

JOHN McCLUNG, Revolutionary War Soldier of GEORGIA

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1-3 JOHN McCLUNG

GA0001

Probably the nephew of Robert McClung of Wrightsboro, GA. John was born in 1763 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was moved while a young boy to Georgia where his parents died. We do not know why they made this move but it appears that several families moved together. There was a Quaker community that had been set up a year or so earlier that allowed a few outside their faith to purchase plots of land in the town of Wrightsboro, or its vicinity. In his pension application, John states that his family moved to Richmond County, GA.

Wrightsboro was originally in the St. Paul's Parish which was a large area on the Savannah River that separated Georgia from South Carolina. Wrightsboro was in Richmond County before 1790, then Warren County when it was cut from Richmond. Robert McClung (given as McClen in one land record) had his land surveyed in 1769 and granted in 1770. There was also a Thomas Linn in this area. Further down in St. Thomas Parish was a John McClung who may have been a relative. Records from this time period are meager.

There was also a William McClung who died in Richmond County in 1786. His probate may be in Columbia County which was cut from Richmond in 1790. We do not know how this William was related. He was probably of the same generation as John's parents but he died about 15 years after John's parents died.

We have found a record of apprenticeship of a John McClung, orphan, to Hugh Linn in N.C. in 1772. It may be that John's mother was a [Linn](#). The family may have tried to apprentice out this boy so he would have a skill. If this record pertains to this John, we know he didn't stay with the cooper's apprenticeship because he joined in the Rev. War at age 15. See: [Rowan Co., NC Court Records](#).

Not seeing his way to become a cooper, he left and went to South Carolina. We have not found any McClungs in Edgefield deeds but that is where he was, working in a field when he saw a regiment of soldiers passing by and threw down his plow and joined up with them. This was in May of 1779 when he joined Capt. Richard Johnston's company. Note: We learn this from several applications he made for his military service as well as the family history from Richard's family who called him "Sassy Jack". It is their history that places him in SC when he joined as well as his pension applications.

However, we have records from North Carolina: NC: Rowan County Tax Lists

1757-1800 (By Jo White Linn. 1995, page 171:

"The Money paid by Benja. Rounsevall to the soldiers that went out Militia 25 Dec 1779 for their Bounty: John McClung: 150 acres."

One can well imagine the personality of a young person who lost his parents and was moved about from the cold of Pennsylvania to the near tropical area of Georgia, then taken to NC to be apprenticed. He reports that his family were Tories. They gained their land from the English Crown and no doubt felt that they owed their livelihood to

the British and remained faithful. That didn't stop John from joining the revolution. Joseph McCormick in 1827 swore that he knew John from the time he was a small boy and knew that all his relatives were Tories. He states that it produced a disturbance between him and his relatives and he ran off from them to enlist.

John recounts his military duties in three applications in later life while living in Tennessee. We owe most of the story of his life to these documents. See: [Pension Applications](#). He recounts some experiences: "that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered as a private that is by enlistment for the term of fourteen months about the 1st of May 1779 in South Carolina in Edgefield County in the company commanded by Captain Richard Johnston in the regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Hammonds in the line of South Carolina. They were called state troops. He does not now recollect whether they were actually on the new continental establishment or not but knows they were sometimes called troops under the new continental establishment and sometimes state troops. Their Lieutenant's name was _____ Beal, 3rd Lieutenant James Spann, Sergeant Myers and Elliott. The adjutant's name was Robert Starkes. Sergeant Major's name was _____ Lawrence. He thinks John Lawrence. The other companies of the same regiment were commanded by Jesse Johnston, _____, Captain Cowan, Captain Mucklehany. The latter got his leg broke from a fall from his horse. These were the four Captains in the regiment. Their major's name was Fields Purdue. He marched from Edisto Creek then to Bull Swamp below Augusta on the South Carolina side of Savannah river. The regiment was raised in South Carolina. He assisted at the storming of Grayson's Fort and also at the siege and capture of Brown's Fort at Augusta, Georgia. He got a written discharge from Colonel Samuel Hammons in town of Augusta for the full term of fourteen months service as above stated but having had his house burnt, it was destroyed. He recalls during this term of service of he and a party of 27 men from the regiment pursuing the Tory Colonel Cunningham, he thinks his name was but at this instance of time cannot say and overtaking and having severe skirmish with his band. They took him by surprise when his men were cooking. They killed several of his men and took most of their guns as they had rushed upon them before they could get them to shoot. He saw a great many Tories killed and also could name a great many other skirmishes but deems it unnecessary here to make any further mention of them. In getting his discharge as above stated he would further say that he and the company were dismissed at the Block House General Pickens in South Carolina. As stated in his first declaration but received his discharge in Augusta as above stated after it was taken by our troops."

