

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James McDaniel [James McDonald?]¹ W7424

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Morgan County

On this 31st day of May, 1834 personally appeared before me Thomas York a Justice of the County court for said County and in the County aforesaid James McDaniel resident citizen of the County & State aforesaid aged seventy six years and who from bodily infirmity is unable to get to a court of record and being first duly sworn according to law doth on is oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of this provision of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 that he volunteered and entered the service of the United States on or about the first day of June 1776 the precise day cant now be recollected from the consequent lapse memory but it was under the following named officers to wit Captain Reubin White [sic, Reuben White?], Lieutenant Samuel Simpson, this company consisted of eighty two men and was ordered Major David McKisick [sic, David McKissick?], Colonel Charles McDowell to march to Davidson Fort on the Catawba River and was stationed at said fort as a guard to keep the Indians off of the Frontiers had been stationed scouting and spying until some time in August or July When for the first engagement they met with the Indians who lay in ambush at the north fork of the Catawba River they had a skirmish with the Indians and defeated them in which skirmish Captain White was killed together with several others who were privates and killed fourteen Indians upon the ground. General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] shortly after this engagement came on. We then joined General Rutherford, marched to Cowee Towns then to Big Tellico Towns met General Williamson's [Andrew Williamson's] Army at Big Tellico but had been in hearing of. General Williamson's Army when he fought the Indians before he reached the Tellico Towns. We took some few prisoners at Big Tellico. We was then marched back to Davidson's fort and honorably but verbally discharged, applicant from old age and consequent lapse memory cannot now recollect the precise length of this Tour of duty, but believes it to be not less than six months. Applicant again in the year of 1779 in the spring season of the year or Early part of summer the month or day from causes already stated cannot now be recollected by applicant, volunteered and entered the service of the United States under the following named officers to wit Captain Lea [could be Lew] Taylor, Major's Name cannot from causes already stated be now recollected he was a stranger to applicant before applicant entered the services under him but he was from North Carolina, Col. Charles McDowell rendezvoused at the Reidy [sic, Reedy] Ford on Broad River then marched to Stono South Carolina and there had a battle with the British Army—was driven back by the British and made to retreat from the Battle ground. This battle commenced early in the day and lasted until near Twelve before the fighting on both sides entirely waned the Americans was compelled to retreat as aforesaid from the Battle ground and did not return to bury the dead until the second or third day after the Battle. Applicant was marched after this Battle back to Burk [sic, Burke] County North Carolina & was there honorably but verbally discharged by his said Captain having served in this Tour of duty not less than three months. Applicant in the spring season of the year 1780 about the last day of April or first day of May again volunteered as a light horseman and

¹ The War Department filed this application under the name "James McDonald" notwithstanding that throughout his application, the applicant is referred to as "James McDaniel."

entered the service of the United States under the following named officers to wit Captain William Murry Major Francis Lock [sic, Francis Locke] Colonel's names from causes above stated cannot now be recollected, Rendezvoused at Winn's old Fields & then marched to Charlestown. Was in Charlestown where the alarm gun was fired to Raise the siege against Charlestown, the horse was ordered to Monks Corner [sic, Moncks Corner], applicant being a horseman, was at Moncks Corner when Charlestown was succeeded the next morning after the succession of Charlestown the American horsemen was defeated at Moncks Corner by the British Dragoons at Moncks Corner, the horsemen that was not killed or taken prisoner was put to flight and confusion, applicant having lost all his close [sic, clothes] but his shirt and pantaloons which he had on made his escape. Went home & got more clothing and recruited² a few days. Started again to join General Rutherford, applicant & the small force of troops that he was now with was pursued by the Tories at Ramsour's Mill had a battles with the Tories at said Mill killed & took a great many Tories prisoners, the next day after the battle last aforesaid General Rutherford came on here, all joined General Rutherford, marched to Charlotte North Carolina joined General Gates [Horatio Gates], then marched for Camden South Carolina had a battle with the British Army commanded by Cornwallis near Camden. General Gates was defeated by Cornwallis and fled and left his army a great many of whom was killed and taken prisoners and the balance thrown into utter confusion, applicant's colonel who commanded him after the Battle of Ramsour's Mill until this Battle to wit Colonel Isaacs & General Rutherford was taken prisoner but applicant made his escape home to Burke County North Carolina this Battle commenced Early in the morning and lasted until near ten o'clock. The two armys having lain upon their arms the preceding night, in this last Tour of duty, applicant did not serve less than four months, applicant states that this last aforesaid battle was fought in the latter part of Summer when the weather was very warm, the ensuing fall after the Battle aforesaid applicant again volunteered and entered the service of the United States under the following named officers to wit Captain Joseph McDowell, Major's name from causes above stated he now recollected, Colonel Porter, rendezvoused at Lawson's Iron Works on Thickety [sic, Thicketty Creek] this Captain & his campaign of which applicant was one was ordered and marched down the country towards Ninety Six as a scout to spy the movement of the enemy, the enemy having a spy out of much stronger in force than that applicant was in turned upon Captain McDowell's spy company aforesaid and caused us to retreat up the country was overtaken by the Enemy at Wawford [sic, Wafford's] Iron Works and there had a scrimmage in which we lost some four or five men & being compelled to retreat back still further up the country was again over taken by the Enemy at Gilbert Town there lost two men killed by the Enemy & we killed six or seven of the Enemy upon the ground. The enemy here retreated back down the Country and was said captain's company was marched back to Burke County & there honorably but verbally discharged having served in this Tour of duty not less than three months, applicant again as he believes in the months of December 1780 to wit very shortly after his last aforesaid discharge from his aforesaid Tour of duty, volunteered and entered the service of the United States as a light horseman under the following named officers to wit Captain Joseph McDowell Major David McKissick Colonel's name from cause above stated cannot now be recollected, march[ed] & rendezvoused at the Cherokee Ford on Broad River & then marched towards Ninety Six

