

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Records of John S. Slaughter VAS1755

59

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/15/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 1]

Petition Heirs John slaughter for Land Bounty

Received & registered October 9, 1848

In this case I find that it was another Lieut. J. Slaughter who had received land. In this case it [indecipherable word]¹ that Lieut. Slaughter served two years in the hardest service of the Revolution, and upon being discharged returned home and commenced recruiting for the Regiment of Guards, and raised twenty men and was appointed Ensign in said Regiment, and subsequently Lieut. as his commission shows. The possibility or probability that his two terms of service were interrupted for a very short time does not very plainly appear [?] and it would be a harsh construction, in a case so full of merit otherwise, to assume such interruption and reject the claim, especially as the General Assembly, shortly after the Revolution, repeatedly allowed claims for three years service, although the service was performed at different times.

Bounty allowed as Lieut. for 3 years

W. S.


1848 December 9 certificate issued

[p 2]

Claim of heirs of John S Slaughter for lands.

It seems that this claim was rejected by Gov. McDowell upon the ground that the law required "three years continuous service ["] to found the right. I have examined the Journals of the Legislature from 1781 to 1785 with care & find that the law was reasonably construed – if three years service [indecipherable word or words] were performed that the equitable right [indecipherable word] from it & the claim was allowed & paid. Surely the Legislative exposition of the law may be wisely & safely followed. The law is not for three years "continuous service" but for "three years successively of service[", making the "successive years" of service to apply to accrual service; and not to the days & minutes of time, for the whole service.

Col. Slaughter accrued upwards of four years & a half, viz., from July 1776 to October 1778, and in February 1779 he again served to July or August 1781. Can it be justly decided that


1

four & a half years of such service does not fulfill the requirement of law for three years of "excessive service" even if literally construed, 1779 is the successive year to 1778.

The Act of 1815 gives the executive plenary power over that question.

[p 3]

Hs [Heirs] Jno. S. Slaughter (Lt.)

Claim Ld. Bounty

23rd June 1848

Abv [?] to be rejected

Appeal – it being my opinion that John Slaughter received bounty land as [8] Continental

W S

1848 June 23 rejected

[p 4]

Cases of Service in Revolutionary War bearing on the Case of John S Slaughter

Col. Edward Stevens resigned as Col. in Continental Service January 30, 1778. On December 9 1775 the Convention passed the ordinance for raising regiments besides Woodford's & P. Henry's regiments. So, Stevens was in service little more than 2 years. He afterwards served as Brig. in Militia. This service could not have been continuous. Yet he received a land bounty for 3 years Service.

General Lawson's case was very similar.

See the cases at large Journal of House of Delegates November 11th, 1783 pages 14 & 15

James Monroe was Lieut. at Trenton where he was wounded. He was appointed a Capt. in a Regiment never raised. In 1777 he became aid de camp of Lord Stirling & took the brevet rate of Major. The legislature allowed him land according to his rank June 26, 1783 page 87 Journal of House of Delegates.

See next page Case of Col. F. Taylor

The case of Capt. Purvis was at the December Session 1784

The case of Capt. Robert Sayres page 76 of the Journal 26 December 1784. Sayres was Capt. in the Continental Army, and in the militia for three years land bounty was allowed him. This could not possibly have been continuous. He was voted land bounty December 26, 1784. The next day he drew his warrant for 4000 acres. In 1805 he was allowed 666 2/3 acres additional & in September 1807 he was allowed 555 acres more. See his name and document 30 Journal of House of Delegates for 1833-4 allowed for 3 years see vice, Continental & Militia United. It could not be continuous

Case of Col. Josiah Parker of November 18, 1784 page 22 Journal of the house of delegates. Militia service & Continental United not continuous

[p 6]

Fredericksburg November 28, 1848

To his Excellency William Smith, Gov. of Virginia

Dear Sir

I trust you will not consider us too importunate in again calling your attention to the claim of the heirs of my father Col. John S Slaughter late of Culpeper. At all times satisfied that his claim was just and legal, we have failed to establish it for want of sufficient evidence. During the past year, additional evidence has come to our knowledge, which

is now for the first time laid before your Excellency, and which we cannot help thinking makes his case planning.

We are exceedingly desirous that your Excellency should act on this case while you are in office, as we rely on your disposition to do justice to the parties concerned. We rest the case, only evidence & argument forwarded you some time since. Your decision will confirm or destroy our hopes.

Where your Excellency do us the favor to act on the case as early as possible, and when you have done so, to notify me of the result.

