

# Revolutionary War Pension Applications

Transcribed from Original Documents by

Virginia McCormick

Wife of Direct Descendant of  
John McCormick, b. 1754

State of Indiana  
Fayette County

On this fifteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the honorable Edward Webb and William Miller associate judges of the Circuit Court of the County of Fayette now sitting -- John McCormick a resident of Harrison Township in the said County of Fayette and State of Indiana aged seventy eight 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 of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

That on or about the last of April or first of May in the year 1776 on the Nolachucky river in what is now called East Tennessee he entered into the service of the United States by volunteering into a company commanded by Capt. James Robinson for an indefinite period -- that immediately after he joined said company they were employed on to the waters of Nolachucky in erecting a fort, but before the same was completed they were driven from their works by a body of Cherokee Indians and immediately retreated to a fort on the Wataga river where they found that several families had assembled for protection --

In about a week or ten days after arriving at this fort it was attacked by a body of about three hundred Cherokees who we succeeded in repulsing after about one or two hours fighting -- after which battle we remained in the fort until some time in the latter part of September or first of October when we were again marched on to the Nolachucky where we joined some Virginia troops commanded by Co. Christie and some N. Carolina troops commanded by Col. Williams, to the former of which command this applicant's company was attached -- from there they marched to the Cherokee towns on the Tennessee river five of which towns, together with all the corn, beans and other articles of produce we entirely destroyed after which we were dismissed (but) received no written discharge as he this applicant recollects, and returned direct to the Long Island where this applicant again immediately volunteered into a company commanded by Captain Shelby (whose Christian name was James as well as he can recollect) in no stated period and was stationed in Fort Henry at Long Island with some other volunteers the Captains of whom he does not at this day remember but all of which troops were under the command of Major Anthony Bledsoe at which fort we remained stationed until about the middle of February following when he was discharged, but whether he received a written discharge or not he does not now remember, but if he received one it is long since lost -- from thence this applicant emigrated to Bedford County in the State of Pennsylvania at which place some time about the latter part of the summer or beginning of the fall (he thinks) in the year 1780 he entered into a company commanded by a Captain (whose name was he thinks McCall) for three months to protect the settlement from

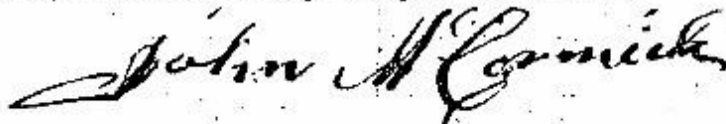
Indian depredation -- this company was employed in scouting about the country in the neighborhood of Bedford, but this applicant did not march with them, he having been retained by Colonel Robert Culbertson (the commandant there) as a centry (sic) in the town -- this applicant served his engagement of three months and was discharged but as whether his discharge was in writing or not he does not remember but if it was it is lost -- at the time of this applicant's service at Bedford there were no other militia troops, nor any regulars on duty -- but a short time before or after this tour of duty applicant does not recollect which he remembers a company of militia commanded by Captain Dunlap and a company of regulars commanded by a captain whose name he believes was Boyd, these companies became engaged with a party of Indians in Frankstown Valley and were soundly defeated leaving many dead on the battleground amongst whom this applicant thinks were the above named Captains Dunlap and Boyd --

This applicant further saith that he has no documentary evidence of his services, and that he knows no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, his services were performed on the frontiers against the Indians and his comrades (sic) are all dead or if any remain they live in parts unknown to him --

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 --

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

Attest M.N. Callowell Clk



The court now here propound the following interrogatories to the said applicant and the answers by him made are under oath -- are as follow to wit:

1st. Where, and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born within eight miles of Winchester, Frederick County Virginia on the 30th day of August A.D. 1754 -

Ques. 2 Have you any record of your age & if so where is it?

Ans. I have none - my parents kept a record of their childrens ages in the family bible but I know not what has become of it - I know my age only from having frequently seen their record of it --

Question 3 Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you live now?

