

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas McClanahan (McLanahan) W1052

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Kentucky, County of Simpson

On the 10th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the county court of said county now sitting, Thomas McClanahan a resident citizen of the county of Simpson and State of Kentucky, age about Eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, under his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, viz,

That he was born according to the history of his family, in the county of Westmoreland Virginia., but principally raised in the counties of Fauquier & Culpeper and that in the latter part of the summer or the first of the fall of the year 1775 he entered into the service of the United States in a Regiment first commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry, Lieut. Colonel Christy [sic, William Christian], and attached to a Company commanded by Capt. John Green, Richard Taylor, first Lieut., John Houston, second Lieut., and John Lee, ensign. The rendezvous was at Culpeper Court House; from there he was marched to Williamsburg and was occasionally in some little skirmishes with some British shipping at Burrell's Ferry and Old James Town [sic Jamestown], and while yet detained at Jamestown, Col. Patrick Henry left the Regiment and entered into the Legislature of Virginia, or filled some other civil post, and the command of the Regiment devolved on some other officer not now remembered. About nine months after he was first marched to Williamsburg, the 2nd Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Alexander Spotswood was brought down to Williamsburg also and the said McClanahan was by the consent of the said Richard Taylor then the Captain of the Company (the said John Green having been promoted to the office of Major) transferred to the 2nd Regiment and enrolled in a Company in the same commanded by Capt. Francis Taylor and took the place of a soldier by the name of Reuben McKinney and the said McKinney took said McClanahan's place in the said Regiment of the said Company commanded by the said Capt. Richard Taylor. The said company was not long after marched somewhere to the North but the 2nd to which he now belonged continued at Williamsburg until late in the fall of 1776; then the said McClanahan was marched with said Regiment from Williamsburg to Fredericksburg. where they remained but a short time; from thence they were marched through Alexandria to Baltimore, from there they took shipping and went to Annapolis, according to the best recollection, in pursuit, as it was then said, of Tories who were said to have been embodied on the Eastern Shore of Mary. land, but found no Tories. They were then marched to New Castle on the Delaware River, said to be about five miles from Wilmington, where the Regiment was inoculated with the small pox, and remained until the spring of 1777, when it was again marched to Philadelphia, and there, for the first time, furnished with clothing at the public expense. While there he was one of the guards to a man whose name was probably Dunbar who was hung in the suburbs of the city for some traitorous crime not now recollected.

From Philadelphia the Regiment was marched through a little town called Bristow or Bristol on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River opposite (if not mis-remembered) Burlington; thence across the river to Trentown [sic, Trenton] on the Jersey shore; thence to Prince Town [sic, Princeton]. This place the Regiment reached not long after a battle had been fought there between the American and British in which it was that General Mercer fell. After remaining here a while they were marched to Bondbrook on the Rareton River, which was quite in the vicinity of the British Army then posted at Brunswick and Amboy, and here the Regiment remained but a few days and it was marched to a place called Middle Brook, at which the main Army commanded by Genl Washington, was then encamped. This was in the latter part of the spring or the first part of the summer of 1777.

While said McClanahan was here there were several small engagements between scouting parties of the British and Americans; some of them he was in and some he was not. In one of them there was Ensign White and perhaps twenty men attacked in a Rye field by a party of British light horse and all, or nearly all, were cut to pieces together with the said officer. He was in a small fight himself in which one of the British Guard Houses was taken, a Major killed & 13 or 14 men and the balance taken prisoners. It was here that Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] rendered such effective service when the

