

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Bounty Land Claim for John Eccleston (Eggleston) BLWt671-400  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Note: The federal file jacket labeled "John Eggleston" indicates that the subject of the file was a Major, and it bears the notation "Dated April 18 1794." The file comprises only the correspondence transcribed below, which explains that John Eccleston's surname was misspelled.]

ST. JAMES HOTEL/ Hennepin Avenue at Second St./ MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
June 13, 1925,

Chief of the Record and Pension Office  
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Will you kindly furnish me with the official military record of Thomas Woolford, Dorchester County Maryland, who is said to have enlisted March 2, 1776, as Captain of the 6th Independent Maryland Company.

Also of Thomas White, Dorchester Co. Said to be member of the 7th Company of Maryland Battalion, 1776.

Also of John Eccleston, Dorchester Co. who is said to have been commissioned 1st Lieut 6th Independent company of Maryland Troops Jan. 5, 1776. Commissioned Captain 2nd Reg. Dec. 10, 1776. and Major Dec. 10, 1777.

Respectfully Yours,/ Twiford E. Hughes,  
[signed] T. E. Hughes  
Address as above

August 4, 1925

Twiford E. Hughes  
St. James Hotel  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Sir: I have to advise you that from the records of this Bureau it appears that Warrant No. 671 for four hundred acres of bounty land was issued April 18, 1794 on account of the services of Major John Eggleston of the Maryland Line, War of the Revolution.

There is no further data on file as to his services and no data on file as to his family, owing to the destruction of papers in such claims when the war Office was burned in November 1800.

Respectfully/ WINFIELD SCOTT Commissioner.

ST. JAMES HOTEL/ Hennepin Avenue at Second St./ MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
August 11, 1925

Winfield Sott [sic], Commissioner  
Bureau of Pensions,  
Department of The Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: In your letter "Rev.&1812 Wars Section 3-1865." Aug. 4, 1925, it appears that the name of John Eccleston, in your records is John Eggleston. Believing that your record is wrong as to the spelling of the name I respectfully refer you to "The Journal of Correspondence Archives of Maryland Vol. II, p. 163 and 185. Also to Dorchester Co. Maryland histories. Am confidently satisfied you will find it as I suggest, and while you probably are not permitted to alter the record you can make a note calling attention to the possible error. Thank you for your kind responses to my requests.

Respectfully Yours, [signed] T. E. Hughes

August 19, 1925

T. E. Hughes  
St. James Hotel  
Hennepin Ave., at 2nd  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Sir; I have to advise you that in the report furnished you August 4, 1925 the name John Eggleston, Major of the Maryland Line, War of the Revolution, was spelled as recorded on the original book containing entries of such land warrants.

There is no paper on file signed by the soldier of any member of his family. [see endnote]

The Revolutionary War records of this Bureau fail to afford any information in regard to James Brown as described by you. Respectfully, WINFIELD SCOTT Commissioner.

ST. JAMES HOTEL/ Hennepin Avenue at Second St./ MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
Sep. 29, 1925,

Winfield Scott, Commissioner,/ U.S. Pension Office,

Sir: Referring to previous correspondence (MMHF) regarding the revolutionary soldier and pensioner—your letters of Aug. 4, and 19, in which it appears that your record gives the name of the soldier as Eggleston while all other records outside your office gives it as Eccleston, I respectfully refer you to the Archives of Maryland Vol. II. pp. 163, 185. and to the first U.S. Census, 1790, Dorchester County Md.

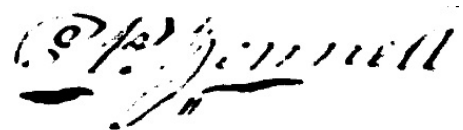
I assume of course aware that you cannot change your record but would respectfully suggest that a memorandum be attached to the record so that future inquirers may be made aware of the situation.

Respectfully yours, [signed] T. E. Hughes

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

I Certify that I served as an officer in the Revolutionary War and was a good part of the time in Colonel William Washingtons [William Washington] Regiment in the Virginia Line that I was personally well acquainted with John Eccleston who was appointed a Captain of Cavalry in the Virginia Line and served in Lee's [Henry Lee BLWt1299-500] Legion from about the time that corps was raised [7 Apr 1778; see endnote] until the end of the war. Being enquired of as to my being positive as to his christian name I am certain it was John and not Joseph Eccleston, and that he belong'd to the Virginia line. I further certify that I have received bounty land for my services in the Virginia Line as a Lieutenant, my memory is distinct and clear as to the above facts.

