

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

Pension Application of James McIlhany R6734

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The affidavit of James Copeland [pension application W6730] of the County of Loudon [sic: Loudoun] and Commonwealth of Virginia, a soldier of the revolutionary war. This affiant states that he was well acquainted with James McIlhany late a Capt in the Continental Army. That he McIlhany went at an early period into the army, possibly as early as 1775 certainly not later than 1776 that said McIlhany enlisted his brother John Copeland, who was several years older than affiant. Affiant joined the Army at Valley Forge in the Spring of 1778 a few weeks before the battle of Monmoth [sic: Monmouth NJ, 28 June 1778]. Said McIlhany was not with the army under Washington during the Campaign of 1778. Whether he was elsewhere in the service or had left it this affiant does not know or recollect. Affiant was born on the [blank] day of August 1759 and was eighteen years old when he joined the army. His brother John Copeland was, he is inclined to think, enlisted in March 1775 and certainly not later than the spring of 1776, because he, affiant, well recollects that this occurrence took place early in the war. [7 Feb 1834] James Copeland

The affidavit of Richard Copeland, aged seventy years, a citizen of Loudon County Virginia. This affiant says that he has resided in the County since the age of seven years, that he was well acquainted with James McIlhany late an officer in the Continental army, that he was quite young at the commencement of hostilities between England and America, that he did not see said McIlhany set off or return into or from the service, but he well recollects the fact that his brother John Copeland was enlisted by said McIlhany at the beginning of the war, his brother was about twenty three or four years of age at the time, he thinks. His tombstone at Kittocton meeting house [sic: Ketoctin Baptist Church near Purcellville] will show. Affiant well recollects said McIlhany's regimental coat, it was red. he also frequent wore a blue coat turned up with red [i.e. with red lapels and cuffs] Affiant cannot say how long he was in the service. [18 Feb 1834] Richard Copeland

The affidavit of James Best aged ninety two years a citizen of the County of Loudon and State of Virginia. This affiant says that Arthur McDaniel lived as a tenant on his place, that the said McDaniel was in the service at the time Independence was declared at Williamsburg. Affiant further states that he was well acquainted with James McIlhany late an officer in the Continental Army, that the said McIlhany went into the service previous to the said McDaniel, but how long the said McIlhany was in the service he does not know. [18 Feb 1834]

The affidavit of Mrs Hannah Parker, aged seventy four years, of Loudoun County, Virginia. This affiant is the sister of James McIlhany late a Capt in the Continental army. She is perfectly assured that her brother was in service as an officer as early as the summer of 1775, certainly in the fall of that year at Norfolk in this state before it was burnt by Dunmore [1 Jan 1776]. Afterwards he served at the north. He went to the north in the spring of the following year 1776 – Affiant's belief is that her brother was throughout the whole period of of his service in the regular or Continental Army. Affiants well recollects that her brother was at home in June 1778 – when he remained a short time and returned to the army. He continued with the Army or in actual service till late in the fall of 1778 when he came home and very soon married, to wit: in the winter of 1778-9 – He never after his marriage was in service. Affiant presumes that he resigned. She is certain that he left the army in consequence of marrying. Affiant is confident that her brother was more than three years continuously in the army of the Revolution as an officer. He was first lieutenant she well recollects under Capt Andrew Russell [see endnote] and William Lane of Fairfax was

second Lieutenant. Affiant does not know to what Regiment her brother belonged, or who was his Colonel. He was at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and affiant thinks also at Germantown [4 Oct 1777]. And further this affiant knows nothing material. [20 Feb 1834] [signed] Hannah Parker

Fairfax County Sep. 24<sup>th</sup> 1799

I do hereby Certify that Andrew Russell was a Captain in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Cont'l. Troops commanded by Col. Charles Scott & that I was appointed his Lieut. the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Jany.