Ans. I lived when I first entered the service on waters of Holstein River and when I last entered I lived in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, after the war I lived in the latter county until the year 1795 when I emigrated into what is now called Butler County Ohio where I remained about 9 years and moved into Preble County in the same state, from thence in the year 1813 I

removed into the County of Fayette Indiana where I have since resided and where I now reside --

Question 4 How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom

Ans. I volunteered as I have in my declaration above stated

Question 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 service

Ans. There were no regular officers with the troops where I served on the waters of Tennessee -- I volunteered to protect the inhabitants of the frontiers from Indian depredations. The Indians were supposed to be & I believe were allies of the British and carried on a continual warfare in that part of the country named above by me. I knew the regiment of N. Carolina militia commanded by Col. Williams & the Virginia Regiment commanded by Co. Christie to the latter of which regiments my company was for awhile attached -- about the time of my service at Bedford knew a company of regular troops which was commanded by a Capt. Boyd (I think was his name) who was defeated as above in my declaration is stated -- The general circumstances of my service are in my declaration correctly stated --

Quest. 6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it

Ans. I am not certain that I ever did receive a discharge -- There is a faint impression on my mind that I did for the last term on Holstien & Tennessee but if I did it is long since lost --

Quest 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 for their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution

Ans. I name the Samuel Drennen, Boaz Tharp and Genl. Jonathan McCarty and Judge Webb a member of this court -- and John Tate Esq recorder of this county

Mr. Samuel Drennen -- residing in the vicinity of John McCormick above named and in Fayette County & John Tate ----- residing in the same neighborhood county hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John McCormick who has subscribed &

sworn to the above declaration:

That we believe him to be seventy eight 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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Attest M.N. Callowell Clk

*Samuel Drennan*  
*John Tate*

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion after investigation of the matter and after putting the interratories 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 there is no clergyman residing in the neighborhood of the said applicant and that the said Samuel Drennan and John Tate are residents in the neighborhood of the said applicant are creditable persons and that their statements are intitled to credit



Be it remembered that on August -- the records of the Fayette County Probate Court at the term of July, A.D. 1844 appears the following-----:

At a term of the Fayette County Probate Court begun and held at the courthouse in Connersville, in the County of Fayette and State of Indiana before the Honorable Justis Wright sole judge of Civil Court, on the fourth Monday and twenty second day of July, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and forty four, and continued from day to day before the same Judge until Thursday, the fourth judicial day of said term ----

Matter of Catherine McCormick }  
Ex----- } Application----

And now at this day comes into Open Court the said Catherine McCormick in her own proper person, and makes and files the following Declaration and Evidence in order to obtain a pension Court Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th July, 1838 --- entitled "An Act Granting half pay and pensions to certain widows--"

State of Indiana ~~~~~ ss  
Fayette County ~~~~~

On this 23<sup>th(sic)</sup> day of July, A.D. 1844, personally appeared before the Hon. Justus Wright, sole Judge of the Probate Court of the County of Fayette, in the State of Indiana in Open Court, Catherine McCormick aged seventy five years who first being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Contress passed July 7 1838, entitled "An Act Granting Half pay & pension to Certain Widows."

That she is the widow of John McCormick, late a resident of the County of Fayette and State of Indiana deceased who was a revolutionary pensioner of the United States from the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ until period of his death reference being had to the Records, Documents and papers in file at the War Office of the United States as evidence of the facts as above stated ---- She further declares that she was married to the said John McCormick on the Twenty Fourth day of March in the year Seventeen Hundred and eighty five, that her husband the aforesaid John McCormick died on the eighteenth day of April 1837, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January Seventeen Hundred and ninety four, viz, at the time above stated

Catherine McCormick X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in Open Court before me G.W. Guin (?) Clk of the Fayette Circuit Court, and exoficio Clerk of the Fayette County Probate Court ----

At the same time and place personally appeared in Open Court Samuel Drenning of lawful age, who on being duly sworn upon his oath makes the following statements, viz: ---

My name is Samuel Drenning and I am the brother of Catherine McCormick, the above applicant for a pension --- I am now seventy years of age, was not present at the marriage of my sister Catharine to the late John McCormick, I was at the time of the marriage a small boy --- knew that the said John McCormick now deceased, and the said Catharine, who makes the above declaration lived together as husband and wife up to the time of the death of the said John, which took place about seven years ago last April as witness believes --- Knew that the said John deceased and the said Catharine reared up a large family of children --- witness always understood that John McCormick drew a pension before his death --- further saith that Catherine has not married since the death of John McCormick, but that she still remains the reputed widow of the said John --- din't knew that there were kept any family records of the marriage aforesaid ---

(Signed) Samuel Drenning

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court this 25th day of July 1844 ----  
G.W. Guin Clk Fayette County Probate Court -----

And at the same time and place came Abraham Boys (Beys) of lawful age who being duly sworn in Open Court in this behalf upon his oath makes the following statements viz: ----

