

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Rudolph (Rudolph) VAS2156  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#):]

[The following letter may have been addressed to Lt. Col. Henry Lee at Stratford Hall in Virginia, who had been granted leave in April 1782 to retire from command of Lee's Legion.]

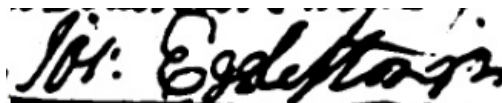
Charlestown 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec'r 1782

My dear Colonel

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of this Month General [Anthony] Wayne took possession of this Capital at the Head of the Legion and Light Infantry of the Army, the Rear of the british embarking at the Wharf as he marched in at the Gate. The greatest Order & Regularity was observed & no violence was committed by either Army on the person or property of a single Individual. Great Manifestations of Joy are shewn by the people, whilst the more contemplative are looking forward to the immense Advantages which this Event will produce to the Southern States.

Before this reaches you, you may have heard of poor [Maj. John] Rudolph's Death. After being sick most of the Summer & Fall, & when every body supposed him getting well, he was seized with an Epileptic Fitt & after laying senseless three days expired much lamented on the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst. By this Circumstance the Command has devolved on me, a Weight much too heavy for my Shoulders in the present State of American Politics. For Heaven's Sake give your Attention to us if you cannot be with us personally. We are tolerably well cloathed & mounted. Our Numbers something above 100 Cavalry, & eighty Infantry. We fear Advantage will be taken of this Circumstance to incorporate us with [Col. Charles] Armand's Legion, & indeed it has been hinted that a Lt. Colo. Ternant [Jean Baptiste Ternant in Armand's Legion] will go with recommendations from Gen'l. [Nathanael] Green to this Effect. Take Every means to prevent it, & as Major Edwards will stay no longer, I must subscribe myself your sincere Friend,

[Joseph Eggleston, Jr., Major in Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion, pension application W8687]



State of New Jersey }  
Middlebrook County }

On the twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and nineteen before me Fehabor[?] Potter one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County of Middlesex came James Heard [pension applicaion S540] of the County and State aforesaid to me known who being duly sworn according to Law deposeth & saith that Micael Rudolph late of the County of Cecil and State of Maryland entred in the service of the United States in the year seventeen hundred & seventy Nine & was a Captain of Infantry in the Legion Commanded by Lt Col Henry Lee and served as such untill the conclusion of the Revolutionary war



Sir, Your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> came to my hands last evening, and I make haste to give you all the information in my power on the subject of your enquiries.

Major John Rudulph died in South Carolina in the year 1782 after Lieut. Colo. Lee had relinquished the command of the Legion. His death must have occurred towards the close of the year and while he was commanding officer of the corps. I can not, however, with certainty state the precise period, altho I recollect the event most perfectly, and the place where it happened. The impression made by the distortion of his features, which had been extremely convulsed by spasms in his last moments, has not yet been effaced from my memory. It is unquestionable that he died in actual service about the time above mentioned and that he entered the army at a very early period of the war.

Captain Michael Rudulph [BLWt945-300] married a Miss Baker in South Carolina, soon after the Major's death. This lady had relations at Dorchester, near Bacon's bridge, where she lived with her uncle, a Mr. Cater, at the time of her marriage: but her father was of Georgia who resided in the lower country of that State perhaps in the neighbourhood of Savannah. I have no doubt that the purist and most accurate intelligence with respect to him and his family might be obtained from Colo. Ferdinand [last name unclear, probably Ferdinand Oneal R16846] who lives upon the sea-coast, some distance to the southward of the city of Savannah. Some of the members of the House of Representatives from Georgia can put you in the way of discovering and corresponding with that gentleman.

I will with very great pleasure communicate any other facts within my knowledge, which you may deem important, in relation to the military services of the two Rudulphs, both of whom were most gallant and meritorious officers I am surprised to learn, that the claims of their representatives for their military services in the war of the revolution, have not yet been adjusted, and am, most respectfully,

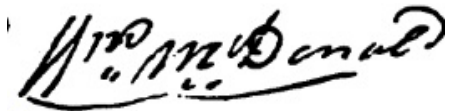
Sir, your obedient servant/ [signed] Peter Johnston/ Abingdon Feb'y 27<sup>th</sup> 1819

Certificate of Colonel William McDonald [W6806] who was himself private in the Dragoon service in Lees Corps of Virginia in the service of the United States.

State of Maryland }  
Baltimore County Sct }

Be it remembered that on this sixteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and nineteen before me Edward Johnson Mayor of the City of Baltimore personally appeared William McDonald of the City of Baltimore in the State of Maryland of lawful age who being by me duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that John Rudulph late of Cecil County in the State of Maryland was a Captain of dragoons in the Legion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee in the service of the United States on the continental establishment at the time that he the said William McDonald was attached to Captain Joseph Eaglestons [sic: Joseph Eggleston's] third Troop of said Corps which was in the Spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight. That the said John Rudulph died in the said service near Camden in South Carolina in or about the month of September in the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty one [sic], that he was buried with the honours of war and that the deponent was at his Funeral. That the said John Rudulph was promoted to the Majors command about one year before he died and commanded as Major at the time of his death.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this sixteenth day of March 1819.



