(—1776)

SERVICE

Penn.

McMaster, James

NUMBER

S. 7189

Carded

CONTENTS

Pension Application Agency

James McMaster

Armstrong Co. in the State of Pa.

was a Pvt. in the Company commanded by Capt. Nicholas Beddinger of the 7th Regt. in the Penna. Militia

Rate $26.00 per 26.00

Entered on the Roll of Penna. at the rate of 26 Dollars Cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 13 day of July 1832 to James McMaster, Allegheny Pa.

Arrears to the 4th of Mar. 32 50.00

Semi. allowance ending 4 Sept. 32 10.00

$60.00

{Revolutionary Claim, Act June 7, 1832.}

Recorded by J. D. Wagner Clerk, Vol. 5 Page 847

Death not on AB.

State of Pennsylvania }
Armstrong County } ss.

On this fifth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and thirty four, personally appeared before the subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Armstrong and State of Pennsylvania (said Court being a Court of record) James McMaster, a resident of Cowanshannock Township, in the County of Armstrong and State of Pennsylvania, aged Eighty three 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 provision made by the [redacted] of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. That in the year Seventeen Hundred and Seventy-six he volunteered to serve as a private under Captain Nicholas Beddinger, at the Flats of Kenny Darragh near Abbottstown, York County, Pennsylvania, about seventy persons in the Company. Joseph Jeffries, Major, and Colonel Henry Slagle, Commander. Some of the surviving names now John Mullen, Alexander Adams, Thomas Abbot and George Kuhns. That he marched thence to Little York, thence to Lancaster Pennsylvania, thence to Swedes Ford on the Schuylkill thence to Cornelis Ferry on the Delaware, thence to Trenton New Jersey. Remained there five days, thence to Princeton, thence to Brunswick, thence to Amboy, and remained there until his time was fully served. While at Amboy six British Ships of War came in sight and lay there until he came away. While here he was selected with about forty other Riflemen to scout, but had no engagement during his whole term. Was out two months exactly in this term. That sometime after his return home he was elected an Ensign. And in the year Seventeen Hundred and seventy Eight was drafted and marched as an Ensign to Bucks County Pennsylvania residence when drafted York County, Pennsylvania. The Captain of his Company was Frederick Yenawine. Major Joseph Lilly, our Commander was Genl. Lacy. We remained in the neighborhood of Doylestown Bucks County Penna during this term. Had no engagements. That he was commissioned an Ensign at this time and was discharged about a mile from Doylestown

That he kept his commission and discharge until nearly destroyed by time and has now lost them. That he was out on this tour Two Months. That in the year Seventeen Hundred and Eighty one he was elected a Lieutenant in Abbotstown, York County Pennsylvania and was drafted to march to Camp Security four miles below Little York, to guard prisoners that were taken with Burgoyne. That his commander when he went there, was Major John Eddy, but his term having expired he was succeeded by Major Austin whom he left there. that he was in no engagement. and that he served in the capacity of Lieutenant at this time Two Months. was duly commissioned and discharged after his term of service, both which papers he also kept until much wasted by time and not supposing that they would ever be of any further service to him that he has lost them. That his services for which he claims a pension were two Months - as a volunteer as before stated Two Months - as an Ensign and Two Months as a Lieutenant. He further states that he knows of no person now who can testify to his service in the Revolutionary war as before stated.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or gratuity, except the present. and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any state.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.
Joseph Barnhart
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong Co.

James McMaster

M. James McCarrell a clergyman residing in Clarion Township Armstrong County Pennsylvania and Thomas Calvert residing in the same Township same County and State hereby Certify that we are well acquainted with James McMaster who has sworn and subscribed the above declaration: that we believe him to be Eighty three years of age and that he is reputed and believed in the Neighborhood where he resides, to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion

Sworn & subscribed before me this 8th day of January A.D. 1834
Joseph Barnhart
Judge of the Court of Com. Pleas of Armstrong Co

James McCarrell
Thos. H. Calvert

The following Interrogatories were put by me to the said James McMaster: And answered as stated -

1st. When and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & fifty.

