

SAR Patriot Ancestors' Biographies

John McDill

Private South Carolina Militia in the American War for Independence

SAR # P246070

John McDill was my 4th great grandfather. He was born 1761 in Antrim, Ireland and died 3rd November 1848 in Chester County, South Carolina. He married Mary Bonner in Chester County, South Carolina in 1791. They had nine children: Thomas, Mary, Nancy Agnes, Margaret, Jane, Griselda, James, Elizabeth and Sarah. He was a planter and farmer. His father Thomas McDill was a Citizen Patriot. His father being too old to serve provided supplies, forage and horses to the patriot cause. John's brother, David also served in the South Carolina Militia in the American War of Independence.

John enlisted on December 1, 1778, while residing in Chester District. He served under Captains Alexander Turner, John Nixon, Samuel Adams and Colonels John Winn and Lacey. He was in the Attack on Congaree Fort and at the fall of Charleston. He was on the Purysburg Expedition and on the march to Augusta and Savannah, Georgia. Late in the war he served under General Nathanael Greene and General Thomas Sumter.

He applied for a pension (S21879) on April 2, 1833 in Chester District, South Carolina. He was 71 years old. He is buried in the Moffatt Strong McDill Cemetery in Chester County, South Carolina aside his wife and father.

George Harry Stewart Jr.

(SAR # 180314)

Pension application of John McDill S21879 fn46SC Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 3/10/09
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.] State of South Carolina, Chester District On this second day of April in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the said District and State, now

sitting, John McDill a resident of Chester District and State of South Carolina aged 71 years, who first being 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. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served from the year 1778 to the year 1782 as herein stated -- "I was first drafted and called into service under the command of Captain Alexander Turner and Major Brown – we commenced our march about the first of December 1778 to near Moncks Corner, where we fell under the command of Brigadier General Richardson, lay some time there and then marched to within about 7 miles of Charleston from thence across the Country through Jacksonborough and Pocotaligo to Purrysburg, we then fell under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and lay there until our time of service had expired. I knew a Captain of General Lincoln's regulars whose names I think was Boys [sic, Boyd, Boyce or Boise?]. I remained at home a short time, and was again called out with all those who were liable to do duty and on or about the 18th of March 1779, we marched across the Country under the command of Captain John Nixon – we crossed Broad and Saluda Rivers, marched to near Augusta in Georgia, where we encamped and remained near six weeks, our field officers were Colonel John Winn and Brigadier General Williamson [Andrew Williamson], if I remember correctly, there were two captains of the regular Army at that encampment whose names were Moore and Miles-- we crossed the Savannah River into Georgia and marched towards the city of Savannah for several days – a considerable distance below Augusta we re-crossed Savannah River into South Carolina and marched rapidly towards Charleston – crossed the Edisto River and arrived at Bacon's Bridge where I obtained a permit to go home on account of my Father's family being nearly all sick. I got home on or about the 27th May." "After the fall of Charleston, when the Country was overrun by British Troops and Tories, I joined General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] under the command of Captain Samuel Adams and Colonel Lacey [Edward Lacey], we marched to the Congaree Fort and besieged it for some time, was forced away and marched towards Charleston, on our route we met a party of British Troops, attacked them – took and killed nearly the whole party and captured a number of wagons. Afterwards we crossed the Santee River and attacked a troop of British soldiers – we were obliged to retreat having a number of our party killed and wounded and taken prisoners. I lost my horse, saddle and bridle. Those of our party who escaped marched to Kings-tree on Black River from thence home – I cannot be positive of the time I joined General Sumter." "In the month of March or April 1781 I was again called out under the command of Captain Adams, and General Sumter, we were ordered to the Indian land. Our Colonel was, at this time, a Prisoner – I remained at that place until I was dismissed." "In the month of May 1781 I was again ordered out by Captain Adams, we scouted at the Wateree and procured some provisions for General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army afterwards we were ordered to the Congaree Fort mentioned in the foregoing part of this statement, the Fort surrendered to Col Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] – we were dismissed and I'll return home." "I was again ordered out – I think in June 1781, under the command of Captain Adams and Colonel Lacey who had just been exchanged; we joined General Greene's Army and marched to Orangeburg, where we left General Greene, and under the command of General Sumter marched to a British Garrison, I believe it was called Biggin's Church, a party of us was ordered to cut down a bridge to prevent the enemy from retreating – after we had destroyed the bridge, we were attacked by a party of British Dragoons. We killed two or three and took seven of them prisoners. The enemy burned the Garrison and retreated. We pursued them and our advance took about sixty prisoners. The enemy sheltered themselves in a range of houses where we

attacked them, we had no cannon and could not dislodge them-- a number of our men were killed and wounded – I recollect a Colonel Campbell, belonging to Genl Greene's Army." "I was drafted (I believe in the month of February 1782) under the command of Captain Cooper, Major Wallis and General Henderson [William Henderson], we marched to Orangeburg where we were ordered to guard the Jail which contained a large number of Prisoners, how long I remained at Orangeburg, I cannot say – this was the last of my Revolutionary Services." I now live in the same neighborhood that I lived in during the Revolutionary War. Deponent further says he has no written discharges and hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State except the State of South Carolina from which he has received a year's pension which is Sixty Dollars. S/ James McDill [sic] Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. S/ J. Rosborough, JQ [?] The State of South Carolina, Chester District: I, George Gill, Sr., aged 72 years do hereby certify that I was personally acquainted with the above named John McDill in the time of the Revolutionary War and believe his statement to be true. S/ Geo. Gill Interrogatories prescribed by the War department, and administered to John McDill, by the Honorable Richard Gantt, presiding Judge of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas, for Chester District, Spring Term 1833. First – Where and in what year were you born? Answer – I was born in Ireland in the year 1762 and emigrated to Charleston in 1772 and immediately came to this District. Second – Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it? Answer – I have no record of my age – my information was derived from my father, who has been long since dead. Third – Where were you living when called into service, where have you live since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? Answer – I was living in this District (Chester) when I first entered the service. I have since the Revolutionary War lived in this District, and now reside on a part of the tract of land that I occupied at that time. Fourth – How are you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom? Answer – I was first and at several times drafted – I was also called out several times in the Militia with all those liable to do duty. I was never a substitute. Fifth – State the names of some of the regular officers or with the troops where you served; such cotton on and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general to work with stances of your services?

Answer – I recollect General Greene, General Lincoln, Colonel Campbell, Captain Boys, Captain Moore and Captain Miles. I recollect Colonel Kershaw's Regiment and Colonel Henry Hampton's Regiment. I was first attached to Colonel Winn's Regiment, afterwards to Colonel Lacey's Regiment and refer to my statement of facts for the general circumstances of my service. Sixth – Did you ever received a discharge from the service; and, if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it? Answer – I never received a written discharge from the service – it was usual to discharge the soldiers verbally. Seventh – 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? Answer – Reverend Mr. Davis, James Harbison, Esq., Thomas McClurken,¹ John McCreary, Sr., Joseph Gaston² [J. Le Roy Davies, a clergyman and George Gill Esq. and my whole neighborhood will testify to my veracity and belief of my revolutionary services. S/ John McDill [sic] Sworn in open Court S/ J Rosborough S/ R. Gantt, P. J. 3 1 FPA W21792 gave these standards supporting affidavit.] [Facts in file: veteran died November 3, 1848; the file contains no information regarding his wife or children, if any] 2 Joseph Gaston W23089 3 George Gill S21229

