians run him back again, that they then sent him the same night, that he mounted a horse and run through them without getting hurt, that he got safe to Cathy's Fort—got a party of men and returned next day, when the Indians raised the siege & fled to the mountain. His next three tours were all rendered in the year of 1781. His next and last tour he was drafted into the service in June 1782 and placed under the command of Captain Kennady [sic, Thomas Kennedy] and marched to Ramsour's Mill where Captain Decouts and Captain Brevard took the command of the troops and marched them down the country but finding the war was about to be closed they were marched back to Ramsour's Mill where he received a discharge from Colonel Holmes [Robert Holmes] and returned home to Burke County. But says he has no discharge to show as they have all been lost or destroyed long ago as he never expected they would be needed he took but little care of them after peace was made. This tour he was out three months - and says he believes he can prove his services by living witness in Burke County and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or security except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency or any State or United States.

Sworn to and subscribed to this day and year first above written.

Attested Wm. Garland, Clk.

S/ Arthur McFalls, X his mark

[Adam Hoppes and Thomas Lloyd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

On this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1835 personally appeared before me William Dickson One of the Acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Yancey and State of North Carolina Arthur McFalls a resident of the County and State aforesaid, And after being duly qualified and Sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following explanation to that part of his Declaration of the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1834 as relates to his tour of nine months in the Turkey Cove – That he served during the whole Term of nine months as stated in his Declaration and he never had an Opportunity to visit his family without first obtaining a furlough from his Officers. That he was placed at the Fort by Colonel McKissick and Colonel McDowell[’s] orders who were his commanding officers – Sworn to and Subscribed the day and date before written

S/ Arthur Mcfauls [sic], X his mark

I David Gillespie a resident of the Turkey Cove in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina to certify that I am well acquainted with the applicant Arthur McFalls and knew him in the time of the Revolutionary war and ever since And hereby certify that he served a tour in the Fort in the Turkey Cove as stated in his Declaration and well may I recollect this, as we were forced to fort there at that time, the Indians were so troublesome and I understood at that time that he was placed there for a tour of nine months; And I have every reason to believe he served the whole tour, as I have never heard it contradicted sense. I also certify that I recollect many circumstances related by him – in his application and believe he has given a true statement of his services.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year above written

Test

S/ William Dickson

S/ D. Gillespie

On this first day of April 1835 personally appeared before us the Justices of the peace in and for the County of Yancey and State of North Carolina being of the Select Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions Arthur McFalls a resident of Grassy Creek in the County of Yancey and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following explanation to his Declaration of the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834 that he served a tour of two weeks in the year of 1779 to guard the inhabitants from the head of the Catawba to the Quaker Meadows in Burke County North Carolina out the month of July 1779 he volunteered for three months and marched to the Cherokee nation &c – His next Service he Rendezvoused in the Turkey Cove in Burke County where he was Stationed at a Fort in the Turkey Cove where he served three tours of three months each and was appointed to serve as an Indian Spy – His next term of Service was for three months in this he was drafted [this document ends here]

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I William Gillespie a resident of Turkey Cove in the County of Burke and State of North Carolina Hereby certify that I was acquainted with the applicant Arthur McFalls who has sworn and subscribed to the foregoing declaration on 30 June in the matter of his application for a pension that I knew him in the times of the Revolutionary war when he was stationed at the Fort in the Turkey Cove under Capt. Johnson and Capt. Davidson that I believe him to be about the age of 85 years that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier in the time of the Revolution and that I concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed to this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 1836

Attest: S/ Robert McCall, JP

S/ W. Gillespie

[p 12: On April 15, 1851 in Yancey County North Carolina, Emzy McFall, 76 years of age, made application for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Arthur McFall, a Revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him on February 27, 1795; that her husband died April 9, 1839; that she remains a widow; and that she has no documentary evidence including no family record of her marriage. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 6: On May 10, 1856, in Yancey County, NC, Enzy McFalls, 67, filed a bounty land claim stating that she married Arthur McFalls, a pensioner for his services in the Revolution at the rate of \$50/annum; that she married him in Burke County, NC in February, 1813; that he died April 7, 1839. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 9: Copy of the marriage license bond issued in Burke County, NC; Arthur McFalls and Duran McFalls, bondsmen, to secure the marriage of Arthur to Emzay Hollyfield of said County; license dated May 12, 1814.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]