2d. Have you any record of your age. And if so. where is it?

Ans - I have no record of my age - but have the information of my age from my parents.

3d. When were you living when called into service. where have you lived since the Revolutionary war. And where do you now live?

Ans. When I was living near Abbotstown York County Penna when I entered the service, In the year A.D. 1793. I removed to Westmoreland County Penna and continued there until the year A.D. 1806. when I came to Armstrong County my present residence

4th. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you Volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answ. During my first tour of two Months I was a volunteer During the balance of my services for four Months I was drafted. as stated in my general declaration I was not a substitute at any time.

5th. State the names of some of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where you served; first Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect. And the general circumstances of your services?

Answers. I do not recollect of seeing any other officers there than I have already stated in my general declaration I cannot now state the Continental or Militia Regiments and can give no further particular account of my services than that already mentioned in the general statement.

6th. If a Soldiers Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, & if so, by whom was it given. and what has become of it
For an officer Did you ever receive a Commission. and if so by whom was it signed, and what has become of it?

Ans. When out on my first tour as a private as mentioned in my declaration I received no discharge in writing but having served the term engaged for, returned home.

And when out as before stated as an Ensign and Lieutenant I received a Commission which I kept for a long time, but which I finally lost when or where I cannot recollect.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier in the Revolution?

Ans. James McCarrell and Thomas W. Cathers

attest. ....

State of Pennsylvania
Armstrong County ss.

I Joseph Rankin one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County. do hereby declare that after a full investigation of the matter and after having put the interrogatories above named as prescribed by the War Department, that the above mentioned Applicant James McMaster was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states: And further I do certify that it appears to me that James McCarrell — who signed the preceding certificate is a Clergyman, resident in Gilson Township Armstrong County and that Thomas Cathers — who has also signed the said certificate is a resident of the same Township Same County. is a credible person and that their statements are entitled to credit. And further that the belief in the neighborhood where James McMaster resides is very general that he was in service in the Revolutionary War and that he is a man of truth and veracity. And I do hereby further certify that by reason of bodily infirmity, the palsy, and old age. he is wholly unable to attend Court he now living a distance of thirty miles from the County seat.

Witness my hand and seal this Sixth day of January A.D. Eighteen Hundred and thirty four.

Joseph Rankin
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County

State of Pennsylvania,
Armstrong County, ss.

I, Frederick Rohrer, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County (said Court being a court of record) do hereby certify that Joseph Rankin, Esq before whom the foregoing affidavit of James McMaster was taken, as also the affidavits of James McCarrell and Thomas Cathers, together with the certificate of the same having been before him, is an Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, duly commissioned by the proper authority of the Commonwealth aforesaid, and qualified to act as such, and to whose acts in that capacity, full faith and confidence should be given. And I do further certify that his signature to the same is in his own proper hand writing, and his genuine signature; and that his further certificate of the general belief in the neighborhood where James McMaster resides, attached to the aforesaid depositions, of his revolutionary services, &c. &c. is also in the proper hand writing and the genuine signature of the said Joseph Rankin, Esq

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at Kittanning this seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1834.

Frederick Rohrer, Pro.

29.402.

James McMaster

Penn

(J.)

Return proof of service for 1776 for 6 mos

$20.

Mrs. J. Johnston

Kittanning

Armstrong County

Penn

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Pension Office,

31st Jany 1836

Sir:

The evidence in support of your claim, under the act of June 7, 1832, has been examined, and the papers are herewith returned. The following is a statement of your case in a tabular form. On comparing these papers with the following rules and the subjoined notes, you will readily perceive that objections exist, which must be removed, before a pension can be allowed. The notes and the regulations will shew what is necessary to be done. Those points to which your attention is more particularly directed, you will find marked in the margin with a brace, (thus: }). You will, when you return your papers to this Department, send this printed letter with them; and you will, by complying with this request, greatly facilitate the investigation of your claim.