John made application for pension 26 May 1833, at which time he was residing in Smith County, Tennessee at the age of 70 years. Pension was granted for one year, eight months and ten days actual service as a private in the S.C. troops during the Revolutionary War. He served part of the time under Capt. Richard Johnstone and Col. Samuel Hammons. His service is also recorded in: [\(The Roster of S.C. Patriots in the American Revolution See McC Journals\)](#). During May 1779, while residing in Edgefield Dist., SC, he enlisted under Capt. Richard Johnson and Col. Samuel Hammond and was in the storming of Grassas(?) Fort and Brown's Fort. In July 1781, he was under Capt. John Carter and Col. Saunders. In the fall of 1781, he joined Capt. Robert Day (of GA)

to guard wagons. Also during that year, he was under Capt. Ezekiel Abbott. In 1782, he was under Capt. Frederick Wommack and in the fall was in a Georgia unit.

He mentions that in the fall of 1781 at Wrightsborough (then in Richmond County) that he volunteered for one month under Capt. Robert Day. He served another month after enlisting in Warren County. When they marched back and was discharged at Wrightsborough in Warren County. In 1782 he was drafted in Warren County as a militiaman.

He appears to have come back to that land in N.C. where he was counted for taxes: (Jo Linn White, page 197): "1782-3 Rowan County Tax List of Capt. Grimigar's Company (area south of Salisbury): John McLong – poll only". Notice he is not married at this time. Then by 1784 we have: (Page 230): "The 1784 Rowan County List of Taxable Property in Capt. Nathaniel Johnston's Company (southern Rowan County): John McClung, 80 acres." Perhaps a search of deeds in Rowan County would reveal the sale of some of this property.

We do not have a marriage record to know the date of his marriage to Elizabeth. The eldest known child was Reuben who was born in 1785 in Georgia so they would have had to have been married about 1783. That would have made John 20 years old at the time. There may have been an older daughter that we don't know about.

We do not know Elizabeth's name or where she was living at the time of the marriage but the dates would suggest Rowan County, North Carolina. From subsequent deed records we suspect that her surname was Bellah. We are seeking the [Bellah connection](#)

The 1785 Rowan County Tax Delinquents & Insolvents lists Capt. Johnston's Company: John McLang – one white poll (Jo Linn White, p. 250). This would make sense if John had moved back to Georgia and abandoned this property in 1785. We know that Reuben was born in Georgia in 1785.

In 1787 Jonas was born in Georgia. Then Richard reports that he was born in 1791 in South Carolina. By 1793 John Jr. was born in Georgia. In 1797 Robert was born; Drucilla in 1798; and William W. in 1799; Hiram in 1802, Sewell in 1804 and Elizabeth about 1804-5. During this time period we have tax records and deeds that place the family in the Wilkes and Warren county area. John reports in his applications that he was in the Warren county Georgia area until 1806.

From 1784 to 1793 we have no public records for the whereabouts of this family. John may have had his young family living with relatives. We first find public record of John in Georgia in the 1793 tax list in Wilkes County where he had no land. By 1794 the area was included in Warren County and John is recorded as having 140 acres on River Comfort adjoining Irby and Matthews.

