

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Malachi Eskridge R21701

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Alabama }

Greene County Ss }

On this 22 day of September 1832 personally appeared before Anderson Crenshaw the Judge of the Circuit court of the county & state aforesaid Malachi Eskridge of the age of about seventy-seven years on the 1st day of November next who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1778 with (under) John Mazzarett [sic: John Mazarett] & served in the [?]th Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers: That is to say he enlisted about the 13th day of February 1778 under Captain John Mazzarett in Col. Thomas Marshall's Regiment of Artillery his Lieutenant Col was by the name of George Moutrie [sic: George Muter] Major Thos. Matthews [Thomas Mathews] immediately after his enlistment he was sent to the Town of Hampton in Elizabeth City County in the State of Virginia about one hundred & twenty miles from the place he Enlisted. he previous to the time of his enlistment he resided in the county of Richmond Virginia but he enlisted in Westmoreland County in the State of Virginia at the same time that he enlisted one Thomas Pritchard also enlisted & he this applicant & said Prichard in company with some twenty or thirty others were sent on to said Town of Hampton where they were detained for some 6 or 8 months bearing the service of Gunnery after this he was taken with his regiment then commanded by Elias Edmonds Lieutenant Col & Captain Mazzarett was promoted to Major [15 Apr 1780] & Our Captain was by the name of Peter Kemp to South Carolina by the way of Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] In Virginia & Hillsboro' [sic: Hillsborough] in North Carolina where we remained a few days from thence we marched to Fifers Mills in South Carolina [probably Phifer's Mills on Rocky River between Concord and Charlotte NC] where we remained a few days when we received intelligence of Col. Blufords defeat [sic: defeat of Abraham Buford at Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] & were soon joined by him & such of his men as were enabled to escape from the Battle between him & Taulton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton]. From this we were marched back to Hillsboro' again where we remained some time. In this Campaign from Williamsburgh Virginia the whole rounds we had a regiment out of the Continental line with us Commanded by Col Charles Porterfield all the officer that this applicant now recollects the names of under Porterfield was a Capt. Due who acted as brigade Major – the adjutant of this applicants regiment of Artillery was Henry Vowles. Well, from Hillsboro' we commenced a march back to Virginia but met General Gates & his forces at General Parsons near Roanoke river with whom & under the command of General [Horatio] Gates we returned on the expedition to Camden South Carolina & on the night before our arrival at Camden and advanced part of the army had an engagement [about 2:30 AM, 16 Aug 1780] in which Colonel Porterfield received a wound of which he died the next day [see endnote] a General engagement ensued [on the same date] some where between Rugeley's Mill [12 mi N of Camden] & Camden in which General Gates was shamefully defeated & old General DeCalb [sic: Baron De Kalb] was killed with many other officers & men. From this Engagement which was the first of note in which this applicant was he was marched Back to Hillsborough this was some time in the month of August 1780. Some time in the fall of 1780 we were march Back by General Gates towards the south & stationed at a place as well as recollected call Sharlotte [sic: Charlotte] a small town in North Carolina Some time after this and as well as he can now recollect in the latter part of Nov'r or first of December General [Nathanael] Greene came on & Relieved General Gates soon after Greene's arrival at Sharlotte he removed the troops to the Cheraw Hills & encamped on a creek called Hick's Creek [Hicks Creek, 20 Dec 1780] here he remained until after the defeat of Taulton by [Gen. Daniel] Morgan at the Cowpens [17 Jan

1781]. After Green Heard of this which was some time in January 1781 [28th] he commenced his march for Virginia & was joined on the rout by Gen Morgan – they retreated to Halifax old Courthouse in Virginia where General Greene received a reenforcement & march back into North Carolina & where this applicant was in the engagement under General Greene at Guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781] or near there at this Battle many were kill the engagement was in the evenig & verry hot until General Greene was forced to give ground this is the last battle & the last service he was in during the war his term of enlistment having expired on as well as he recollects the 13th day of February preceding this battle but he consented to stay in the service until after this battle which General Greene had expected for some time. from Guilford this applicant was marched to Prince Edward Courthouse in Virginia where he was discharged on the 15th April 1781 after having served for three years two months & two days being two month & two days after the expiration of his time This applicant states that he acted as Bombardier allmost all the time he was in the service & as well as he recollects was to have had 12 dollars per month for his services his discharge was Given him by the same John Mazzarett that he enlisted with but about ten years after the war this applicant removed from Virginia to Spartanburgh [sic: Spartanburg] South Carolina & in crossing Smith's river [probably Smith River in Virginia] he got his papers wet & not knowing that it would ever be of any service to him put it up without drying it sufficiently & it got rubed to pieces & lost this applicant resided in Spartanburg district South Carolina until about 1820 when he removed to Greene County Alabama where he has resided ever since & I hereby relinquish Every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any state in the Union He states that he was born 1st Nov'r 1757 in Richmond County virginia But has no record of his age he states that Philam/ [page and document end here]

The State of Alabama Greene County.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in & for the county of Green aforesaid, Malachi Eskridge whose name is affixed to the annexed declaration in order to procure a pension for his services as a soldier of the revolution under the act of Congress passed June the Seventh 1832, who after being duly sworn deposeseth & saith that in answer to a brief of objections to the said declaration by the war department, first, states that there is no person now living that he knows of by whom he can prove the time he entered the service (as is stated and set forth in his said declaration) and the time and manner of his leaving the same as well as the regiment, company & line to which he belonged, but states that Edmond Pace and James Pettigrew both his neighbors & the former a clergyman, would as he thinks testify favourably of his good Character for truth and veracity and also of his reputation as a Soldier of the revolution. And this deponant further states that the reason that he did not procure the testimony of a clergyman and another respectable citizen to depose as to their belief of his age and the general belief and opinion in the neighborhood relative to his revolutionary services to his original declaration was that he was confident that his name would be found upon the records of the department & under such belief, was informed by the Judge of the Circuit Court that such a showeing was unnecessary.

[signed] Malachi

Eskridge

Sworn to & subscribed before me this fifth day of November AD. 1833.

NOTES:

A size roll made at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following information: Maliah Eskridge/ age 22/ height 5 7/4/ carpenter/ born in Richmond/ residing in Richmond/ light hair/ gray eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 13 Feb 78 for 3 years. The Thomas Pritchard said to have enlisted at the same time is apparently the one on this roll as Thomas Prichett.

In a letter to Thomas Jefferson, Robert Porterfield (pension application S8965) wrote that his brother, Charles Porterfield, died on 10 Jan 1781. Robert Porterfield had been captured at the surrender of

Charleston on 12 May 1780. Charles Porterfield had been paroled by the British and was on his way to join his brother as a prisoner. (Cecere, M. *An Officer of Very Extraordinary Merit: Charles Porterfield and the American War for Independence*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 2004.)