A Statement, shewing the Service of James McMaster

Period when the service was rendered.	Duration of the claimant's service. Years.	Months.	Days.	Rank of the claimant.	Names and rank of the Field officers under whom he served.	Age at present, and place of abode when he entered the service.	Proof by which the declaration is supported.
1776.		2		priv	Colo Slagle	83 year	
					Capt. Beddinger	York	Traditionary
		2		Escp	Capt. Vendrine	County	
1781.		2		Lieut	Gen Lacy.	Pa.	The claimant is required to produce proof of his being Commissioned Ensign & Lieut & showing as stated as alleged.

For service as a Commissioned officer is required the testimony of two witnesses, or the affidavit of the latter if pensioner pays.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. EDWARDS,
Commissioner of Pensions.

REGULATIONS UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 7, 1832.

The following regulations have been adopted:

This law has been construed to extend, as well to the line, as to every branch of the Staff of the Army, and to include under the terms "Continental Line," "State troops," "militia," and "volunteers," all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound to military service, but not those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts, such as Clerks to Commissaries and to Store Keepers, &c., Teamsters, Boatmen, &c. Persons who served on board of private armed vessels are also excluded from the benefits of the law, as well as persons who turned out as patrols, or were engaged in guarding particular places at night, and were not recognized as being in actual military service.

Four general classes of cases are embraced in this law:

1. The Regular Troops.
2. The State Troops, Militia, and Volunteers.
3. Persons employed in the Naval Service.
4. Indian Spies.

As rolls of the regular troops in the Revolutionary War exist in this Department, all persons claiming the benefit of this law as officers, non-commissioned officers, mucicians or privates, will, in the first instance, make application by transmitting the following declaration, which will be made before a Court of Record of the County where such applicant resides. And every Court having by law a seal and Clerk is considered a Court of Record.

DECLARATION,

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June, 1832.

State, Territory, or District of }
County of } ss.

On this day of personally appeared *(a)* before A. B. a resident *(b)* of in the county of and State, Territory or District of aged *(c)* 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year *(d)* , with and served in the *(e)* regiment of the line, under the following named officers:

[Here set forth the names and rank of the Field and Company Officers; the time he left the service; (and if he served under more than one term of enlistment, he must specify the particular period, and rank and names of his officers;) the town or county and State in which he resided when he entered the service; the battles, if any, in which he was engaged, and the country through which he marched. ☞ This form is to be varied so as to apply to the cases of officers and persons who belonged to the militia, volunteers, navy, &c.]

He hereby relinquishes every claim *(f)* whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State, or (if any) only on that of the Agency in the State of

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. A. B.

[And then will follow the certificate of the Court.]

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion *(g)* that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states.

I of the Court of do hereby certify *(h)* that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office *(i)* this day of &c.

If, on examination of the proper record, the names of applicants, making such declaration, cannot be found, they will produce such proof as the rule given in note *(j)* points out.

Every applicant who claims a pension by virtue of service in the State Troops, Volunteers or Militia, except those who belonged to the New Hampshire Militia and State Troops of Virginia, will make and subscribe a declaration similar to the foregoing, with the following additions, viz:

(k) We, A. B., a Clergyman, residing in the and C. D. residing in (the same) hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with , who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be years of age; that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the days and year aforesaid.

[And then will follow the certificate of the Court.]

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier, and served as he states. And the Court further certifies, that it appears to them that A. B. who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman, resident in the and that C. D., who has also signed the same is a resident in the and is a credible person, and that their statement is entitled to credit.

I, Clerk of the Court of do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court, in the matter of the application of for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this day of &c.

Every applicant will produce the best proof in his power. This is the original discharge or commission; but if neither of these can be obtained, the party will so state under oath, and will then procure, if possible, the testimony of at least one credible witness, stating in detail his personal knowledge of the services of the applicant, and such circumstances connected therewith, as may have a tendency to throw light upon the transaction.