We do not know if John had any brothers and sisters. We know that there was in Warren County a George McClung who was also born in the same time period and Georgia McClung. George and Georgia were both married in Warren County in

1796 and 1797. Their father may have been this Robert McClung from colonial Georgia records but we have nothing yet to tie them together. Further searches of the records of colonial Georgia are needed.

In 1796 we have a most interesting record in Greene County, GA.:

Deed Book 2; from LDS Film #8158294
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State of Georgia

This Indenture made the fourteenth day of July and year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six between John McLung of the County of Greene and State of Georgia of one part and Reuben McLung of the County and state aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that this said John McLung in consequence of a deed of Gifts made unto said Reuben McLung by Robert Linn of North Carolina Roan County of a certain black Mare described in said Deed of Gift bearing date the seventeenth day of April one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five and delivered to said John McLung to be held in trust by same for said Reuben until he arrives at the age of twenty-one years with power to exchange said Mare for the other property to be held in like manner in consequence of which Deed of Gift and as an equivalent for the above said mare the said John McLung hath bargained, sell, release and confirm and by these presents doth the said Reuben McLung his heirs and assigns forever all that tract of land lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Sandy Creek on the north line of the tract and wherein Thos. Phillips now lives . . . (description in metes and bounds) . . . 250 acres granted to Ethelred Thomas and conveyed to John McLung by Thomas Phillips. Together with all the rights members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever and this said tract of land belonging and anywise appurtenant unto the above said Reuben McLung, his heirs and assigns to his and their own proper use and behalf. And the said John McLung for himself and his heirs to the true intent and meanings of these presents. In writing whereof the said John McLung hath hereunto set his hand and seal the year and day first above written.

John McClung (seal)

Signed sealed and delivered
in the presents of
Moses Bellah
Reuben Bellah
Samuel Bellah

Registered 12th day of Sep 1790
Park Clk

In 1799 John was awarded 150 acres in Warren County, GA as was William who md Euphemia Cunningham. William didn't stay in Georgia but it appears that John's family did. (Grant Book BBBB, p. 252).

The property in Greene/Oglethorpe was sold in 1800 and the family moved to Jackson County. This area in Greene Co. was taken into Oglethorpe Co.: See: [Oglethorpe Deeds](#). The Bellahs were probably from Rowan County, NC, but we find Samuel in Jackson County, GA in the 1809 Tax List.

The next record we have of John is a listing of the first members of Walnut Fork Church met at the home of Joseph Thompson on May 29, 1802 to form a constitution. The following list of members were transcribed from the original church records to the best of our ability (only listing McClungs and known relatives):

Richard Williamson
Letty Williamson
John McClung
Elizabeth McClung
Ruben McClung
Polly Williamson
Nancy McClung

These people were listed under the heading 1802-1805. [from Jackson Co. Historical Soc. News, Oct. 1999]. Researched by Maryann Gentzel.

In 1806 both John and the William who was in Wilkes Co. moved from Georgia. John went to the French-Broad area of western North Carolina. It was in Buncome County. Part of Buncome County was included in Haywood County where we find John in the 1810 census with some of the family.

Males:

0: under 10
1: 10-16: 1794-1810 (possibly Robert b. 1797)
1: 16-26: 1784-94 (possibly Richard b. 1791)
0: 26-45
1: 45 & over: before 1765

Females

2: under 10: 1800-10
1: 10-16: 1794-1810
1: 16-26: 1784-94
1: 26-45: 1765-84
0: 45+

Most of the children remained in Georgia with John Jr. We find him in Hall county in 1820:

Males:

- 1 b. 1794–1802 (probably John Jr. b. 1793)
- 1 b. 1794–1802 (possibly William W. b. 1799)
- 1 b. 1794–1802 (a missing son – Samuel or James Riley ?)
- 1 b. 1802–1804 (probably Hiram b. 1802)
- 1 b. 1804–1810 (probably Sewell H. b. 1804)

Females:

- 1 b. before 1775 (mother)
- 1 b. 1794–1804 (probably Rebecca Nix, wife)
- 1 b. 1804–1810 (may be a sister, Elizabeth?)