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Slaughter [William Slaughter]

for the heirs of John S Slaughter

[p 9]

Fre[dericksbur]g October 12, 1848

Gov. Smith

I forwarded to your Excellency a few days ago the petition of the Heirs of my father John Slaughter asking to be allowed bounty land for his revolutionary Services. Two or three days after, I found that a most important paper had been left behind to wit the statement of Edwards [J L Edwards] the Commissioner of Pensions. I forwarded that likewise and I trust you have received both documents. This latter document, we never knew the existence of till July last and it is perfectly clear to us now that when we stated in our first petition that our father resigned after about a year service at the barracks that we were mistaken. We knew he married late in 1779 and supposed he resigned. Our error is easily explained. I father was dead, before the idea occurred to us that he might be entitled to land. He himself believed that his two-year service at the North as a noncommissioned officer would not be taken in the estimate & he consequently made no application in his lifetime. The equity of his Case is very strong as he performed arduous & meritorious service, and we do think that the argument is conclusive, that he is legally entitled to it likewise. We earnestly entreat your Excellency to take up the subject, at as early a day, as your other duties will admit, and so strong do we consider the justice of his claim, we have strong confidence, that upon full examination your honor will come to the same conclusion. Although it is uncertain whether we shall be benefited much, even if the claim is allowed, yet the heirs of my father have ever had a strong desire that the services of their ancestor might be admitted & acknowledged.

We earnestly trust your honor will act upon the subject, and with full confidence in your disposition to do justice to the case we cannot but indulge a strong hope that a favorable result will yet follow, though long disappointed hopes.

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

[signature too faint to discern but probably that of William Slaughter]

[p 20-21 split images]

It appears from a List of Officers of the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment, who have received certificates for the balance of their full pay, agreeable to an Act of Assembly passed November Session 1781, that John Slaughter, Lieut. of Infantry, received through his Attorney [indecipherable 1st name] Wagganer £121.3.6 on the 12th of June 1783.

John Slaughter an Ensign of Infantry, received through his Attorney Col. Strother [?] £77.18.2, on the 20th February 178[last digit is missing due to splitting of the image]

Pension Office

July 17th 1848

J. E. Edwards

Commissioner of Pensions

[pp 22-23 again images are split]

To the Hon. Gov. and Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Memorial of the Heirs and representatives of John Slaughter, deceased, late of Culpeper respectfully sheweth

That they have been informed by their late father and others, and Julie believe, that he, the said John Slaughter at or about the age of sixteen years enlisted as a soldier in the War of the Revolution, early in the spring of the year 1776 in Capt. John Thornton's company – That the said Thornton's company was speedily raised, and formed part of the 3rd Virginia Regiment of Continental troops, – That this Regiment marched in the summer or fall of 1776 and joined the main Army under General Washington. – That their father, the said John Slaughter was in the battle at Trenton and assisted in [indecipherable word] the Hessians in December 1776, and was in the [indecipherable word] at Princeton in January 1777 – That in June 1777, when the main Army was encamped at Middlebrook in New Jersey and the British Army at New Brunswick, a Rifle Regiment of Volunteers from the different Regiments was raised, and placed under the command of Col. Daniel Morgan, – That the said John Slaughter then a Soldier in the 3rd Virginia Regiment volunteered his services & joined the said Rifle Regiment and was enrolled in the company of Capt. Gabriel Long, one of the Captains in the said Rifle Regiment, and that he the said John Slaughter was promoted to be a Sgt., in said Long's Company – That Morgan's rifle Regiment was raised in a few days, and was engaged in several small skirmishes with the advance of the British Army, who marched out of New Brunswick and returned in a few days – That the said Rifle Regiment then marched, and joined the Army of General Gates [Horatio Gates] and was actively engaged with General Gates and his Army until the capture of General Burgoyne in October 1777 [Battle of Saratoga or Bemis Heights, October 7, 1777]. That the said John Slaughter, one of Capt. Long's Company in Morgan's rifle Regiment shared all the dangers and suffered all the privations of his fellow soldiers in arms, at Saratoga, at Stillwater, and in the numerous skirmishes in which that Regiment was engaged and in which it distinguished itself so much. – That immediately after the surrender of General Burgoyne, on the very same day, Morgan's Regiment marched to Albany to oppose the advance of the British of the Hudson and thence proceeded to join the main Army under General Washington where it arrived in the month of November 1777. That while the main Army lay at Valley Forge Morgan's Regiment was chiefly employed between our camp and the British Army in Philadelphia – That the said John Slaughter returned to Virginia in the summer of 1778, and very soon thereafter, commenced recruiting men to form a company to guard the British prisoners about to be sent to the barracks near Charlottesville. That he recruited his portion of said company and received a commission as Ensign therein – That as Ensign in said company he continued in Service till October 1779, when he was promoted to a Lieut., as will appear by his commission here with filed. Your memorialists further state, that their father had been dead many years, and although they were fully convinced that his revolutionary services were such as to entitle him to the Land bounty, yet they were unable to find his commission as Lieut., until a few months past, when it was found