If such surviving witness cannot be found, the applicant will so state in his declaration, *(l)* and he will also, whether he produce such evidence or not, proceed to relate all the material facts, which can be useful in the investigation of his claim, and in the comparison of his narrative with the events of the period of his

alleged service, as they are known at the Department. A very full account of the services of each person will be indispensable to a favorable action upon his case. The facts stated will afford one of the principal means of corroborating the declaration of the applicant, if true, or of detecting the imposition, if one be attempted; and unless, therefore, these are amply and clearly set forth, no favorable decision can be expected. All applicants will appear before some Court of Record in the County in which they reside, and there subscribe and be sworn to, one of the declarations above provided, according to the nature of his case.

The Court will propound the following *(m)* interrogatories to all applicants for a pension, on account of service in the Militia, State troops, or Volunteers, except the Militia of New Hampshire and the State troops of Virginia.

1. Where and in what year were you born?
2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?
3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?
4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom?
5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the troops, where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.
6. { *To a Soldier.* Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it? / *To an Officer.* Did you ever receive a commission, and if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it? }
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

The Court will see that the answers to these questions are embodied in the declaration, and they are requested to annex their opinions of the truth of the statement of the applicant.

The applicant will further produce in Court, if the same can be done, in the opinion of the Court, without too much expense and inconvenience to him, two respectable persons—one of whom should be the nearest clergyman, if one lives in the immediate vicinity of such applicant, who can testify, from their acquaintance with him, that they believe he is of the age he represents, and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a Revolutionary soldier, and that they concur in that opinion. If one of these persons is a Clergyman, the Court will so certify, and they will also certify to the character and standing of other persons giving such certificates.

The traditionary evidence of service is deemed very important, in the absence of any direct proof, except the declaration of the party. And the Courts are requested to be very particular in the inquiry whether the belief is general, and whether any doubts have ever existed upon the subject.

Applicants unable to appear in Court, by reason of bodily infirmity, may make the declaration before required, and submit to the examination, before a Judge or Justice of a Court of Record of the proper county, and the Judge or Justice will execute the duties, which the Court is herein requested to perform, and will also certify that the applicant cannot, from bodily infirmity, attend the Court.

Whenever any official act is required to be done by a Judge or Justice of a Court of Record, or by a Justice of the Peace, the certificate of the Secretary of State or Territory, or of the proper Clerk of the Court or County, under his seal of office, will be annexed, stating that such person is a Judge or Justice of a Court of Record, or a Justice of the Peace, and that the signature annexed is his genuine signature.

No payments can be made on account of the services of any person, who may have died before the taking effect of the act of June 7, 1832; and in case of death subsequent thereto, and before the declaration herein required is made, the parties interested will transmit such evidence as they can procure, taken and authenticated before a Court of Record, showing the services of the deceased, the period of his death, the opinion of the neighborhood respecting such services, the title of the claimant, and the opinion of the Court upon the whole matter.

[a] The declarant must appear in open Court, unless prevented from doing so by reason of bodily infirmity; in which case the declarant will follow the rule laid down for his guidance.

[b] The declarant must make his declaration in the county where he resides. If he should fail to do so, he must assign a sufficient reason for not conforming to the rule.

[c] The age of the claimant must invariably be mentioned.

[d] The declarant must mention the period or periods of the war when he served; otherwise a satisfactory examination of the

[e] Every continental officer or soldier must give the name of the Colonel under whom he served; in language so claim cannot be had. Every claimant must state, with precision, the length of his service, and the different grades in which he served, in language so definite as to enable the Department to determine to what amount of pension he is entitled. In a case where the applicant cannot, by reason of the loss of memory, state precisely how long he served, he should amend his declaration by making an affidavit in the following words:

"Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace, &c. A. B. who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades:—For — years — months, and — days, I served as a — For — months and — days, I served as a —; and for such service I claim a pension."

It is important, in all cases, to determine with precision the period for which each applicant served, and the particular rank he held, as the law directs the pension to be paid according to the grade of the pensioner and the length of his service. The use of the phrase *about three or four months*, is too indefinite, and all such qualifying expressions are objectionable. Some persons who apply for pensions merely state that they served two years in the militia, &c. without specifying the tour of the names of the officers, and other particulars respecting their service. This form of a declaration is highly objectionable. It must, in every case, be clearly shown under what officers the applicant served; the duration of each term of engagement; the particular place or places where the service was performed; that the applicant served with an embodied corps called into service by competent authority; that he was either in the field or in garrison; and for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

[f] The law makes the relinquishment indispensable.

[g] The opinion of the Court is always required.

[h] The Clerk must give his certificate in every case.

[i] The Clerk must affix his seal, and if it has no device or inscription by which it can be distinguished from any other seal, or if he has no public seal of office, the certificate of a Member of Congress, proving the official character and signature of the certifying officer, should accompany the papers.

Mode of authenticating papers.

In every instance where the certificate of the certifying officer who authenticates the papers is not written on the same sheet of paper which contains the affidavit, or other papers authenticated, the certificate must be attached thereto by a piece of tape or narrow ribbon, the ends of which must pass under the seal of office of the certifying officer, so as to prevent any paper from being improperly attached to the certificate.

Proof of Service.

[j] In a case where the name of the applicant is not found on the records of the Department, he must prove his service by two credible witnesses who are required to set forth in their affidavits the time of the claimant's entering the service, and the time and manner of his leaving the same, as well as the regiment, company, and line to which he belonged. The magistrate who may administer the oaths must certify to the credibility of the witnesses, and the official character and signature of the magistrate must be certified by the proper officer, under his seal of office.

☞ The notes from [a] to [i] are all equally applicable to the cases of Militia men, Volunteers and State Troops. The proof required by rule in note [j] applies to continental troops only.

[k] This traditionary evidence is indispensable in militia cases.

[l] If a witness cannot be found, the declarant must state the fact.

[m] The answers to the interrogatories must all be written, and sent to the War Department, with the declaration.

7189

INVALID.

No. 7189

James McMaster

Civil War

Act. June 7th 1832

Vol. 1st Page 248

[Arrangement of 1870.]

War Department
Pension Office
14th April 1854

Sir

The claim of James McMasters has been again examined. The regulations require all claimants as Commissioned Officers to produce their original Commission, or satisfactory proof they were duly Commissioned and served in that capacity for the time alleged. As the Claimant has failed and in fact says he cannot obtain the necessary proof, if he shall so direct this claim will be allowed for 6 Months as a Private

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J L Edwards

William F. Johnston Esq
Kittanning
Penna

FREE

KITTANNING
JUL 8
Pa.

Feb 14

per

James L. Edwards Esqr
Commissioner of Pensions
Washington City

2/9.1421.

Kittanning July 7th 1834

James L Edwards Esq

Commissioner of Pensions.

Dear Sir.

I have this day received a letter from James McMaster, to which papers are enclosed. Asserting that his name be placed upon the pension list as a private according to your proposition

Respectfully
Your friend
Wm T Johnston

State of Pennsylvania }
Armstrong County } ss

On the 15th Day of april 1834 personally appeared before me the Subscriber one of the Justice of the Peace in and for the Said County Daniel Proscott a Resident of Pumbill County State of ohio aged Seventy Six years who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration Saith that he is personally acquainted with James McMaster of Armstrong County Clarion County and State of Pennsylvania and has Know him Ever Since the year 1776 that James McMaster Served two months in the Militia the State of Jersey at Amboy and that he was with him two month in Berks County Pennsylvania as a Soldier and that James McMaster Served as an Ensign and Served as such two ~~years~~ months and that he served the Remaining two month more with James McMaster at Camp Security near Little yorke and that James McMaster was a Lieutenant at that time and Served as such two month in all Six month in the Revolutionary war

Sworn to and Subscribed
this 15 Day of april 1834 before me
Geo C Crostett

Daniel Proscott

State of Pennsylvania,
Armstrong County ss.

I, Frederick Rohrer, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County (said Court being a Court of Record) do hereby certify that John C. Corbett, Esq. before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, is an acting Justice of the Peace in said county, duly commissioned by the proper authority of the Commonwealth aforesaid, and qualified to act as such, to whose acts full faith and confidence should be given, and that his signature to the the same is genuine and in his own proper hand writing.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Court at Kittanning, this 9th day of May, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four.

Fredk. Rohrer, Pro.