

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Applications of Archibald McSpadden (McSpeden) S4204

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Monroe County: Circuit Court S. S.

On this 27th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Charles F. Keith Judge &c Archibald McSpadden 83 years of age, a resident of said County of Monroe, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

He was born in a Rockbridge County Virginia in the year 1750. He has a record of his age now in his possession made by his father in the family Bible. He was living when called into service on Holston River in what is now Washington County Virginia where he remained a few years after the war, then moved to Jefferson County Tennessee where he lived till about 14 or 15 years ago, when he moved into Claiborne, and lived till about 10 years ago when he moved into said County of Monroe where he now resides. Owing to the loss of memory, he is unable to say precisely how long he served, or to pin exact periods of the war; but, as well as he remembers, he was in actual service six months and served as hereinafter stated, & always was a private of Infantry.

In or about the year 1778, in the Spring, while living on the head waters of Holston the Settlers were much annoyed by the Cherokee Indians and applicant and the other new settlers fortified at William Edmiston's [also spelled Edmundson, Edmondson], about five months. He was frequently in service during this summer to guard against the Cherokees under Captain Robert Edmiston. He was in actual service this summer scouting, at least one month. At this period of the war the frontier settlers were left to guard against the Indians, without being called on for other service. The next summer, he thinks, he was drafted to go against the Cherokee Indians, for a term of one month. It was thought the Indians would aim at taking the fort at Long Island on the Holston. The company under Captain Edmiston furnished 14 men, applicant being one, who were commanded to the Long Island by a James Coulter Sergeant. When they reached Long Island they found that a battle had been fought with the Indians in which they had been routed. Applicant and those under Coulter went up the North fork of Holston, and on home, and served out the term one month. Early in the Spring, he thinks of 1780 he volunteered against the Cherokees of whose ravages they heard exaggerated accounts. He went out under Lieutenant John Edmiston and joined other troops on the North fork of Holston, and marched on down till they heard the Indians had started back and were not coming up the fork. They soon after returned home, having served one month. Soon after his return home he was drafted for one month and marched under the same Lieutenant John Edmiston cousin of his Captain. They marched after a company of Indians of whom they had heard – crossed the North fork of Holston, and went towards Clinch Mountain and scouted considerably but missed the Indians. Served one month as well as he remembers – perhaps a little less or a little more.

The ensuing fall he was drafted to go to the South against British and Tories. He went under Captain Edmiston. After marching and wading the waters, he became disabled in consequence of a snake bite he had previously received, and was sent back with some Tory prisoners to Col. William Campbell's. He was gone but a few weeks – he disremembers [sic] how long. The troops he left went on to King's Mountain -- & were in the battle. Soon after his return home orders came for the militia to guard the mouth of Laurel Creek against the British & Tories who were said to be on Roaches [?] Creek breaking into the Holston settlements. Applicant went under Alexander McNutt – Orderly Sergeant. He remembers no other Officer. He was in service more than one month and less than two. He remembers no other service except a scouting party he was on for a few days against a camp of the Indians on the middle fork of Holston. He was not but a few days. He never received a discharge in any case.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who

can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution viz. John Dillard, David P. Walker, Cornelius Pippinger [?] and James Hickman.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Archibald McSpeden