[26 Feb 1834] C. P. Bennett [Caleb P. Bennett S35779]



I Certify that I served as an officer in the Revolutionary War and was a good part of my time in Colonel William Washingtons Regiment in the Virginia line, that I was personally acquainted with John Eccleston who was a Captain of Cavalry in the Virginia Line and served in Lees Legion of Cavalry from the time that corps was raised until the close of the war. Being enquired of as to my being positive in regard to his christian name, I knew it to be John. (that I knew also Joseph Eccleston [sic: Joseph Eggleston W8687] ) that the said John belong'd to the Virginia line. I certify that I have received bounty land for my services in the Virginia line as a Captain, and my Recollection is distinct as to the above facts.

[26 Feb 1834] P. Jaquett [Peter Jaquett S46500]



To the Gov'r &c of Virginia

The heirs of Capt John Eccleston pray an allowance of Bounty Land for his services for the war as a captain of Cavalry. There being no aged persons in their vicinity who could positively prove his services during the War & having always understood that he was well acquainted with Governor Bennett & Maj. P. Jaquett & served at the south with them (in Carolina) they have sent for & procured their [undeciphered word] proving his services. It will be seen by their depositions that they have drawn land for similar services.

John H Eccleston for himself & the other heirs

Petition for Bounty Land.

The Heirs of Capt John Eccleston – Lees Legion.

This officers name is not on the army Register nor is it on the Return of Lees Legion (Officers) which is on file in the Executive Department.

Two witnesses prove that they served with him, from about the time Lee's Legion was rais'd in that Corps, until the end of the war; and that they have received bounty land for their services – one as Lieutenant – the other as Captain.

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c

May 15<sup>th</sup> 1834

To his Excellency Gov'r Tazewell

To his Excellency, Littleton W Tazewell, Governor of Virginia. [19 June 1835]

The Memorial of John H. Eccleston, son and one of the Heirs at Law of Captain John Eccleston dec'd Respectfully represents – that the said John Eccleston then a citizen of the State of Maryland entered the service of the United States as an Office of the Maryland line in the Revolutionary War, and served as such untill the organization of Lee's Legion, at which time he was appointed a Captain of Cavalry in the Virginia Line and held that station as Captain of Cavalry in said Legion and in the Virginia Line untill the end of the War. – that he then returned to the State of Maryland where he died in the year 1798 leaving your memorialist now a Citizen of Dover in the State of Delaware, Eliza F. Gist wife of William Gist of Baltimore, Anna M. Byers wife of Joseph Byers of Cambridge Maryland and Nathaniel Green Eccleston late of Cambridge Maryland his children and only heirs at law – that your memorialist in behalf of his brothers and sisters prays an allowance of bounty Land for said services agreeable to the laws of Virginia that they have heretofore caused an application to be made to the Executive of Virginia for said Bounty Land, which said application was suspended or postponed and has not been (as he understands) finally decided, that he prays a reconsideration of said claim and an allowance of said Bounty.

John H. Eccleston

The proof is not satisfactory that Capt Eccleston belonged to the Va line or that Va had credit for his services Rejected DC [Gov. David Campbell]

To his Excellency Gov'r. Campbell

In behalf of the heirs of Capt John Eccleston I respectfully ask a reconsideration of their Claim to Bounty Land. The proof is as follows

1<sup>st</sup>. The positive testimony of Governor Bennett of Delaware who served in Col Washingtons Reg't Va line, & has rec'd land from Va & who clearly and distinctly proved Ecclestons services in Lee's legion of the Va. line to the end of the war. The cause of drawing Gov. Bennetts attention to the christian name was that a Maj. Joseph Eggleston had been allowed land for services in the Va line.

2<sup>d</sup>. The positive testimony of Major Peter Jacquett of Delaware who also served in Col Washingtons Reg't Va. line & has rec'd land from Va. for his services.

