

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Evan Morgan S11098

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following letter explains the petition that follows it.]

Morgantown 7th March 1833

Honb'l Lewis Cass, Sec. of War

Sir I enclose the papers of Evan Morgan for a pension - he informs me, that during the term which Mr. Isaac Leffer represented this district in Congress, he sent a petition to Mr Leffler, accompanied by an affidavit of Joseph Bonner [pension application S40421], proving his services, praying Congress for relief - the late Mr. Doddridge promised Morgan to obtain, when he went to Washington last fall the affidavit and hand it to you, his health I suppose prevented his making the examination - Bonner died some years ago, he was a pensioner under the law of 1818-

I suppose that Morgan can obtain from the Executive of Virginia a certificate that he was commissioned as an ensign, if it is necessary, he will apply through Col. Morgan of Richmond.

I am very respt'y Your obt. serv't Thos. P. Ray [Clerk of Monongalia Court]

To Congress

The petition of Evan Morgan of Monongalia County and State of Virginia respectfully sheweth - That in an early day, his father David Morgan removed to said County, and settled on the Monongahela River, some distance above the place where Morgantown the present seat of Justice of said County now stands. At that time this part of the country was on the extreme frontier, and continually exposed to the cruel incursions of the Indians. In the year 1774 so soon as your petitioner arrived at age, animated with a desire to repel their inroads - avenge his murdered neighbours - and prevent future invasions, he volunteered under Col. Anguish McDaniel [sic: Angus McDonald], to march to the Muskingum River, and by destroying the Indian towns to compell them to sue for peace. The battalion marched, and after some severe fighting, and encountering hardships and perils, that cannot here be detailed, accomplished their object by the destruction of four Indian towns. In the year 1775, the rumour of the contest for Liberty reached the wilderness where your petitioner dwelt in almost perpetual warfare with the Savages and wild beasts of the forest. He did not hesitate so soon as he understood the grounds of controversy with England, but repassed the Alleghany [sic: Allegheny] Mountains, and in the beginning of the year 1776, at Hagerstown, Maryland, enlisted as a regular soldier for one year, under Capt. John Nelson of the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Col. Dehose [sic: John DeHaas], in Gen'l. Sinclair's [Arthur St. Clair's] Brigade. Your petitioner was marched northward; and at length to the Canadian line; but when the army had penetrated to the mouth of the river Sorrel, a retreat was ordered, and they marched back to Ticonderoga. Here in the summer of '76, your petitioner heard with mingled emotions of awe and satisfaction, the Declaration of Independence first read by Gen'l. Sinclair to the army, drawn up in hollow squares. After various hardships, your petitioner was at length marched to Philadelphia, where in the year 1777 he was honorably discharged after having served fourteen months. He has lost his discharge, but accompanies this petition with the affidavit of Joseph Bonner Sen'r., one of his fellow soldiers, to prove the truth of his statement.

Upon his discharge your petitioner felt anxious to ascertain the condition of his father & family, whom he had left in the wilderness surrounded by savage foes. He proceeded westward over the Mountains, and found them alive, though harrassed by the enemy. Learning that Gen'l. [Edward] Hand was about to proceed into the Indian country with a body of troops, to chasten the Indians, and prevent their aggressions, your petitioner immediately volunteered under him, & marched in the latter part of the year 1777. - The result of that expedition [Feb 1778, known derisively as the "Squaw Campaign"] is matter of public history. In the year 1788 [sic: summer 1779] your petitioner volunteered under Col Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead], to go up the Alleghany River to destroy the Munsie [Munsee] Indian towns, which object was affected.

