

John McGovern's service files & pension file documents (obtained from the national archives in Washington, DC)

These documents are in chronological order:

Company Muster-in Roll:

John McGovern

Private, Capt. Palmer's Co., Pa. Vols. (Silver Greys)

Age 52 years

Appears on Company Muster-in Roll of the organization named above. Roll dated Harrisburg, PA, Jan. 23, 1862

Muster-in to date Dec. 18, 1861

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When – Nov. 30, 1861

Where – Cambria County

Period – during the war

Company Muster Roll:

John McGovern

Private, Capt. Palmer's Co., Pa. Vols. (Silver Greys)

Company Muster Roll for dated Dec. 31, 1861

Present or absent – not stated

Company Muster Roll:

John McGovern

Private, Capt. Palmer's Co., Pa. Vols. (Silver Greys)

Company Muster Roll for Jan. & Feb. 1862

Present or absent – present

Co. Muster-out Roll:

John McGovern

Private, Capt. Palmer's Co., Pa. Vols. (Silver Greys)

Age 52 years

Appears on Company Muster-out Roll dated

Camp Curtin, April 30, 1862

Muster-out to date – April 30, 1862

Last paid to – Dec. 31, 1861

Declaration for Invalid Pension

July 19th, 189_ (year not filled in, but it was 1892)

State of Pennsylvania

County of Cambria

On this 19th day of July AD, 189_ personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace within and for the county and state aforesaid, John McGovern, aged 81 years, a resident of the town of Wilmore county of Cambria, state of Pennsylvania, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical John McGovern who was enrolled on the 30th day of November, 1861 in Captain William Palmer's Silver Grays as private in the service of the United States, in the War of the Rebellion, and served at least ninety days, and was honorably discharged at Harrisburg Pennsylvania on the 30th day of April, 1862. That he is totally and wholly unable to earn a support by manual labor by reason of stroke of paralysis. That said disabilities are not due to his vicious habits, and are to the best of his knowledge and belief permanent. That he has not applied for pension. That he makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the Act of June 27, 1890. He hereby appoints A.J. Skelly of Wilmore, state of Pennsylvania, his true and lawful attorney to prosecute his claim and receive a fee of \$10. That his post-office address is Wilmore, County of Cambria, State of Pennsylvania.

Signed by his mark [X] since he couldn't write

Attest: (1) John Wright
(2) I. W. Holder

Statement by Rev. Henry McHugh, pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church, Wilmore

Date: June 21, 1892

(Supporting John McGovern's claim for a pension)

"that he has been pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church for the past 19 years and has been personally acquainted with John McGovern during that time, and knows that the said John McGovern was stricken with paralysis about 8 years ago, and since has been totally unable to support himself or family during those years. His means are limited to the possession of a small house and lot, consequently his wife has been the main support of husband and family since that time."

Statement from Rev. Henry McHugh, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church in Wilmore

Claim #793261 Act of June 27, 1890 for accrued pensions for widow of John McGovern

Date of statement: December 26, 1893

...."that the following is a correct copy from the baptismal record kept in said church:

- Margaret, daughter of John McGovern was born the 13th day of May 1863
- Patrick, son of John McGovern, was born the 18th day of March 1865
- James, son of John McGovern, was born the 22nd day of June 1867
- Cornelius, son of John McGovern, was born the 22nd day of December 1870
- Mary Ann, daughter of John McGovern, was born the 28th day of September 1873
- Brigit, daughter of John McGovern, was born January 2nd, 1874

War of the Rebellion Claim of Widow for Pension

State of Pennsylvania, County of Cambria

On this 7th day of September AD, 1893 personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Catherine McGovern, aged 61 years, a resident of Wilmore in the state of Pennsylvania who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of John McGovern deceased, who was the identical person who served under the name of John McGovern as a Private in Company – Capt. William Palmer's Independent Co. Silver Grays in the war of 1861 – 65; that her said husband was enrolled on or about the 30th day of November 1861 and was honorably discharged on the 30th day of April, 1862. That her maiden name was Catharine Moore; that she was married to said soldier on or about the first day of August 1860, at Wilmore in the County of Cambria and State of Pennsylvania by the Rev. Peter Hughes.

She further declares that the said soldier, her husband, died at Wilmore in the State of Pennsylvania on or about the 4th day of September 1893, and that she has not since remarried.

She further states that she has no application for pension under the old law not pending in the Department.

She therefore files this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States, under the act June 27th 1890. She hereby appoints, with full power of substitution and revocation A. J. Skelly her true and lawful attorney to prosecute her claim and to receive a fee of \$10.00.

Her P.O. address is Wilmore, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

NOTE:

This document was signed with her "mark" [x], as Margaret McGovern could not write her name.

Application for Accrued Pension (Widows)

State of Pennsylvania, County of Cambria.

