

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph McMillan (McMillian) S18116 VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 Mar 2015.

[A note in the file indicates that the original papers were sent to US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton to use in his prosecution of David W. Sleeth and George R. Gillilan, as explained below. The following is evidently a copy of the original pension application made in the Pension Office.]

State of Virginia } SS  
Greenbrier County }

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1833 appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace in and for said county Joseph McMillian a residence of said County and State aforesaid, age seventy 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That about the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1781 that he was drafted in the County of Fauquier, and served one tour in the second Regt. of the Virginia Militia in Capt. Turner Morehead's Company; and was attached to Gen'l. [George] Weedon's Brigade at Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] and march on to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] and was stationed there about six weeks, and employed in keeping guard up and down on both sides of the James river, and while there the Brittish landed at Crowell ferry [raid of Gen. William Phillips and Gen. Benedict Arnold in April 1781], and we had a skirmish with the enemy two of our men killed and about twenty wounded. We then returned to Richmond and while at Richmond we was stationed at Shocco hill [sic: Shockoe Hill] and while stationed there Genl. Lafayette came and took command [29 Apr] and soon after the Brittish came in sight on the Manchester side of the James River [30 Apr] and burnt the ware houses and we fired a few cannon at them which made them retreat no further engagement worthy of notice during that tour of service.

And about the first of September in the same year he was again drafted in Fauquier County in the Virginia Militia under Capt. James Wism [sic: James Winn] and marched down to Williamsburgh and attached to Genl. Stephen's [sic: Edward Stevens] Brigade and Elias Edmands' [sic: Elias Edmond's] Regiment, and was employed there in keeping guard until Genl. Washington came and took command when the troops were all commanded to march down to York, and that he well recollects that when the line was ordered to be formed that Genl. Stephens rode up and in a great rage called out to Col. Edmonds that every regiment was formed into line but his and we expected a general engagement but was compelled to stop untill there could be a bridge built across the creek that the enemy had burnt down to prevent the progress of our troop after the bridge was repaired we then crossed over and Capt Wism left his company to whom he the applican was attached and his troops were transfered to the command of Capt. Sharp [sic: Linchfield Sharpe] and that the Brittish retreated from the Pigeon Hill into the town of York and there a close siege took place which continued for many days [28 Sep - 19 Oct] until Cornwallis surrendered, then he was employed in conveying the provisions [sic: prisoners] from York to Winchester where he remained until his time of service expired. he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state only on that of the Agency of Virginia.

(signed) