

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Michael Palmer R7899

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 Oct 2019.

Maryland Frederick County Sct

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the court of Frederick County now sitting Michael Palmer a resident of Frederick County State of Maryland aged seventy nine years on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1834. who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania Dec'r 25 1755. about the age of 12 or 13 was brought by his father to Washington County Maryland [formed from Frederick County in 1776]. that he enlisted as a private in a company commanded by Joseph Chaplin [see first endnote] of the 6<sup>th</sup> Maryland regiment for & during the war, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1777 at Funks Town [Funkstown] Washington County Maryland all which appears by reference to the paper marked Exhibit A hereto annexed & prayed to be received & taken as part of this his petition. that he is the very individual Michael Palmer named in said Exhibit, nor was there any other of the same name in said Company as well as he remembers. He cannot recollect the christian name of the Col of said Regiment but he was called Col Raulings or Rowland [see endnote] So it is affiant was sworn in by lieutenant Col Stull at his house in Hagerstown the next day after the enlistment aforesaid. The father & mother of petitioner being both present making great efforts to get him liberated but in vain. remained three days in Hagerstown. The first night after marching from this place we walked about four miles this side of Chambersburgh [Chambersburg] (Pa). from this place through Shippensburgh [Shippensburg], crossed the Susquehanna [Susquehanna] at Harrisburgh [Harrisburg] – thence on to Philadelphia. joined Raulins regiment – here – remaining there sometime we marched on to the Jerseys & were united to the army he thinks somewhere about Princeton or Trenton. So it is however[?] he fought at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] under Capt Chaplin & there received a wound in his right groin by a bayonet, the scar of which is now distinctly visible. was taken to the hospital in Philadelphia where his wound was dressed & he slowly recovered – remained there three or four months so far as he remembers – rejoined his regiment in the Jerseys under Capt Chaplin [see first endnote] – affiant fought under Chaplin at Monmouth in June 1778 [28 Jun 1778] continued with the army until they arrived at Philadelphia on their return. The time of discharge is not recollected. started on foot to his uncles eighteen miles from Reading; he came home with affiant to Washington Co. the discharge which he received is long since lost. From the time of his enlistment as before stated to his arrival home was exactly three years, seven months & seventeen days [16 Jan 1781], during which period he was in actual service in the company of Capt Chaplin as before detailed & belonged to the regiment aforesaid named in Exhibit A. [see second endnote] As to his being missing on the 16 August 1780 he cannot recollect why it was; so it was however he never was a deserter nor ever punished for any breach of any law during the whole of his service as aforesaid. After the war my father removed from Washington to Frederick County where affiant has ever since resided & does still reside. After the surrender of Cornwallis in the fall of 1781, affiant as a volunteer for his father who had been detailed for this service stood guard over the Hessians for about four weeks at the barracks in Frederick Town. Affiants actual service in the revolutionary war as aforesaid exclusive of that in guarding the Hessians was 3 years seven months & 17 days. He has no documentary evidence relative to said services as a soldier in said company & regiment except Exhibit A as aforesaid on which he relies as testimony His evidence from the living is confined to the affidavit of Frederick Wilhide [S35138] of Frederick County Md marked Exhibit B hereto annexed & prayed to be taken as part of the petition. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & except also any bounty land to which he maybe entitled by law, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of

the Agency of any State

Michael hisXmark Palmer

We Frederick Wilhide and Daniel Blickenstaff residing in Frederick County, Maryland, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Michael Palmer who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be seventy nine years old on the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1834: that he is reputed & believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution & that we concur in that opinion.

affirmed, Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid  
John Schley Clk Friedrich Wilhied Daniel Blickenstaff

Land Office, Annapolis, January 15<sup>th</sup> 1835;

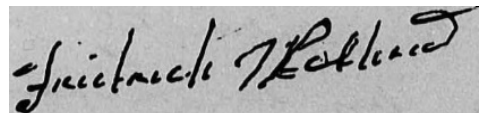
I hereby Certify, that it appears by the Muster rolls of the Revolution, remaining in this Office, that Mich'l. Palmer inlisted as a private, in Captain Chaplins Company of the 6<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment for during the War, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1777, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1780, was missing, — and I further Certify that his name does not appear upon any of the Pay Rolls

George G. Brewer/ Reg'r. Land Office U. S. Md.

