

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Archibald McCorkle: S2771

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee}

Stewart County}

Circuit Court September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1833 Personally appeared in open Court before me the Judge of the fifth Judicial District for the state of Tennessee Archibald McCorkle resident of County & State aforesaid, Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the pension law past in Congress June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. this declarant was born in South Carolina, Lancaster District and Waxhaws Settlement on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 1754 according to record of his fathers family bible & his own bible into which he transmited the record of his age also it is the tradition of his family that said declarant was born some time before Braddock's defeat & is now on the eve of his seventy ninth year. & lived on the place where he was born untill 1806 when he moved to Tennessee State Montgomery County & there lived twenty one years then moved to Stewart County in about two miles of Dover where he now lives & is personally known to & acquainted with the principle Gentlemen of Clarksville & Dover & many reputable Characters of the adjoining Countys and would in particularly for the satisfaction of the department state he is known to the honorable James [middle initial illegible] Reynolds Henry H Bryant John C [last name illegible] former Members to Congress and also to our present Member the honorable Gave[?] Johnson. This declarant further states that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war first called into the united states service by the authority of South Carolina as a drafted Malitia Soldier for three months service in what is called, in the South, the Snowy Campain in 1775 in the month of October [sic: Snow Campaign, 8 - 30 Dec 1775], rendevoused as a Company under Capt John Barkley & Lieu[edge of page worn] John Kennedy in waxhaws then marched 20 miles west of Lunds ford at Louis Dfields[?] & [edge of page] met his Regiment which was command by Col. Joseph Kershaw, then marched & rendevoused as Regiment near Kershaw Town on Congaree River where Columbia of South Carolina now stands Kershaw was placed under Colo [Richard] Richardson as commander in chief destined to act against a body of Tories & Cherokee Indians collected on Reedy River in the upper part of the State. as such the army took up the line of march & proceeded up Congaree River to the junction of the Saluda River, then up the Country between the two Rivers until reaching the Enemys camp on Reedy River & after some tough skirmishing & 90 or a 100 prisoners taken & the Enemy dispersed the army [illegible word] marched to some other parts of the Saluda & Congaree & then disbanded without those formalities used in more systematic warefare he got no written discharge nor did he look for one nor hear of any. In his former declaration he believed he had served actually only six weeks on this tour but his witness & companion in arms on that expedition has convinced him that the time of their actual service was over two months but he places[?] it at two only & returned home with his captain & company. His next or second tour commenced in October 1778 by being again drafted & called into the United States service by the authority of the State of South Carolina for three months, this expedition was destined for Purrisbury [sic: Purysburgh] on the banks of Savanah River in consequence of the British appearing in Georgia & near that point he entered the service under Capt. Hugh White who belonged to Col'n. Kershaws Regiment, the division marched by the way of Camden, McCords Ferry on Congaree Orangeburg, Boxes ferry on Edisto, horse shoe; Round O & Purrisbury across the middle of the state, this declarant being at charelston at the time of the draft & the marching of his comrades lost half a month leaving his actual servises in this tour to be two & a half months & was discharged as before verbally and came home in company with his capt. in January of the year 1779 and in a few days after returning volunteered his servises for three months more under James Kennady the brother of the above named John Kennady and in the regiment under the affore named Colo. Joseph Kershaw who marched our troops from the [two illegible words] to head quarters at black swamp [in Jasper County SC west of Tarboro], but then the command of the Regiment devolved on Colo Simmons in consequence of Kershaw leaving the army for some cause that he cannot