Reuben and Polly were also listed in Hall County; Jonas had moved to TN.

It is obvious that this family broke up. Elizabeth stayed in Georgia while John went on to NC, SC and then to Arkansas. Richard and Robert went to Alabama about 1815 with Robert in Blount Co.

In Jackson/Hall county area we have the "orphans of John McClung" who drew in a land lottery and were listed as heirs of John for Georgia Land Bounties. The siblings listed were Hiram, Sewell, Drucilla and Elizabeth. The probate records of Jackson and Hall counties have been searched but there is no record of a death of John. This gives us further indication that the family did indeed split up and that John moved on. Elizabeth would not have gone off and left small children.

John stated that he moved to N.C., S.C., Ark., Ala. and then to Tennessee by 1840. He states that he moved to NC in 1806 and lived there three years. This is not quite correct because we found him there in 1810. From there he states that he lived in the Pendleton District of South Carolina for five years. At that time Pendleton took in the present counties of Oconee, Pickens and Anderson. This would have been across the Savannah from Franklin Co. and Habersham counties in Georgia. He then moved to Arkansas on the White River and lived there for two years. In all these locations, at some point, his cabin burned and he lost his military papers. We have not found him in a census for the year 1820. He may have been between Arkansas and Alabama at that point.

All of these moves must have been very hard on the wife. We do not know who she was or where they were married. They may have been married in South Carolina where no marriage records were kept. They may have married when he was in the French–Broad Holsten area. Certainly he was married by 1810. John's [second family](#) is harder to pin down.

When John moved to Morgan County, Alabama he remarried. Morgan is just south of Madison and Limestone where the Tennessee McClungs had moved. We also find some of Rev. David McClung and Hugh McClung descendants in Morgan County, AL. It is likely the second wife died in AR or AL as the children were taken and reared by Nancy. By 1824 John married Nancy Luster. From Nancy's application we learn that they were married 11 Oct 1824 in St. Clair County,

Alabama. St. Clair County bordered Blount on the south. Blount is where John's son, Robert moved. Morgan county was on the northern boundary of Blount.

The pension records of this man yield a brief chronology of his life. We have estimated some of the years for his locations:

1763-----born in PA
ca 1769-----brought to Wilkes Co., GA with family
1779, May---enlisted in the Revolutionary War
1782-----joined Militia in GA
1780-1806---in Wilkes/Warren Co., GA
1806-1810---moved to Buncomb Co. NC
1810-1815---moved to Pendleton Dist. S.C.
1816-1818---in Arkansas Territory
1819-1824---moved to Morgan Co., AL 1824-----married Nancy Luster in St. Clair Co., AL
1827-1829---moved to McMinn Co., TN
1830-1833---residing in Smith County TN
1833-44-----residing in Sumner Co., TN where he died

John states that he moved to McMinn County, Tennessee when it was formed from Indian lands. It was called the Hiwassee Purchase. He lived there two years. It was in McMinn in 1827 that he made his first application for a pension based on his service in the revolution. By 1830 we find him in the census in Overton County. Overton had been cut from Smith County where John moved next.

The 1830 census shows him age 60-70 (he was 67) with wife age 40-50. His family is:

Female age 15-20 (b. 1810-15, from 2nd mg)
Male age 10-15 (b. 1815-20, from 2nd mg)
Female age 10-15 (b. 1815-20, from 2nd mg--Probably Margaret Amanda b. 1815, SC)
Female age 5-10 (1820-25, Almedia born 1825 to Nancy)
Male under 5 (b. 1825-30)
Female under 5 (b. 1825-30)

A list of Revolutionary pensioners, compiled 1 June 1840, contains the name of John McClung, then 80 years of age and at that time living in Sumner County, TN. At that time he reported that he had three children: James Buford, John, and a daughter. The children from the second marriage had no doubt married by 1840. It is odd that John only reported two daughters at home because the 1830 and 40 censuses agree that he had a daughter born 1825-30 and the Margaret b. 1815. Perhaps he was just reporting those born to Nancy.