among some old papers, thrown aside as useless. How long he had served under this commission your Memorialist have not been able to ascertain, but they are fully satisfied that their father served his Country from early in the spring 1776 till towards the close of the year 1779, and perhaps longer in the Continental service being between three & 4 years service – they the heirs & representatives of the said John Slaughter respectfully as, that they may now receive the land promised to those who served 3 years and upwards. Your memorialists further state that their father never received either land or half pay for his revolutionary services during his life, nor have his children ever received either since his death


All of which is respectfully submitted

S/ John Slaughter

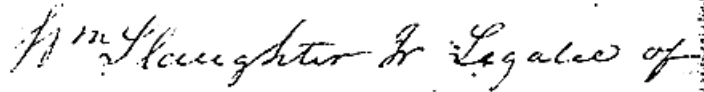
Executor & Legatee of John Slaughter deceased

S/ Wm Slaughter, Jr. Legatee of

John Slaughter deceased



John Slaughter
Executor & Legatee of John Slaughter deceased



Wm Slaughter Jr Legatee of
John Slaughter deceased

[pp 26-___: Yet another Split image of a document]

To his Excellency James McDowell Gov.
of Virginia

We the Heirs and personal representatives of Col. John S Slaughter deceased late of Culpepper County, beg leave to represent to your Excellency & the Council of State, that our Ancestor, the said John Slaughter enlisted as a Soldier (early in his 17th year) for two years in Capt. John Thornton's Company in the Virginia Continental line in the Spring of 1776 about the month of May of that year – that the company was soon completed and they marched, and joined the 3rd Virginia Continental Regiment then in the lower part of this State commanded by Col. Hugh Mercer – that the said Regiment marched in the fall of 1776 and joined the Army under Washington at the darkest period of the war, and was with him at the memorable battle of Trenton in December 1776 and at Princeton in January 1777 where their gallant General Mercer was slain fighting for the liberties of his Country, after which the British Army retreated to New Brunswick and Washington with his little band retired to Middlebrook in New Jersey – In June 1777 General Washington directed that a Regiment of volunteer riflemen of 500 men should be selected from whole Army; none but active young men were to be received. It was speedily raised and was commanded by Col. Daniel Morgan Lt. Col. Butler and Major Morris – That the father of your petitioners John S Slaughter being raised among the mountains, and a first rate marksman with the Rifle, was accepted and enrolled in the company of Capt. Gabriel Long who was one of Morgan's favorite Captains – on 14th of June 1777 immediately after this Regiment was organized a large detachment of British troops advanced to Somerset Court House in New Jersey, and the rifle Regiment hung on their shirts for two days and killed several & took some prisoners & forced them to retreat back to Brunswick. Morgan's Rifle Regiment was then

ordered by Washington to March immediately to the aid of General Gates, who was opposed by the rapid advance of General Burgoyne and his Army towards Albany. This Regiment distinguished themselves in several hard fought battles with the British and Indians under Burgoyne. They were the terror of the enemy and not one [indecipherable word] or soldier in their neighborhood dare go out of their camp for fear of Morgan's riflemen. On the very day of Burgoyne surrendered his Regiment marched many miles on their return to join General Washington and by forced marches, they did join him in Pennsylvania on the 9th of November following. John S Slaughter then only a Sgt., was with General Morgan throughout the whole campaign of 1777 and in the spring of 1778 about the month of May his term of service expired and he obtained an Hon. discharge and returned to Virginia having been engaged in 10 or 12 battles and skirmishes in all of which he displayed great firmness and courage. He reached home about June 1778, and immediately commenced recruiting and did actually enlist more than 20 men for the Regiment of Guards about to be raised – and which were stationed near Charlottesville to guard the very prisoners which he had so often risk his life in assisting to capture. In this Regiment he received a commission as an Ensign, he having enlisted man enough to entitle him to this commission, and he served at least one year at Charlottesville where he was promoted to be Lieut. His commission as such accompanies this petition. In October or November 1779 he married, and with the leave of his Col. he resigned his commission and after his return to his native County he was quickly promoted for his active military services to be Capt., Major and Col. of the militia of that County. After his death in 1830 your petitioners applied to Gov. Floyd for the land to which they believed that the military services of their ancestor for more than three years entitle them. Complete proof was exhibited and filed in the office of the Commonwealth of his having served at least 3 years in the Continental Army which would entitle him as Lieut. to 2666 2/3 acres of land, which proof is now in the office of the Clerk of the Council. But on application failed at that time because Gov. Floyd was of opinion that although the three years service was fully proved, that it did not present a case of what the law called continuous service. But your petitioners being satisfied that their ancestor was in the Continental service from May 1776, to October or November 1779 and that he entered from his return from the Army in June 1778 to September or October of that year, when we find him on duty as Ensign at Charlottesville that he was engaged in enlisting man for that service, and that he actually did enlist man enough to enable him to the commission of Ensign, your petitioners ask that your Excellency, and Council will again take the case under consideration and do him the justice, which has been so long delayed. They present to your Excellency that the case of their ancestor is a peculiarly hard one, after having certainly performed three years service, and acquitted himself with merit in the most arduous critical and trying scenes in the war of the Revolution he should be deprived of the Compensation promised by his Country, by a rigid, and as it appears to them, and unjust construction of the law. They are encouraged to submit this case again to your Excellency with the strong conviction that you will do their ancestor that justice which is patriotic and valuable services we think justly [again another split image which I decided not to transcribe because it does not appear that the remaining text contains any new assertions as to the services of the veteran.]