I am fifty nine years of age and a resident of the County of Fayette & State of Indiana where I have resided for thirty years, I have been personally acquainted with John McCormick now deceased for fifteen or twenty years before his death --- I have also been acquainted with Catherine McCormick the present applicant for a pension for several years, knows that the said John and Catherine lived together as husband and wife, and that they were \_\_\_\_\_ as such ---- also knows that they raised several children ---- din't precisely knew what time John McCormick died ---- Further says that Catherine McCormick the present applicant is still the reputed widow of the said John McCormick deceased ---- and that she has not remarried since the death of the said John as witness believes ---- Witness says that John McCormick was a Revolutionary pensioner before his death ----

A. Beys

Subscribed and sworn to in Open Court his 25th day of July A.D. 1844 ----

G.W. Guin Clk F.C.P.C.

At the same time and place personally appeared in Open Court Elisha Vance of lawful age, who on being duly sworn upon his oath makes the following statements, viz ----



"I am about forty three years of age, and have been a citizen of the town of Connersville, in the County of Fayette for about eighteen years during the most of which time he had been acquainted with the family of the late John McCormick a portion of it ---- was well acquainted with John McCormick up to the time of his death ---- Witness knows that the said John was a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States ---- Witness for some years before the death of the said John was in the habit of executing his Pension papers for the purpose of drawing his semiannual payments ---- witness frequently had the pension Certificate of the said John in his possession ---- Witness knows that Catherine McCormick the above applicant for a pension is the reputed widow of the said John McCormick, and yet remains unmarried

State of Indiana  
County of Fayette



On this 23(rd) day of July, A.D. One Thousand eight hundred and fifty five, personally appeared before me, John B. Tate, a justice of the peace within and for said County, duly authorised to administer oaths for general purposes therein, Catherine McCormick aged eighty six years, a resident of Fayette County, in the State of Indiana, who, being duly sworn, according to law, declares that she is the widow of John McCormick, deceased, who was a private in the Virginia Militia, as she has been informed and believes, in the War of the Revolution. That she cannot give the name of the Captain, Colonel, or other officer under whom her late husband, John McCormick, served, nor can she state the time or place at which he engaged in the service, the length of time he served in the army, or the time or place at which he was discharged but for information relative thereto, and for proof thereof, (so far at least as the same may amount to proof) she herein refers the Department to the application and evidence filed therein by her late husband in the year 1833, and by virtue of which he was placed on the pension roll January 21st 1833, as she believes.

She further states that she was married to the said John McCormick on the 24th day of March A.D. 1785, by one John Thisney, Esqr. and that her name before her said marriage was Catherine Drennen, that her said husband died on the 18th day of April, A.D. 1837 and that she is now a widow.

She further states that she now knows of no public or private record of her marriage with the said John McCormick, and for proof of her said marriage with and the death of her said husband she herein refers to her application, together with the documents and evidence therewith, filed in the Department in the summer of 1844. By virtue of which her name was afterwards entered, and is yet continued on the pension roll.



She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act approved March 3(rd) 1855.

Attest Elisha Vance  
Catherine X McCormick  
her mark

We and each of us, namely Newton Claypool and Amos Edwards, residents of Fayette County, in the State of Indiana, upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by Catherine McCormick in our presence, and that we believe from the appear-----

John McCormick  
4515  
Indiana

Fayette Co. in the State of Indiana who was a private in the Company Commanded by Captain Robinson of the Reg Commanded by Co. Christie in the Virginia \_\_\_\_\_ for Militia \_\_\_\_\_ months from 1776 ---

Inscribed on the Roll of Indiana at the rate of 40 Dollars Cents per annum to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 21 day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1833 and \_\_\_\_\_

S.C. Sample  
Connersville Ind.

Arrears to 4th Sept 1832 60.00  
Semi = anl. allowance ending 4 March 1833 20.00

Debt 80.00

195.710 Act Mar. 3/55  
July 30/11

Catherine McCormick  
Widow of John McCormick  
McCormick  
Pen

VA. Mil  
Revol. War

Ind

AD: 16 July, 9/56  
BO

2222

Indiana                    let to Pen Agt July 17'49

Catherine McCormick  
Widow of John McCormick  
VA  
Who served in the Revolutionary  
War, as a Private

Inscribed on the Roll at the rate of  
40 Dollars ----  
Cents per Annum, to Commence on  
the 4th day of March, 1848

Certificate of Pension issued the  
3rd day of \_\_\_\_\_ Nov. 48  
and sent to  
Hon. C.L. Morehouse  
Frankfort,  
Ken.

Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under act  
February 2, 1848, Page 330 Vol. 3