

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Patrick Macher (Machar) R6571
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

MD

[No application by Macher was found in the file.]

Council Chamber/ Annapolis Decr 22nd 1828

Sir [James L. Edwards Commissioner of Pensions], the late Auditor (whose office has been abolished, and its duties devolved on me) this morning handed me your two letters of the respective dates of the 3rd & 15th Instant, asking information relative to the services in the Maryland line of the Revolutionary Army which Patrick Machar and Elijah Barton alledge that the afforded.

I have carefully examined the very imperfect Records of the services of the Maryland Troops that have been preserved amongst the Archives of the State, and have not found the names of either of the persons named upon any of them.

It is proper however to inform you that no Muster Roll of a later date than 1780 has been preserved, and that the principal evidence the State (copy of the Revolutionary servies of its troops is two pay Rolls one for arrears and another for depreciation, so that the statements of the two soldiers may be in the main true although the Records of the State afford no evidence in their support.

Very respectfully/ your ob't Serv't.

Tho. Culbreth Clerk of the Executive Council

P.S. there was a Capt David Lynn [pension application W9151; author of the following letter] in the Maryland Line but there was not a Colonel named Miller. T. C.

Cumberland Feb'y 20 1829

Sir [James L. Edwards Commissioner of Pensions] Your letter of the 30th Dec'r. was forwarded to this place, when I was from Home, & was sent to me to Frederick, where I have been detained by sickness, untill a few days ago.

From your letter it appears that Patrick Macher has stated in his application to the war department, "that he enlisted for three years from 1781 in a Comp'y commanded by Capt David Lynn & the Reg't. Com'd. by Col Miller of Fred'r. Town Maryl'd. & in the Brigade Com'd by Gen'l. [William] Smallwood" and I am called on "to give any information in my power, respecting said Patrick Macher, & whether there was an Officer com'g. a Reg't. of the Maryland line, belonging to the Continental Establishment, by the name of Miller"

This call on me required that I should refer to a book which is now before me, before I could make any reply. This Book contains the names of all the Officers & Soldiers of the Maryland line, entitled to bounty land from the State but on which there is no officer of any grade of the name of Miller, nor was there ever a field Officer of that name, belonging to the line. Nor can I find the name of Patrick Macher on the list. This list of names, was made, under the authority of law, by the Auditor Gen'l of Maryland, from the Muster Rolls of the Army, after the war was over, to be the guide in the distribution of the bounty lands, given to all Soldiers, who enlisted in Maryland, for the Continental Army, either for the War or for three years, at any time after the [blank] Session of Assembly 1777 & before the end of the War, as well as to the Officers, who serve to the end thereof.

I was one of three Commissioners appointed by the Executive to make the distribution of these lands, the list was put into our hands, and when the distribution was compleated, it was left with me, & is still in my possession, but whenever any application is made to me by any old Soldier, I feel perfectly at a loss what to advise if his name is not to be found on this list. However on this occasion, I will state a number of circumstances, some of which are, in some measure connected with Patrick Macher's statement, & will show when, & where he was in my Comp'y. if he ever was under my command.

In the year 1780 the two Maryland Brigades were ordered to join the Southern Army & were

defeated & compleatly cut to pieces in the first engagement [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. As soon as the remnants of the army could be collected, the two Brigades were reduced & formed two Reg's. only, & all Supernumerary off'ers. [those with insufficient troops for a command] were ordered to the State to be employed in the recruiting service. Gen'l. Smallwood was stationed at Annapolis, to superintend the whole, & to forward the recruits, as they were raised, to the Army.

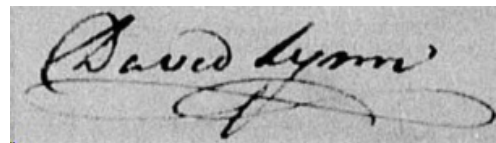
Preperatory to the Siege of York, in 1781 a certain number of Militia was ordered to be in readiness, & to rendezvous at Annapolis the moment they received marching orders. I was stationed there, to receive them & was supplied with money with directions from the Gen'l. to enlist as many as possible, into the Continental service, while we were preparing for the march, during which time, I enlisted perhaps sixty. When the Reg't. was organized it was composed altogether of Militia, except my recruits, & they having become troops of the line were entitled to the right of the Reg't, but as I was not the Sen'r. Capt. in Com'd. they were given to Capt. [Henry] Gaither & I had nothing more to do with them, but took the Com'd. of a Comp'y. of Militia, in the same Reg't. a proportion of which were Militia substitutes, & were in the first instance collected in their respective Counties, but when brought to Annapolis were given up to the Officers of the regular Army, and I think it more than probable Col Miller of the Fred'k. Militia who lived in Fred'k. Town, had the direction of this detachment, as long as they remained in the County, and that he went them to Annapolis, which made the impression on Patrick Macher's mind, that he was an Officer in the Continental Service

If Macher joined the Reg't. at Annapolis in 1781 & will say he joined the Southern Army afterwards, his account & mine of the march, siege &c, ought to be the same. The Reg't. on that occasion was called the 4th Maryland Reg't. Com'd by Maj'r. [Alexander] Roxburgh. We march'd from Annapolis through George Town, Alexandria, Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] & to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], & joined the american & French Army in sight of York Town the day after the British Army had been withdrawn from their outposts [30 Sep 1781], and two or three days before our Army broke ground on the line of our first entrenchment, we assisted in all the operations of the Siege, & our Reg't. was formed in [page torn] line, when the whole British Army passed in review, & ground their [arms] at the time of the surrender [19 Oct 1781]. When this was done Capt. Gaither's Comp'y. composed of my recruits, was ordered to join the 3rd Maryl'd Reg't (which we joined there) & sent on to the Southern Army & the Militia was ordered to return to Maryland

With my Comp'y I guarded a part of the Brittish prisoners to Fred'k. Town, where they were discharged, and if Macher enlisted with me, at Annapolis he must or ought to have been in Capt Gaithers Comp'y. & march'd with him to join the Southern Army, if of my Comp'y. he was only a militia man, or substitute, for that particular tour of Duty, & probably returned with me to Fred Town, where my Comp'y. was discharged

Being one of the few surviving Officers of revolutionary Army very frequent applications have been made to me by old Soldiers but unless their names are to be found on my list, it is not in my power to afford them any relief. It is impossible for me to recollect names, persons, or services of men, who have neither been seen or heard of by me, for nearly fifty years past.

I am very Respectfully
Y'r. H'e. Servant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Lyon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.