S/ John Slaughter } Exors of John S. Slaughter
S/ Philip Slaughter }
 July 12, 1844

State of Virginia Culpeper County SS

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace, in & for the County aforesaid Capt. Philip Slaughter² of said County aged about seventy-five years, and of good standing and character for veracity, and having been duly sworn, according to the law deposeth & saith

That he, the said Philip Slaughter was acquainted with the late Col. John S Slaughter of said County for upwards of fifty years; that the said John S Slaughter enlisted as a soldier in Capt. John Thornton's company of Infantry in the year 1776 & 7, to the best of this deponent's recollection, marched to the North and joined the Continental Army – That this deponent was appointed a Lieut. in 1776 in Capt. Gabriel Long's company, which afterwards joined the 11th Continental Regiment commanded by Col. Daniel Morgan, (agreeably to my journal then made & now in my possession). That in June 1777 while the main Army was at or near Middlebrook in New Jersey on the waters of the Rapidan River, General Washington ordered a Regiment of riflemen to be raised from selected men and volunteers, to be commanded by Col. Daniel Morgan. That Capt. Gabriel Long was one of the captains selected for that purpose, and that the said John S Slaughter was one of the Volunteers in Capt. Long's company in said Rifle Regiment and that a few weeks after the said Regiment was organized, Col. Morgan was ordered to join the northern Army under General Gates, that he did so, and continued until the surrender of General Burgoyne & his Army; that soon afterwards Col. Morgan returned to the main Army then in Pennsylvania with his Regiment, that the said John S Slaughter returned with said Regiment. That this deponent, understood & believes that the said John S Slaughter enlisted for two years in the Continental service and that he was in the battles of Trenton & Princeton, at Saratoga & Stillwater & the capture of Burgoyne, and that having served the full term for which he enlisted, he returned to Virginia while this deponent remained with the northern Army. That this deponent understood & believes that the said John S Slaughter after having served his full term of his enlistment in the Continental Army, on his return to Virginia in 1778, and was appointed a Lieut. or Ensign in the Regiment stationed at the Barracks in Albemarle County Virginia to guard the British prisoners stationed there, & that he continued in that service, some time, but how long, this deponent is unable to say. This deponent further saith, that Capt. Gabriel Long's company in which this deponent was a Lieut. was enlisted for 3 years, and he would have concluded that the said John S Slaughter was enlisted for 3 years also had he not understood to the contrary – and further this deponent saith not. Given under my hand this 19th day of September in the year 1833

S/ Thos. Hill

[pp 33-34: split image of an affidavit which appears to have been given by Benjamin Hisle³ in support of this claim but the quality of the image is so poor that I elected not to attempt to transcribe it.]

[pp 35-36: split image of an affidavit which appears to have been given by William Lewis⁴ in support of this claim but the quality of the image is so poor that I elected not to attempt to transcribe it.]

[pp 37-59: Split image of other documents [dated October 7, 1848] which appear to be yet other

² [Philip Slaughter W29886](#)

³ [Benjamin Hisle S38025](#)

⁴ [William Lewis S8827](#)

petitions for the bounty land due to the heirs and representatives of John S Slaughter. I have elected not to transcribe these documents given they having been preserved only in split image. The list of heirs and representatives however appears to me to read as follows
William Slaughter, John Slaughter, Philip Slaughter, Reuben Slaughter, Thomas J Slaughter, Albert G Slaughter, William M Slaughter, Elizabeth Downer, Lucy Long, Nancy [illegible]⁵, Susan Moniffee.]

⁵ Nancy Long