1840 Sumner County, Tennessee shows him with a houseful of people so perhaps one or two of his married children were living with him.

John McClung

1 male 5-10-----1 female 0-5
1 male 15-20-----1 female 10-15 (b. 1825-30)

1 male 20-30-----3 females 20-30 (b. 1810-20)
1 male 30-40-----1 female 40-50
1 male 80-90

The family here has 1 male and 3 females born 1810-20. The son and two daughters were from the second family and the other female was probably the wife to this son. Then we have a son born 1820-25, probably in Alabama and most likely from the second marriage. A daughter was born 1825-30
John was finally awarded a pension for his service. He died 24 Sept 1844. Nancy made application for a widow's pension ().

Nancy is found in the 1850 census of Sumner Co., TN. (P.1000 #395) She is given as age 63 and born in TN. Her daughter, Almira is 25 b. TN. They have two year old Mary with them also b. in TN who is probably a granddaughter.

The Samuel and Margaret A. Scott of Yell County, Arkansas shown in the 1850 census are probably the Samuel and Amanda Scott mentioned as Nancy McClung's daughter in her pension file papers.

Note that Margaret A. Scott, age 35 in 1850, says she was born in South Carolina. (Their first child was born in Tennessee) That would have made her birth date around 1815 and John McClung was residing in York District, SC about that time. That would also make her the daughter of his second marriage and a step - daughter of Nancy. She would have been about 9 years old when John and Nancy married in 1824. In one of the affidavits, she or Judith Jones stated that they knew Nancy and John McClung prior to their marriage.

1850 Sumner County, Tennessee
Nancy McClung, age 63, TN
Almedia McClung, age 25 TN
Mary McClung, age 2, TN

1850 Yell County, Arkansas
Samuel Scott, age 39, KY
Margaret A. Scott, age 35, SC
Sarah Scott, age 14, TN
Dorcas Scott, age 9, AR
Celia E. Scott, age 5, AR
Walter W. Scott, age 2, AR
George W., age 6/12, AR

In 1856, in an application for Bounty Land for revolutionary service, Nancy stated that she was married to the said John McClung in the county of St. Clair and state of Alabama on or about the 11th day of October 1824 by one Burrell Greene a Justice of the Peace in said county and that previous to the said marriage her name was Nancy Luster. That the said John McClung died in the county of Sumner in the state of Tennessee on or about the 24th day of September AD 1844.
See: [Nancy's Bounty Land Application](#)

Nancy made thie application in Franklin County, Illinois and was probably living with John McClung, Jr. He signed as witness on her application. John Jones (probably son in law and husband of Julia Ann) and John McClung gave affidavit as persons well acquainted with said Nancy McClung.

For the children, see: [John and Nancy Luster McClung](#) family.

The children from the first family as best we can determine at this time are:

- 1-4 REUBEN McCLUNG b. 1785
- 2-4 JONAS McCLUNG b. 1787
- 3-4 NANCY McCLUNG b. ca 1790
- 4-4 RICHARD McCLUNG b. 1791
- 5-4 JOHN McCLUNG, Jr. b. 1793
- 6-4 ROBERT McCLUNG b. 1797
- 7-4 DRUCILLA McCLUNG b. 1798
- 8-4 WILLIAM WILEY b. 1799
- 9-4 HIRAM McCLUNG b. 1802
- 10-4 SEWELL HENRY McCLUNG b. 1804
- 11-4 ELIZABETH McCLUNG b. 1806