now recollects the Country & event to this point the same as the former expedition. General [William] Moultrie commanded in this army of observation but a short time before the expiration of declarant's tour the british suddenly fell down the Savannah River & crossed in to the South State which caused General Moltrie with all his forces to decamp & with forced marching to gain the junction of the Purisburg & Black Swamp Roads, then to throw evry possible obstruction in the way of British troops whose aim appeared for Charleston this circumstance caused that very inequal contest between Col. John Lauren [sic: Laurens] & his magestrys troops at Coosahatchey Bridge; General Moltrie having placed Col Simmons Regiment with a few continentals together with some other troops under the command of Laurens left him to dispute the passage of the Bridge with the British which he performed in a state worthy of his Bravery but as was intended had to retreat before an over whelming power [skirmish at Coosawhatchie River, 4 May 1779], but the enemy reaching Dorchester 21 miles from charleston Capt Kennady's time having expired for several days as also this declarants I was discharged in the usually way, that is, verbally from this time declarant was not called on again untill Charleston was taken in the following year [12 May] 1780. On the fall of Charleston for a short space of time all opposition to British power & authority seemed to be lost with it, but the untiring spirits, [Gen. Francis] Marion, Sumpter [sic: Gen. Thomas Sumter] & some others could not long be kept down, as such Sumpter raising the standard of liberty once more and in the name of & by the authority of the State of South Carolina [sic: see note below] called for volunteers to rally around the standard of liberty, accordingly this declarant with many of his neighbours flocked to sustain the sinking but noble cause of liberty. this declarant volunteered on this occasion without respect to any specific regard to time otherwise than to the end of the momentous struggle or end of life in the conflict this service commenced about the last of June or first of July 1780 under the command of Capt Hugh White & Lieutenant John Drening in a short time Sumpters force had augmented so that rappid succession of offensive warfare that so signalizes that short span of time from about the first of July untill the 16 or 17 of August when this brave officer received a compleat & total defeat & dispersion of his troops by Col'n Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] of the British light horse at the mouth of fishing creek [in Chester County SC, 18 Aug 1780], General [Horatio] Gates having been but a day or two before also beaten by Lord Corn Wallis [sic: Cornwallis] near Camden [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] once more in the peaceable[?] possession of the british arms, while the poor whig's with out armies help or money fled before the insulting foe, declarant with most of his oppressed neighbours fled into North Carolina for refuge. The superior soil & cultivation of the Waxhaw lands & consequently quantity of provision of all kinds drew the particular notice of all sorts of soldiery whether whig tory or Britons as such Waxhaws was no [one or two illegible words] of care & safety to its whig inhabitants, but not so affrighted as to cause the [illegible word] folk on Lord Corn Wallis removing his advanced camp at Charlotte back to Winnsborough [sic: Winnsboro] 40 Miles south west of Waxhaws the flying inhabitants faced about and walked back at the noble Lords heels untill they saw themselves once more in their own huts almost as free as the air they breathed & with renewed vigor in the month of October began to devise & execute means to defend those sons of liberty that had now become so dear to them, as such while Sumpter recovering many of his brave volunteers carried his victorious arms near the middle of the state left declarant & most of his neighbours to defend their lives, liberties & homes from the pernicious attacks of their loyal neighbours who were much emboldened in their freedoms by strong neighbouring post of British troops stationed at Camden under Lord Rawdon accordingly Col'n Kimble & Col'n Henry Hampton headed & commanded the waxhaw volunteers & others they could get from October, as above stated untill General [Nathanael] Greene came to camden in April [1781], & altho no battle was fought that was so called in that compass of time by Col'n Kimble and Hampton yet never was more vidgalence and activity used in the course of the war to guard on all sides against the inroads of a victorious & insulting for [force?] and few periods of the war marked with more success as such declarant was actively employed through that momentous time of scouring watching & Skirmishing from waxhaws to Lynchs Creek, camden wateree & Santee, but on Greens appearance in the vicinity of camden Kimble was ordered to support Green in his attempt on Rawdon [at the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, 25 April 1781] & accordingly declarant shared in that dangerous struggle, & fell back with Green to Rugeles mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill]

