

William McKinley (10 August 1744 - 22 April 1798)

South Carolina Patriot

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The family of William McKinley were Jacobean Scots (the so called Scotch-Irish) who first appear in records of Invernes-shire Scotland, and later at County Monahan, Ireland.   McKinley’s father John left his home in Ballibay, Ireland in 1744 and immigrated to Philadelphia.  William McKinley was born at sea.   The family settled in the Virginia Valley, later moving to the Abbeville District of South Carolina.  William married Mary Beatty of County Down, Ireland.  William McKinley was a sergeant at South Carolina. He was also a private under Colonel Anderson. *(See Archibald C. McKinley preface Page for William McKinley the Great Grandfather of Archibald C. McKinley subject of this book.)*

William McKinley's Pension Record shows the following concerning his service during the American Revolution. Pension Record Page 2 of 6 shows his account of Duty in the Militia done alternately as Private and Sergeant before and since the seduction of Charleston.  Page 3 of 6 states, service with Col Anderson Regiment, 5 Tours at 215 Pounds + 2 Shillings and 6 Pence.  Again, on page 2 of 6, he was paid 30 Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Seven Pence on this installment.  Page 5 of 6 states one tour with Col Robert Anderson being paid 10 Shillings a day on foot for 16 days, and 20 Shillings a day on Hors Back for 70 days, old Currency.   He gave this Oath Sworn before Robert Anderson 13th of May 1795.   William McKinley legible pension record does not give battles he was involved in.  Therefore, below are his commanders battle accounts that Col. Robert Anderson participated in. Both William McKinley and Robert Anderson lived in Abbeville, SC at the time of the American Revolution. *(See South Carolina Department of Archives and History. William McKinley).*

Robert Anderson was born in Virginia in 1741, the fifth child of a Scotch-Irish family who owned a prosperous farm in Augusta County, VA. As a young man, he journeyed into the South Carolina frontier to acquire lands in the newly opened Indian Territory.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Anderson joined the volunteer Patriot Army and was at one time a sergeant in the fifth South Carolina Regiment. Anderson soon joined his friend Andrew Pickens and fought at the battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia. The vastly outnumbered Patriot militia defeated a British force commanded by Colonel Boyd and stopped the British from recruiting more Tories. Anderson served in several capacities but eventually became a colonel in the Upper Ninety-Six regiment which he commanded until March 30, 1783.

Robert Anderson fought at the battles of Musgrove’s Hill, King’s Mountain, and Cowpens. After that battle, Anderson joined Light Horse Harry Lee to capture Augusta. Anderson’s regiment was at the front during one of the bloodiest battles of the southern campaign at Eutaw Springs.

After the American Revolution, Anderson became a general in the state militia and saw action in several Indian campaigns. Later, he served in the South Carolina state legislature. Anderson spent his senior years in the Pendleton District as a gentleman farmer. He died in January of 1813 and was survived by five children. He was buried on his plantation near the Seneca River, though he would be reinterred at The Old Stone Church in Clemson prior to the filling of Hartwell Lake. The Civic Association of Anderson County designed and built the Anderson Memorial Fountain in 1906 to honor the namesake of this city and county of Anderson. (See Anderson County Museum Account for General Robert Anderson)

Sources

Journal of Archibald C. McKinley Editor's Preface Page https://archive.org/details/journalofarchiba0000mcki/page/n319/mode/2up

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. William McKinley Pension Record. http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/ArchivesImages/S108092/S108092010100521000/images/S108092010100521000.pdf

Anderson County Museum <https://andersoncountymuseum.sc.gov/robert-anderson-2006-hall-fame>