

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Jacob McFarland W967

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS
Haywood County }

On this the 11th day of June in the year of Our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for said County of Haywood now sitting Jacob McFarland a resident of said county of Haywood and state of Tennessee aged seventy six years 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 7th 1832

That he entered the service by enlisting in the army of the State troops of the State of Pennsylvania in the month of January 1776 and went immediately into arms and served in the 6th Regiment of the Pennsylvania line for fifteen months under the following named officers (to wit) Col Harkley who commanded the said 6th Regiment (or battalion I think it was then called) the other officers of the Regiment not recollected. the officers that commanded the company to which I belonged was named Capt McLean Lieut John Ady Ensign Hopps. at the time of my enlistment I lived & resided in York County in the said State of Pennsylvania the army to which I belonged was marched from little York where we were rendezvoused to Lancaster from thence to Philadelphia from thence by water to Trenton from thence to Princeton from thence to new Brunswick from thence by water to New York from thence by water to Albany from thence to still water [Stillwater near Saratoga NY] from thence to Lake George from thence by water to Chambellie [sic: Chambly, Québec, Canada] from thence to the three Rivers and there we had a battle with the British [Trois-Rivières, 8 Jun 1776] in which we got defeated. Lieut John Ady of my Company was taken prisoner in this engagement. General [William] Thompson was our Commander in this engagement and I think he was also taken prisoner. We then retreated from the three Rivers to Chambellie through a swamp whilst the British pursued us by the high grounds on each side of the swamp from thence to Sorell [sic: Sorel]. this town we destroyed by fire from thence to Ilanore [sic: Île-aux-Noix] and at this place Capt. McLean was taken prisoner by a small party of Indians, and Capt. Adams of our Regiment with two privates were killed. Capt. McLean Capt Adams and some others having left the main army for recreation were surprised by a party of Indians and taken and killed as above stated before they could return to the army. after Capt. McLean was taken prisoner Capt Rush was appointed to the command of the company to which I belonged. from Ilanore by water we went to Crown Point [New York] at this place our Regiment was stationed until the fall of the year then myself with some others of the regiment turned out as Volunteers under the command of Gen'l. [Benedict] Arnold in a voyage by sea to the Isle of Mott [sic: Isle La Motte in Lake Champlain] at this place we staid seven weeks then General Arnold was reinforced by General [David] Waterbury's Fleet then myself with those who Volunteered at Crown Point were sent back to that place a few days before Arnold was defeated by the british at sea [Battle of Valcour Island in Lake Champlain, 10 Oct 1776]. thence we retreated from Crown Point by water to Ticonderoga at this place General Arnold with his men joined us and we staid at this place till late in the fall and then went from thence by water to Mount Independence and staid there during the winter. In the early part of the spring we left this place for our return home passing by Fort Edward from thence to albany from thence to Sopus [sic: Esopus] from thence to Philadelphia from thence to Lancaster from thence to little York from thence home. my term of enlistment was for one year if not sooner discharged - but I served as a Common Soldier in the service untill April 1777 making fifteen months as above stated. I applied to Col. Harkley for a discharge in little York - he told me that it was not necessary to have one and wanted me to engage in a new enlistment which I did not do. about twelve or eighteen months after I returned from the service in the army I removed to the State of North Carolina in the latter part of the year 1779 or about that time. there was soon after my entrance in that state a call for men and I volunteered for the term of three months as a common soldier under the command of Capt. Brumfield in Mecklenburg County in said State of North Carolina we then marched into South Carolina where we served, without having any

engagement with the enemy, and was dismissed from servise by my captain and went home. about one year after my return from South Carolina there was a call for men to go to guard the provision wagons carrying provisions to General [Horatio] Gates from Polks Mills in Mecklenburg County in North Carolina to Rugeleys Mill in South Carolina where the main army was stationed under the command of General Gates [13-15 Aug 1780] the understanding was that those who would volunteer to guard the wagons should be entitled to a credit for a tour of three months (as a common soldier) I was one of the guard above stated and attended the waggons to Rugeleys Mills and was on my return home when Gen'l. Gates was defeated by the British at that place [sic: Battle of Camden SC several miles S of Rugeley's Mill, 16 Aug 1780]. I never had at any time when discharged from the servise any written discharge but was only verbally told that my time of servise had expired and that it was my right to go home if I wished so to do. I do not know of any by whom I can prove my actual servise as a soldier on account of my old age and want of recollection and present distant residence from the scene of my servises as a soldier nor have I any documentary evidence to prove it. I was Born in Ireland and left that Country when young & have no record of my age. But from the best information I have I was Born in November 1756. This Declarant refers to the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his servises as a soldier of the Revolution - to wit - Saml Cherry Esq. Capt Jesse Embres Capt Washington R Blackard and David S. Wilson

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity excepting the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll or agency of any state.

[signed] Jacob Mcfarland

NOTE: On 2 Aug 1841 Jane McFarland, 72, applied for a pension stating that she married Jacob McFarland on 17 Apr 1792, and he died 20 Jun 1835. On 15 Sep 1856 she applied for bounty land, giving her age as about 88, her maiden name as Varner, and the place of marriage as Mecklenburg County NC. The file includes a copy of the marriage license dated 14 Apr 1792.