These were the public expeditions in which your petitioner took part against the common

enemy besides which, he was for several years engaged in the defence of forts on the frontier, in partizan warfare, and in personal rencountres with the Savages; in the course of which, his father and himself suffered much both in person and property. At one time, they were stripped of nearly all their stock & moveables by the depredations of the Indians: and at another time his father was wounded in a personal combat with two armed Savages, whom he slew, although then sixty years of age. - Your petitioner is now in the 76th year of his age - is very frail in body, and reduced to poverty. He has endeavoured to procure a subsistence by teaching a small school in the country but physical debility being now added to original deficiencies in education, he is unfitted for that pursuit. Under these circumstances he is induced to apply to his country for relief, and being apprehensive that his case does not come clearly within the provisions, of the general law for the relief of distressed revolutionary soldiers, he prays that a special Act of Congress may be passed, placing him on the pension roll, or making such other provision for his support, during the few remaining years of his life, as Congress may in its wisdom deem most proper, and your petitioner as in duty bound will pray &c [signed] Evan Morgan [On 23 Dec 1833 D. P. Morgan deposed that he had gone with Evan Morgan to the home of Joseph Bonner for the purpose of obtaining the following deposition.]

Virginia Monongalia County (to wit)

this day Joseph Boner Sr Personally appeared before me David P Morgan jun a Justice of the Peace for said County and after being duly sworn Deposeth and Saith that Evan Morgan of Monongalia County Inlisted at Hagerstown In the state of Mariland In the year of 1776 under Capt. John Nelson in the first Pensulvania ridgment Colonel Dehorse in Genral Synclares Birgade and the said Morgan was Honorable Discharged at Phillidelpha in 1777 and Further the deponant Saith Not Given under my hand this 8th day of November 1828

Joseph hisXmark Boner

State of Virginia } ss.
county of Monongalia }

On this 28th day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared before the County court of Monongalia, Evan Morgan, a resident of said county aged seventy nine years, who being first 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 as a private soldier for one year at Tomlinsons tavern now in Allegany county Maryland, in the month of March 1776, as well as he can now recollect with Capt. John Nelson of the first Pennsylvania regiment of Continental troops - that on the following day he went on to Hagerstown, the place of rendezvous for the company - that he remained at Hagerstown about two weeks, when he marched with his company through York and Lancaster to Bethlehem a Moravian town on the Lehigh, from thence to Easton, on the Delaware; from thence to Boundbrook in New Jersey, from thence to Brunswick and Elizabeth town, and from thence by water to New York, thence by water to Albany, from thence to Fort George, from thence to Ticonderoga, thence to Crown point, thence down the Lake [Champlain] to St. Johns [St.- Jean], from thence to a fort at Chamblee [sic: Chambly], from thence to Montreal, where we joined the said regiment under the command of Col. Dehase, Lieut. Col. Housaker and Major Huffnaugal. Gen'l. [Benedict] Arnold being commander in chief - we immediately marched on to Fort Anne to relieve six hundred prisoners take by the enemy and indians at a place called the Cedars [halfway between Montréal and Québec]. after releiving the prisoners, we marched back to Montreal, and remained about three days, from thence to the mouth of Sorrel river, where we met the enymy and had to retreat up to Chamblee and St. Johns' - that he was one of the twelve that in the month of June 1776, was sent out as scouts under the command of Lieut. Wm. Oaldham [sic: William Oldham], the same person that was killed at St. Clairs' defeat [at Wabash River, 4 Nov 1791], being there a Lieut. Col. - that from St. Johns' we marched to the isle of Ox-nox [sic: Île aux Noix], thence to Crown point, thence to Ticonderoga, where we made a stand, and continued there untill his term of enlistment expired - that he left Ticonderoga on the 20th of February 1777 and marched to Philadelphia, where he was discharged by Capt. Nelsons written discharge in the month of April 1777, which he lost more than forty years ago - that near Philadelphia, he heard that the Indians were at war upon the people in this

part of the country where his parents then lived and died, he accordingly came home and in May 1777 joined a company of militia commanded by Capt. Morgan Morgan, but cannot possibly recollect how long he remained in that service —

That in the fall of 1777 Gen'l. Hand at Fort Pitt called for volunteers, that he persuaded six of his acquaintances to go with him, and marched to the head of Tenmile creek, now in Green [sic: Greene] county Pennsylvania, where the volunteers received orders to station themselves in different forts - that he was stationed at Pricketts fort [see note below] for three months under Capt. Zadock Springer, a militia captain.