State of Maryland Frederick County Sct

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Frederick County Maryland now sitting Frederick Wilhide a resident of said County aged eighty years on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 1834 last past who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath swear & declare that he is the very individual who as a soldier of the revolution draws a pension of ninety six dollars per year for his services as will appear by reference to the proper department at Washington the money is now paid to him at the Frederick County Bank every six months according to law. That he is intimately acquainted with Michal Palmer who has this day in open Court perferred his petition for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7 1832, & has known him about forty seven or eight years. That affiant being then in the army in the Jerseys in 1777 or 78, saw a man by the name of Michael Palmer actually belonging to the army as a soldier (whether enlisted or a militia man he can not say) He has seen him this day & does verily beleive him to be that individual soldier to the best of his knowledge & belief: his general appearance considering all things & the great lapse of time is the same, but he knows him principally from his speech: he then lisped a little. When affiant saw him the first time in Frederick County after affiant came home from the army he then thought it was the same Michael Palmer whom he had seen in the Jerseys as above stated & never had any reason to change his opinion that he is one & the same person. Affiant in proof of this would state that until recently he had not seen said Michael Palmer the petitioner for perhaps twenty years, but so soon as he did see him he at once thought it was the same man whom he had seen in the Jerseys as aforesaid belonging to the army as a soldier. But affiant cannot be more certain than he has here specified.

Sworn to & subscribed on the day & year aforesaid.  
Test. John Schley Clk Friedrich Wilhied



War Dept. Pen Office

Feb 25 1835

Sir [Hon. W. Cost Johnson, House of Representatives] The papers in support of the claim of Michael Palmer have been ex'd. He alleges that he enlisted in 1777, and left the service in 1780, but gives no account of the services performed by him after the year 1778. The certificate of the Regist'r of the Land office at Annapolis, shews that the person therein named, enlisted for during the war and was marked on the rolls as missing in 1780, and that his name is not found on any of the rolls after that period, and that he never received any pay. [see endnote] It is therefore clear that he must have deserted. The applicant

alleges that he is the identical person named in said certificate. By the act of desertion all claim to the bounty of the government is forfeited. The claim has therefore been rejected and the papers filed in the office.

The claim of George Stottlemeyer (R10238) [filed in the same court on the same day and also certified by Wilhide and Blickenstaff] has also been ex'd. The rolls of Col. Strickers reg't which was afterwards commanded by Colo. Houssegger, shew that the applicant deserted from the service. By this act he forfeits all claim to the bounty of his country, His claim has consequent been rejected, and his papers filed in this office.

#### NOTES:

I could find no record of a Capt. Joseph Chaplin. There was a Capt. Moses Chapline in the 6<sup>th</sup> MD Regiment. Moses Chapline resigned on 12 Oct 1777, which would be inconsistent with Palmer's claim to have served three years under "Chaplin." Moses Chapline was replaced by Capt. Joshua Miles until 18 May 1779. There is a record of a Michael Palmer who enlisted for three years in "A Roll of Capt'n Joshua Miles Comp'y in the 6th Maryl'd Regiment of foot in the service of the United States of America. Commanded by Collo [Otho Holland] Williams Sept 9."

<https://www.fold3.com/image/12005108?terms=palmer>

"Col Raulings or Rowland" may refer to Moses Rawlings (VAS683) who commanded a different regiment.

Among the other discrepancies in Palmer's declaration is the statement that he enlisted "for & during the war, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1777" but was discharged after only three years. Enlistments were commonly for "three years or during the war," and there was sometimes confusion about which term of service the enlistment was for.

Contrary to the assertion in the document from the War Department Pension Office that Michael Palmer "never received any pay" is a document entitled "Abstract of Pay due sundry Men belonging to the late Line of Maryland. War Department Accountants Office January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1795." This document lists six soldiers who were missing on 16 Aug 1780, including the following: Michael Palmer | private | 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment | Service commenced May 31 77 | Expiration of Service Aug 16 80 | Balance Due \$221.40.

<https://www.fold3.com/image/12007844?terms=michael%20palmer>

The accounts were "Settled in pursuance of an Act of the first session of the second Congress of the United States passed the 27th of March 1792." This act corrected provisions in previous acts that had been construed to deny payment to soldiers or their heirs. The text of the act can be found on p 245 at <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/2nd-congress/c2.pdf>

The date on which a Michael Palmer and many other Maryland Continentals are said to have been missing, 16 Aug 1780, is the date of the disastrous defeat at the Battle of Camden SC, in which Maryland Continental soldiers fought valiantly and suffered numerous losses with the survivors finally compelled to flee or surrender. Those who fled were to have rendezvoused at Hillsborough NC to rejoin their regiments. Those who surrendered were generally imprisoned near Charleston SC until exchanged at Jamestown VA approximately one year later. Larry Babits at <http://battleofcamden.org/2bdeloss.htm> has compiled a list of the losses in the 2<sup>nd</sup> MD Brigade, which included the 6<sup>th</sup> MD Regiment. The losses are divided into the following four categories: killed, prisoner, deserted, or missing. The last category, "missing," probably indicates that the soldier was unaccounted for at the time the muster was held, having been killed, taken prisoner, or for some other reason not rejoining his regiment. The majority of losses for 16 Aug 1780, including Michael Palmer, are categorized as "missing." It is very unlikely that all the missing were deserters. It is more likely that the Michael Palmer who was missing on 16 Aug 1780 was either killed or captured.