On the 21st day of October, 1893, personally appeared Catharine McGovern, who, being duly sworn, declares that she is the lawful widow of John McGovern, deceased; that he died on the 4th day of September, 1893; that he had been granted a pension by Certificate No. 793261, which is herewith returned; that he had been paid the pension by the Pension Agent at Pittsburgh up to the 4th day of July, 1893; after which date he had not been employed or paid in the Army, Navy, or Marine service of the United States; that she was married to the said John McGovern on the first day of August, 1860, at Wilmore, in the State of Pennsylvania; that her name before said marriage was Catharine Trainer; that she hereby makes application for the pension which had accrued on aforesaid certificate to the date of death; and that her residence is in the Borough of Wilmore, County of Cambria, State of Pennsylvania, and her post-office address is Wilmore, Cambria County, Penna.

Widow's signature [Catharine marked with an X since she couldn't write]

Also personally appeared Harry A. Brown, residing at Wilmore, Pennsylvania, and W. G. Berry, residing at Wilmore, Pennsylvania, who, being duly sworn, say they were present and saw Catharine McGovern sign her name (make her mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they know her to be the lawful widow of John McGovern, who died on the 4th day of September, 1893; and that their means of knowledge that said parties were husband and wife, and that the husband died on said date, are as follows:

That we reside in the same village and are near neighbors of the above named John McGovern and Catharine McGovern and have known them for 20 years and that we were at John's funeral.

Witnesses: Harry A. Brown & W. G. Berry

Justice of the Peace: A. J. Skelly

Catherine McGovern - statement
Claim No 793261 for accrued pension as widow of John McGovern
Date of statement: December 27th, 1893

"That she is unable to fully comply with the requirements of paragraph (3) for the following reasons: That some 32 years ago she was married to the above

named John McGovern having known him about 12 or 20 years previous to their marriage, he being a widower- having come to this country as near I can tell about 47 years ago, bringing with him a son who was about ten years of age at that time. He always stated to me that his wife died in Glasgow, Scotland before he emigrated to this country and I believe he was telling me the truth for the reason that I never heard any person question his statement relative to the death of his former wife. I therefore beg that this statement be accepted and my arrearages allowed.

I further swear that the statement above made was all written in my presence and only from my oral statement thus made this 27th day of December AD 1893 at Wilmore County and state above named was written by A.J. Skelly to whom I made such oral statement and this in making the same he did not use and was not aided or prompted by any written or printed statement or recited, prepared, or dictated by any other person.

Witnesses: A.J. Skelly (justice of the peach)
R. J. Roberts

Catherine McGovern obviously could not write, and left her "mark" [X] on the document.

[NOTE: this affidavit is from John McGovern, Jr., son of John & Rose McGovern]

General Affidavit

State of Texas, County of Kaufman

In the matter of Catharine McGovern, widow of John McGovern, Palmer's Independent Co, Pa. Volunteers

On this 26th day of Sept., 1895, personally appeared before me, a notary public within and for the county and state aforesaid, duly authorized to administer oaths, John McGovern, aged 57 years, a resident of Becker, in the County of Kaufmann, and State of Texas, whose Post Office address is Becker

That I, John McGovern of Becker, Kauffmann Co, Texas (known formerly as John McGovern, Jr. of Wilmore, Cambria County, Pennsylvania) am the oldest and only son of John McGovern Sr., late of Palmer's command and my mother, Rose McGovern, who died of typhus fever (I think in 1846 – it may have been in 1845, about this I am not certain, as I was at that time only 7 or 8 years old being born March 23rd, 1838 in Glasgow, Scotland. My mother, Rose McGovern was buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Catholic church, north and east of the church. I myself, with father and many others present at the funeral which was attended at the grave by the clergy. The church is situated on Abercrombie

Street, Glasgow, Scotland. This affidavit was drawn up by me, John McGovern Jr. at Becker Texas on the 26th day of September, 1895.. This affidavit is in my own handwriting and I certify that in its preparation, I was not aided or prompted by any written or printed statement or recital prepared or dictated by any other person. I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution only as an act of justice to my stepmother.

Signed: John McGovern

Application (letter) for increase in pension under the Act of Sept. 8th, 1916, Sec. 1

Derry, PA, October 27th, 1916

To: Dept. of the Interior
U.S. Pension Agency
Washington, DC

Dear Sirs:

"I hereby make application for an increase of pension under the Act of Sept. 8th, 1916, Sec. 1.

Certificate No. 425980

Name of Soldier: John McGovern

Service of Soldier: Private, Capt. Palmer's Indpt. Co., Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

I am 78 years of age, having been born at County Down, Ireland on the 14th day of January, 1838"

Signed with her "mark", Catherine McGovern, Derry, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Drop Report – Pensioner (3-1081)

Catherine McGovern
2nd Avenue
Derry, PA

Stated that Catherine was paid \$50/month until April 4, 1928, and that she was dropped from the roll because of death (April 23, 1928)