That in the month of July 1779 Col. Brodhead called for volunteers to go and take the Munsie town, up the Allegheny river, about two hundred miles - that he engaged eleven others to go with him, that they marched to, and took the town, being engaged in that service from the time he left home untill his return seven weeks and four days —

That in 1780 he was commissioned as an Ensign by the Governor of Virginia, and during the summer season was engaged for a week at a time, in scouting and guarding the frontiers, for which he never received any pay, the time employed altogether he cannot recollect — He relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present - that his name is on no pension roll of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Evan Morgan

State of Virginia } SS.

County of Monongalia } On this 25th day of February in the year 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the County court of Monongalia, now sitting in open court, Evan Morgan, a resident of said county, aged seventy nine years, and the same person named in the foregoing declaration, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration. That he was born on Town creek, now in Allegany county state of Maryland, on the first of March, in the year 1754, that his age was recorded in his fathers bible, which has been destroyed fifty years ago, that whilst an infant his father removed from Town creek to Frederick county Virginia, and in the year 1773 removed to the county of Monongalia, where he has ever since resided, and from which he always marched when called into service - that he recollects Col. Hartley of Pennsylvania, Col. Wine of New Jersey, Col. [Anthony] Wayne of the 4th Pennsylvania regiment. Col. Johnson, Capt. R. Butler, and a number of other regular officers, whose names he has forgotten - that he recollects Col. John Evans, Col. McCleery [William McCleary], Col. Philadejen, Major Springer, Capts. McCollough, Biggs, and a great many other militia officers, whose names he cannot now recollect.

That he is well acquainted with Col. John Evans, Matthew Gay, John Evans jun'r., Rev'd. Joseph A Shackelford, Dudley Evans, William Haymond, and a number of other respectable men of the county, who he believes can testify as to his character, and the general belief in the neighbourhood of his services in the Revolution —

That there is no person now alive to his knowledge by whom he can prove his services under Capt. Nelson, that some years ago he petitioned congress for a pension accompanying which he sent the deposition of Joseph Bonner (who is since dead) who served in the same company. —

That he is confident, that he served a term not less than six weeks, as an ensign as stated in his former declaration, and he is confident that could he recollect that this is much short of the time - that he has been a member of the Methodist church for about forty eight years.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid [signed] Evan Morgan

Col. Dudley Evans, aged sixty seven years, personally appeared before the said court and after being duly sworn, doth depose and say, That he has been personally acquainted with the above named Evan Morgan, a resident of this county, ever since the year 1779, that he served in the year 1782 two weekly tours of duty in scouting against the Indians under the said Evan Morgan as an ensign of Virginia Militia, that during these tours the said Morgan frequently described to him his the said Morgan's services in the regular army as an enlisted soldier to the North, and he has no doubt, that the said Morgan performed the said services - that the said Morgan is a man of very respectable character — Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Dudley Evans

[The following report is by Washington G. Singleton, a District Attorney who investigated many pensioners from Monongalia and other counties in present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Evan Morgan draws \$56. 20/100

I the undersigned Evan Morgan at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age and Revolutionary services. to Wit.

I shall be 81 years old on the 1st of March next. in March 1776 I Enlisted under Capt. John Nelson (at Tumbleson Tavern (in the allegany mountain) for one year Rendevoised at Hagerstown Maryland, and marched from there to Montreal [illegible word] Canady, and was attached to the first Pensylvania Regt. commanded by Col. DHorse, from there the army under the command of Genl Arnold marched to up the St. Lawrence & recaptured from the British army six hundred (Quaker) Prissoners - thence Back to Montreal and near quebeck. Met the american army retreating. Joind it & continued the retreat to ticonderoga then joind Genl [Horatio] Gates army. we [illegible word] & made a stand against the British who came in sight but did not attack us. from Ticoderogy the company to which I belonged marched to Philadelphia and we were discharged. I was one year in this tour.