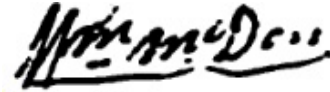
Certificate of Colonel William McDonald who was himself private in the Dragoon service in Lees Corps of Virginia in the service of the United States.

State of Maryland }  
Baltimore County Sct }

Be it remembered that on the sixteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred & nineteen before me Edward Johnson Mayor of the City of Baltimore personally appeared

William McDonald of the City of Baltimore in the state of Maryland of lawful age who being duly sworn according to law depose and saith that Michael Rudolph late of Cecil county in the State of Maryland entered the service of the United States on the continental establishment in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred seventy eight and was a Captain of Infantry in the Legion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee and served as such in said Legion until the conclusion of the revolutionary war.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this sixteenth day of March 1819



[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#):]

The Memorial of the heirs of John Rudolph to the Hon. the Executive of Virginia respectfully sheweth that John Rudolph entered the army of the revolution at an early period of the war, they have understood as early as December 1776 and died in the service in December 1782 at which time he is believed to have been a Major in Lee's Legion. That they have been informed that in consequence of his services and death they are entitled to some additional bounty in land from the State of Virginia. They therefore respectfully request the Executive of Virginia to direct the Register of the land Office of Virginia to issue a warrant for the additional [one or more pages apparently missing] in fact Francis A. Dickins. For evidence of the length of Major Rudolph's service and the particulars thereof they respectfully refer to the papers filed in the Executive Department and the records. Your Memorialists would further respectfully represent that they are heirs of the said Major John Rudolph in consequence of being connected with him in the following manner. viz. The Undersigned Zebulon Rudolph Anna Maria Sewall, formerly Anna Maria Rudolph (and now the wife of James Sewall) were the Children and heirs at Law of Tobias Rudolph dec'd brother of the said Major John Rudolph. That the said Tobias Rudolph died leaving as the Children and heirs at Law Tobias Rudolph (since dec'd.) Martha Rudolph now Martha Torbert, the wife of William Torbert, and the undersigned, that the interest of the said Tobias Rudolph [undeciphered abbreviation] dec'd was sold & arranged in his lifetime for a Valuable consideration, to the said James Sewall. That the said John Rudolph died leaving also two Sisters, Mary [undeciphered] & Susan [several words missing] now dec'd the former[?] having died, leaving Charles and [part missing from online image here and below at \*]phen Children & heirs at Law who died intesta[\*] Susan Irwin, both now dec'd, & [\*] and without issue.

[signed] James Sewall Z. Rudolph

Maryland Cecil County Sct

Personally Appeared this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1838 before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid James Sewall & Zebulon Rudolph, two of the Subscribers to the above and forgoing Memorial & made Oath according to Law, that the facts therein stated are just and true to the best of their knowledge and belief Sworn Before James Morrow

To his Excellency David Campbell, Governor of Virginia.

The heirs of John Rudolph dec'd, late a Major in the virginia Continental line in the war of the Revolution, respectfully represent – that their ancestor the said John Rudolph enter'd the said service early in December 1776 and continued therein until the time of his death, which took place in September 1781. that bounty land was allow'd by the Executive of Virginia for his said services; but only 5333<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> acres were receiv'd – that is to say, for the service of three years – that, under the decisions of the executives, and according to the liberal interpretation which has been given to the acts of assembly of Virginia which offer'd bounty in Lands to the officers and soldiers of the Revolution, the heirs of Major Rudolph were entitled to bounty land for a service from Dec'r. 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 1776 to the end of the war, which was November 3 1783. Your excellency is respectfully ask'd to take their said claim under consideration, and to allow the addition bounty land, to which they think themselves justly entitled, if the same should be

consider'd by your Excellency due for the services aforesaid. The evidence accompanying the Petition heretofore present for bounty land (now on file in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth) is refer'd to – that and the [several words missing] (mark A.) as well as other [rest of page missing]

Rec'd 20 Oct'r 1838

This claim is rejected on two grounds – 1<sup>st</sup> Because it appears from the evidence filed in the first application for land bounty, that this officer entered the service in 1778. 2<sup>ndly</sup> This officer appears to have been a resident of Maryland, and it does not appear that Va. had credit for his service in the quota of troops required from this State

[signed] David Campbell

NOTE: The bounty-land file contains a document dated 9 Nov 1783 naming Tobias Rudolph administrator in the estate of John Rudolph, who died intestate, and a copy of the last will and testament of Ann Irvine dated 3 April 1818.