

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Arthur McFalls W9187¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Yancey County

On this 30th 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 7th AD 1832. That he was born in Bedford County in the State of Virginia and on the 22nd 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, 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, 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 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 and Captains Davidson, Rudolph, Meban [sic, Robert Mebane],

1 McFalls was one of the Tories arrested at King's 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/FAM01-0001/d1590.htm>

Leak, Gillifalls and Ervin and Lieut. William Cathy 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, 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 - 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 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 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 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, 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 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