but then & from there Kimble was dispatched to Singletons Mills [in present Sumter County] to reinforce Marion who was posted or encamped at that place and while Green decamp't from the neighbourhood of Camden & regressed across the Country & laid siege to Ninety Six [22 May - 19 June 1781], Marion moved across the Wateree River & Congaree River he scoured the Country leading towards Orangeburg & in the mean time Gen Green being repulsed at Ninety Six suddenly concentrated his force a British post a little of Orangeburg, but Cruger who commanded at Ninety Six perceiving Greens intention on Orangeburg decamp'd from that post & reinforced the post at Orangeburg & so made it prudent for Green to cease from his project [12 July 1781], then the army falling back to the high hills of Santee [Sumner County] where this declarant was discharged in August just before Green recrossed the Wateree, Congaree in pursuit of the British which resulted in the Eutaw battle [Battle of Eutaw Springs, 8 Sep 1781], being a volunteer, & not limited to any particular tour or time he only was discharged by a substitute and before he could rejoin the army the Eutaw battle was over and the hope of peace began to swell & his substitute continuing he never returned any more to the army & this ended his tours as a soldier of the Revolution. In this declarant's former declaration according to the opinion of several Gentlemen of the bar who were his friends & counselors this declarant set down the whole term of service from June 1780 to August 1781 embracing at least 15 months service but on the departments explanation he sees that is not their sense and as such to make every possible detail of service good without doubt may claim it as a ten months tour of service as the almost[?] only loss of duty was in the time of flying before & returning after the British from Sumpter's defeat a little after the middle of August until somewhere about the last of October and what few idle days or hours through the winter of 1781 will be made good by casting of 4 or 5 months of the whole time as to officers in this term of service, before Sumpter's defeat White & Drenay[?] were as before stated his company officers and altho Sumpter himself was Col'n commaded yet Col'n's [William] Hill, Lacy [sic: Edward Lacey], Beaton & Neal were in Sumpter's army each having a small proportion of our neighbours Major Crawford he thinks acted in behalf or in place of Kershaw who was not present. After his return from North Carolina until spring & among the spying, scouting, watching & skirmishing troubles of the winter of 1781 declarant served under no Col'n's except Kimble or Hampton and they sometimes only as captains having no other captain along but Capt James Kennady was the regular & principle capt under whom he served, but on the approach of Green & the subsequent service of the spring & summer Capt Kennady alone was his captain his Lieutenant William Barkly and in Col'n Kimble's Regiment commanded by General Marion after Sumpter joined Marion's troops until the invasion[?] forces met before Orangeburg with a design of attacking that post, then the whole was commanded by Green the different battles in which this declarant was in, through the course of the war personally was the skirmish Reedy River, the battle at Coosahatchey Bridge, the attack on Rocky Mount the Battle at Hanging Rock, Sumpter's defeat & Green's Battle at Camden. In all this declarant's tours he served as a private soldier in the infantry service and always in the open field and never in garison or forts. This declarant knows of no witness alive[?] or near this who can testify of his services except Samuel Dunbar[?] of Sumpter [?; Sumner?] County Tennessee state said Dunbar was a near neighbour & served in some of the same tours that the declarant & knew of others In addition to this declarant offers John Lee esq'r a near neighbour & Travis Moore a clergyman both of Stewart County. Squire Lee has been personally acquainted with this declarant for twenty five or six years & the Rev'd. Travis Moore ever since he lived in Stewart County. This declarant doth further state on his oath that from the great length or laps of time since the performance of his tours of service in the Revolutionary war from having received no written documents or discharges of any kind & from a natural decay of his memory in so great an age leaves him without support datta to be as deffinite & certain in many dates & circumstances as the war department would wish on matter of so much consequence to the publick but this declarant has come as near the truth as he can, these circumstances considered, & hopes he has not failed in any point to the injury of the United States. He does hereby relinquish any or every claim to pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is on no role or List of any agency in any state whatever.

[signed] Archibald McCorkle

The following are the interrogatories submitted to the said Archibald McCorkle by the Court

1 Where & in what year were born

Answer In South Carolina Lancaster District waxhaw settlement on the 27 October 1754

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age & if so where is it

Ans'r I have a record of my age in my bible & that from the record originally in my father's bible & this at my home

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

Ans'r On the plantation where I was born; there I continued to live until 1806 then moved to Tennessee State & lived 21 years in Montgomery County, then moved to Stewart County, where I now live

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom

Ans'r I was drafted twice & I volunteered twice; I never was a substitute

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such as Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services

Ans'r on my first tour Col'n Tompson [possibly John Thomas, Sr.] of the Rangers, and Col'n Thomas Polk of North Carolina was in the army besides those who were my immediate officers as stated in my declaration. In my second tour beside my commanding officers I recollect of General [Griffith] Rutherford of North Carolina, In my third tour I don't recollect any but the command officers that I have named in my declaration nor any particular Regiment or division of army in those three several tours. My last tour embracing from June or July 1780 to August 1781 there was many changes in armies time places and circumstances, while under Sumpter I have named the several Col'ns of parts of Regiments, in my [illegible word] services of 1781 and I recollect of none, but from the arrival of General Green to my final discharge. I recollect of Col'n [William] Washington, Capt. James & Company, for circumstances I refer to my declaration

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, & if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans'r I in no case received a written discharge

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans'r besides those mentioned in my declaration already I name Britton Bayliss, Cullen Bayliss, Doctor Clemants Wm Williams Esq'r William Bailey Esq'r &c &c

NOTE: After the surrender of Charleston on 12 May 1780 there was essentially no government of South Carolina other than the British army. Thomas Sumter was elected general by McCorkle and other South Carolina partisans, and Gov. John Rutledge legitimized the rank in Oct 1780.