British retreated with their forces to Brunswick and Amboy killed a great many of them on their march. Here McClanahan was one of a file of 12 men who shot a deserter condemned by a court martial. It was not long after the British returned to Brunswick and Amboy. General Washington marched the Army to the head of the Elk, but not as he knows. For a few days before the Army moved he was taken with what was then called the Camp fever which produced delirium on him for some days. When he came to he was informed by a soldier in whose care he had been left that the Army had marched as above stated. It was some time before he got to Philadelphia from there as the British entered Philadelphia he together with the other sick that were in said City was taken to Burlington. Here having obtained his health, he was tried by a Court Martial for bayoneting a Commissary who attempted to rescue a Butcher whom he (McClanahan) together with another had arrested by order of Capt. William Washington, who afterwards commanded a troop of horse in the South, for abusive and insolent language to the said Capt. Washington, and he was honorably acquitted and the said commissary, as he understood, was discharged from the Service. From Burlington he then went to the main Army which was then stationed at what was then called the Cross Roads or Chestnut Hill. At this place in a short time he relapsed into the said fever; from that time he lost his recollection until he found himself in Easttown in New Jersey. From this, having got his health, he went to the main Army again stationed at Valley Forge and his second enlistment being now nearly expired he about the first of the year 1778 enlisted in a company of Horse commanded by (he thinks) Capt. William Barrett, who belonged to Col. Baylor's Regiment for three years, or during the war. One of the conditions of this enlistment was that he was to get a furlough for three months and \$20 to bear his expenses home. This together with the furlough was accordingly given him with orders to rendezvous again in Fredericksburg, Virginia on the 10th of April 1778. Accordingly he met the said Capt. Barrett in Fredericksburg and there got the said Capt. Barrett to receive one John Green, whose sister he had meantime married in Culpeper County, Virginia, in his (said McClanahan's) place and got from said officer a full discharge, which discharge was lost in the burning of his father's (William McClanahan's) house in Culpeper some few years after. Here ended his revolutionary war services except a short tour of militia duty performed afterwards in North Carolina when Gen. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was retreating into Virginia from Cornwallis, under Capt. James Ward in a Regiment commanded by Col. Preston. He went into the service from Bottleton [sic, Botetourt] County Virginia, where he then lived. He was in two skirmishes with British on this tour; one at the Alamance River and the other at the Reedy Fork of the Haw River. His first enlistment in the Regiment commanded as aforesaid by Col. Henry was for twelve months, the next one he entered the second Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Spottswood as aforesaid was for two years, and that in said Baylor's Regiment for three years or during the war. In conformity with all of which he served about three years. From said Botetourt County he moved to Montgomery County, from there to Kentucky in 1788 and settled in what is now called Bourbon County. Shared largely in the Indian Wars which then and for some time after was carried on in the west. He was in the battle at Harmer's defeat at the Maumee [?] Towns, belonging to the immediate command of Capt. David Tharp, who, together with every man in his Company was killed in the engagement, except the said McClanahan with seven or eight others. He was a spy in the expedition of General Wayne under the immediate command of Genl. Charles Scott from Kentucky in 1793. From Bourbon he moved to Logan County, Kentucky, and settled in that part which since constitutes a part of the said Simpson County about the year 1803 and in that part he has lived ever since.

He has now little or no property—a wife & seven Children living with him having had in all 20 & as much as any man needs a pension. He relinquishes hereby every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state whatever.

Subscribed and sworn to before me the date aforesaid and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas McClanahan

State of Kentucky, Bourbon County

This day personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for the County of aforesaid, William Thomas, aged ninety two years & being first duly sworn made the following statement of facts. That Thomas McClanahan, who has made a declaration before the Simpson County Court in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 is personally known to him, that said McClanahan is now present, that he has known him since the year 1773, that from that period & during the Revolutionary war the father of said McClanahan & said

Thomas lived neighbors to each other, said McClanahan's father being at the edge of Culpeper County & said Thomas in the edge Fauquier [County], the distance between the two houses not being at a greater distance than 2 miles. He, said Thomas, states that he knows that said Thomas McClanahan in the year 1775 in the fall of this year entered the service of the United States under Captain John Green for the Term of one year, that said McClanahan served out the year & afterward in the latter part of the fall of 1776 he knows that he was in the service of the United States in the 2nd Regiment ; said Thomas saw him at Williamsburg; Thomas was at that time acting as wagon master in the 3rd Regiment under the command of Colonel Marshall. He did not see said McClanahan until the year 1778 when he returned home from the North. He is satisfied that McClanahan was in the service till that time as he had good means of knowing; said Thomas further states that he saw & read the discharge which said McClanahan got from Captain William Barrett, in Colonel Washington's troop of horse. And further the deponent saith not.

S/ William Thomas