In June 1777 I volunteered for 3 months under my Brother Capt Morgan Morgan in Monongalia county - & was stationed at Pickets Fort in said county. this Fort was built by the settlement for their own protection. Capt. Morgan was commissioned by the committee of safety - his business & that his men was to guard the settlement and protect it against the invasions of the Indians. I remained at and about the fort for 3 months. I agreed and made the settlement right. I had an improvement and got a grant for four hundred acres of land.

In the fall of 1777 Genl. Hand who was at Fort Pitt contemplating against the Indians on the Muskingham [sic] called on the Militia to volunteer in the expedition - a large number volunteered and Rendevoised on Ten milecreek Pen we were at that place under the command of Genl. Gaddis [probably Col. Thomas Gaddis] - the season being far advanced the expedition was abandoned and by the Direction of Genl Hand the men a ten mile were distributed among the different Forts in the settlements myself with others under the command of Capt Zadock Springer, were sent to Prickets Fort & remained there 3 months including the time at Ten mile. - this was in the winter season

In the Summer of 1778 Col John Evans ordered a draft of men for 3 months. I went a substitute (cant recollect in whose place) to Martin Fort. (Monongalia cty) [on W side of Monongahela River on Crooked Run] I was service some three or four weeks. got my leg broke & went home. this was neighbourhood service.

In the year 1779 I volunteered under Capt. Mason and marched from Monongalia to Fort Pitt & up the allegany to the Munchee towns. destroyed the town killed fifteen Indians & one white man supposed to be a british officer was in this expedition seven weeks & four days

In the year 1781 I was commissioned by the Governor of Virginia an Ensign, and 1782 I served six weeks, as Ensign scouting on the Frontiers & thus ended my Revo services.

In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name Nov. 3, 1834. Evan Morgan
Witness Isaac Cooper.

To the Honorable Mr. James L. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions].

Your petitioner Evan Morgan one of the revolutionary soldiers Humbly prays that you will again take into consideration his claim as a Soldier aforsaid the following comprises the Services rendered by him as well as he can now recollect all of which he has heretofore state in his declaration now filed in your office. In the Years 1776 & 77 he served 14 months a part of the time in Canada the ballance in Vermont [sic] under General Gates and Captain John Nelson by whom he was marched to Philadelphia and there discharged and returned home in 1777 he serve 3 months under Captain Morgan his next service was under Captain Sprenger 3 months the latter part of 1777 defending the frontiers his next Service was under Col'n. Charles Martin 3 months in the year 1778 defending the Frontiers his next Service was under Col'n. Broadhead 7 weeks & 4 days up the Allegany to Big Muncy Town We took the Town and burnt it he was then commissioned by the Governor of Virginia as Ensign and Served Six weeks defending the Frontiers lost my commission for all this Service I am only allowed \$56.20 per annum I am

now 83 years of age and may say my days are almost numbered I own no real or personal property except a small amount such as household furniture I am now living with my son. being old and poor and having but a few days more I may say to live and having served my Country honestly & faithfully at a time that tried mens souls I have taken the liberty to call your attention again to my case I ask this in sheer Justice I can furnish satisfactory testimonials as to my character & standing and trust you will give this your early attention a few days or months more and it may be too late

With Great respect I remain Respectfully
Your Obt Hble Servat Evan Morgan

NOTE: Fort Prickett is now Fort Prickett State Park 4 mi NE of Fairmont in Marion County WV. Evan Morgan's name also appears on the muster roll of that fort under Capt. William Haymond and Lt. Morgan Morgan from 14 Apr to 12 Jun 1777 (printed in J. T. McAllister's *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*).