2 "Recruit" was used in this time period to mean "rest."

at the Long Cane about Twenty miles of Ninety Six having understood that the fort of Ninety Six was too [sic, too] strong to be attacked, General Morgan turned his course marched to the Cowpens and was there pursued by General Tarleton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] & some time in the Early part of January 1781 news came into General Morgan that Tarleton was near with his forces Captain McDowell and his company of which applicant was one was ordered out to meet General Tarleton, and bring on the action this action commenced Early in the morning and in which Genl Tarleton' was defeated and General Morgan took many prisoners. Applicant guarded the prisoners unto Burke County, applicant was hence honorably but verbally discharged having served this Tour of duty not less than two months, applicant the ensuing spring to wit 1781 some times in the last of May the precise day not now being recollected from causes above stated entered the service of the United States under the following officers to wit Captain Robert Bell Major Richard Lewis, Colonel Hampton applicant was again a horseman Rendezvoused at Black Stroks [sic, Blackstock's] Fort, ten or fifteen miles from Ninety Six, then Marched to Ninety Six & there under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] laid siege to Ninety Six Continued the siege some six or seven days. Then the fort was reinforced by Lord Rodden [sic, Rawdon] who commanded the British Army, Whose army was much [sic, much] stronger than Genl Greene's. General Greene was compelled to give up the siege applicant was then marched under the command of his aforesaid officers to Fort Galfin [sic, Galphin] on the Savannah River, was stationed there until the last week in August when he was honorably but verbally discharged by his said Captain Bell the term of this Tour of duty was not less than three months, the whole of applicant's services in the United during the Revolutionary War was not less than one year and nine months and was that of a private & followed no civil pursuit but bore arms against the common Enemy of his country, applicant states that he has no dockumentary [sic, documentary] evidence of his services & knows of no person by whom he can prove the same except Joseph McPeters who served with him in the most of those Tours of duties & whose certificate will be here to attached, he hereby relinquishing any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State, applicant states that he was born on the 21st day of August 1758 in Cumberland County State of North Carolina that he lived in the Burke County North Carolina at the time of his entering the services of the United States as aforesaid and lived in said County during the revolutionary War except the times he was in the service of his country that since the Revolutionary War he has lived in the State of North Carolina & Tennessee and now resides in Morgan County Tennessee, that he was always a volunteer and never suffered himself to be drafted, applicant served under many officers during his services in the Revolutionary War of whose names he cannot now recollect from old age and consequent loss of memory, but he recollects General Greene who laid siege to Ninety Six, General Morgan who commanded at the Cowpens, General Gates who fled and left his army near Camden, South Carolina, General Rutherford, who was taken prisoner in the battle last aforesaid to wit Gates's defeat, applicant states that he never received any written discharge from his said several Tours of duty, but was discharged by parole only and some times when his officers was defeated he made his escape without any discharge. Applicant states that his parents left him a record of his age but it has long since been obliterated & worn out but he preserved a copy of it which is in his Bible applicant states that there is no clergyman residing in his

neighborhood therefore he is unable to obtain the certificate of one but he is Known to the following persons, Citizen of his County & residing in his neighborhood to wit John Reid, Robert Lawson, Thomas Phillips, Julin Scott, Richard Crabtree—all of whom can testify as to applicant's character for veracity and truth and as a soldier of the Revolution applicant states that from bodily infirmity he is unable to get to a court of record.

Sworn to and subscribed This day & year aforesaid

S/ James McDaniel, X his mark

S/ Thomas Jack

Justice of the County Court

I Joseph McPeters do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with the said James McDaniel who has subscribed & sworn to the aforesaid declaration during the Revolutionary War and served with him in the several Tours of duty set forth in his foregoing declaration. I Julin F. Scott do hereby certify that I am now well acquainted with the said McDaniel who has sworn and subscribed to the foregoing pension declaration that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution & that I concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and dictated this day of the year Aforesaid before me

S/ Thomas Jack

Justice of the County Court

S/ Joseph McPeters

S/ Julin Scott