The claim was rejected because it was said there was nothing to show that Eccleston belonged to the Va. line. I presume it was meant there was nothing on record to Shew this. This is true, & a list of the

Virginia officers in Lee's Legion at a particular period has not John Ecclestons name upon it. But in reply it may be said with confidence that not one half of the names of the officers who have rec'd Bounty Land appear on record. Neither Gov. Bennetts nor Major Jacquetts names appear any where on the Virginia records (so far as I can discover) and yet they have both rec'd land Bounty! Capt John Eccleston went from Maryland to the South in the Maryland line & when that line & the Delaware line were cut to pieces at Guilford [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781; see endnote] their officers (many of them) entered the Va. line, some in Col. Wm. Washingtons Regiment, & some in other corps, & it is probable John Eccleston had not joined Lees legion at the date of the list referred to by the Com'r. of Claims (Mr. Smith.) But can it be doubted that Gov. Bennett & Maj. Jacquett knew the facts which they have positively sworn to, & which they both say their memory is distinct & clear in stating?

respectfully submitted V Ellis

May 12 1838

for the heirs

1838 May 14 Rejected/ See statement enclos'd

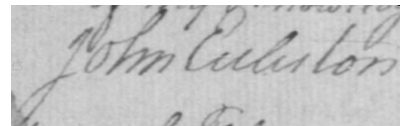
Treasury Department/ 3<sup>d</sup> Auditors Office/ 17<sup>th</sup> May 1838

Sir [Wm H. Richardson Esq'r/ Secretary of the Coun[ci]l of Virginia/ Richmond Va] I have received your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant inquiring to what state Captain John Eccleston of the Cavalry of Lee's Legion was enlisted.

In reply I have to state that it appears from the Revolutionary records on file in this office that there was in the Maryland line at the close of the war a Major John Eccleston but it is not stated that he belonged to Lees Legion nor do the records of this office show that there ever was an officer of that name in the Legion. I am very respectfully/ Your most O't. S't./ Peter Hagner Aud

NOTES:

There are several rolls bearing the signature of John Eccleston, such as the following signed on 5 Feb 1778 as Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland Regiment:

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "John Eccleston". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Contrary to the statements by Caleb P. Bennet and Peter Jaquett, muster rolls show that John Eccleston was a Major in the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment at the time Lee's Legion was being organized. There is no record Eccleston ever served in Lee's Legion or the Virginia line. Maj. Joseph Eggleston was in Lee's Legion.

V. Ellis was mistaken in writing that after the Maryland and Delaware lines "were cut to pieces at Guilford their officers (many of them) entered the Va. line, some in Col. Wm. Washingtons Regiment, & some in other corps." The Maryland and Delaware troops remained intact after the battle of Guilford Courthouse. The Delaware Continentals comprising a single company attached to the Maryland Continentals generally served as infantry support for the cavalry of Lt. Col. William Washington.

B. F. Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution* published in 1914 gives the following abstract of the service of John Eccleston: "2d Lieutenant of Barrett's Independent Maryland Company, 14th January, 1776; 1st Lieutenant, July, 1776; Captain 2d Maryland, 10th December, 1776; Major 5th Maryland, 10th December, 1777; taken prisoner at Charleston 12th May, 1780; released 30th December, 1780; transferred to 1st Maryland 1st January, 1781; Lieutenant-Colonel, - December, 1782; retained in Maryland Battalion 12th April, 1783, and served to 3d November, 1783." This account is apparently incorrect in stating that Eccleston was captured at the surrender of Charleston. W. T. R. Saffell's *Records of the Revolutionary War* (Baltimore, 1894; pp 320-321) lists "John Eccleston, Major, 5th MD. Regt." as a prisoner released from captivity at

Elizabethtown NJ on 30 Dec 1780. Eccleston's having been captured near Elizabethtown NJ is confirmed by the pension applications of Henry Lord (W9138). Heitman does appear to be correct in stating that after his release, on 1 Jan 1781, Eccleston transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> MD Regiment. Saffell's book on p 234 lists Maj. John Eccleston in the 1<sup>st</sup> MD Regiment on 1 Jun 1781. If Eccleston had rejoined that regiment by that date, he would have been engaged in the Siege of Ninety Six SC, which lasted from 22 May to 19 June 1781. Charles Fitzgerald (S17950) stated that Eccleston was at the battle of Eutaw Springs SC on 8 Sep 1781, and according to John Swanson (W1900), by early 1782 Maj. Eccleston commanded the light infantry headquartered at Round O in SC. According to Aaron Jones (S34937) and Nehemiah Lingrell (S36044), Eccleston was a colonel by the time the Maryland Continentals left Charleston SC for Annapolis MD early in 1783, having apparently been promoted to replace Col. John Stewart, who was killed in December 1782 by a fall from his horse "in a frolic" (Charles Fitzgerald S17950; Nathaniel Price S40298; Ellis Tyser (Tyson) S6291).