William Lane jun'r

Loudon County – Virginia November 11, 1799

I do hereby Certify that Andrew Russell formerly of this County – now Deseased – was in or about the first of Jany 1776 apointed a Captain in the Contentental army – and Served as such in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia Troops – untill his Deth – and I his first Lieutenant

James McIlhany

State of Virginia SS.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned justice of the peace in the county of Loudoun and State aforesaid, Margaret McIlhany, a resident of said county and state, aged seventy six years, who being first duly qualified according to law, doth, on her solemn affirmation, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provission made by the act of congress passed July the 4<sup>th</sup> 1836: That she is the widow of James McIlhany who was a captain in the Virginia line of the continental army (see records at Richmond and in the war department) She further declares that she was married to the said James McIlhany between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1778 and that her husband the aforesaid James McIlhany died on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 1804; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed; that the said James McIlhany left at the period of his death five children under the age of sixteen years; to wit: Mary, Cecelia, James, Louisa and Mortimer McIlhany [signed] Margaret McIlhany

State of Virginia SS:

This 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1836 Mrs. Hannah Parker, a resident of the county of Loudoun and State aforesaid, aged seventy six years nearly, personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid and made solemn affirmation, that James McIlhany, who was a Captain in the Virginia Line of the Continental Army, was her brother, that her said brother was married to Margaret Williams, about the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1779; that although she, affiant, does not know the length of the term of service, for which her said brother engaged, yet she can state with confidence, that after her said marriage, he gave up his commission, the period of his service having been upwards of three years, perhaps from three to five months; that her said brother was never married but once; that he left at the time of his Death five Children under sixteen years of age; and that his widow has remained unmarried to the present day [signed] Hannah Parker

Additional Affidavit of Mrs. Hannah Parker, aged seventy six; this Affiant, having seen a statement from the Auditor's Office, Richmond, Va. representing that her brother James McIlhany had served from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan'y. 1777 to the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1778; say, that whilst this is doubtless true, as far as it goes, leaves a wholly erroneous empression as to the actual period, which he served, and this both as regards the beginning and termination of his military services. It omits the whole of the year 1776 (To say nothing of a tour of duty in the fall of 1775 at and in the neighbourhood of Norfolk) as also the residue of of the year 1778 – This Affiant would not assert positively that her said brother did not resign a very short time previous to his marriage, but her clear and decided impression is that he left the service after his marriage, as Affiant doubts not in consequence of his having married; Affiant believes that he would have remained longer in the service but for this event; Affiant believes very firmly that he belonged to the

Army, when he married; but she again repeats that he was never after his marriage in actual service.

[signed] Hannah Parker

NOTES:

John H. Gwathmey's *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolutionary War* lists the following soldiers named James McIlhany or McIlhaney:

McIlhaney, James, 1st Lieut. 10 C[ontinental] L[ine] Mch. 25, 1776; Captain Nov. 5, 1777; resigned June 18, 1778.

McIlhany, James, Loudoun Mil[itia]. rec[ommended]. as Major Nov., 1780.

McIlhaney, James, Loudoun Mil., rec as Captain May, 1781; again rec. as Captain Mch. 1782.

Andrew Russell's company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Reg. was raised in Loudoun County on 25 Mar 1776. On 14 Sep 1778 at White Plains NY the officers and men of the 5<sup>th</sup> Reg. were absorbed into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reg.

A document dated 14 Mar 1834 indicates that the State of Virginia awarded bounty land to the following children and grandchildren of James McIlhany for three years service as a Captain: James McIlhany; Nancy White; Mary Frye; Ann Elizabeth Washington, Mary C White, and Rosanna Washington, the three children of R. Washington, who was a daughter of James McIlhany; Taliaferro M. McIlhany, son of John McIlhany who was a son of James McIlhany; Margaret Ann Kilgor, Francis G. Stribling, Erasmus M. Stribling, and Cecilia M. Stribling, the four children of Cecilia Stribling, who was a daughter of James McIlhany; James M. Kilgor and John M. Kilgor, the two children of Louisa Kilgore, who was a daughter of James McIlhany.

On 26 Sep 1836 Charles G. Eskridge, 46, deposed that he had seen the family Bible of Margaret McIlhaney with the following entry: "James McIlhany & Margaret Williams were married Dec'r. 28<sup>th</sup> 1778." The file also includes a copy of a bond signed in Loudoun County on 21 Dec 1778 by James McIlhaney and Charles Binns for the marriage of McIlhany to "Margaret Williams Widow, tithe of Shelburne Parish."

A letter from James McIlhany, Jr. dated 12 June 1846, states that his mother died 11 Mar 1837.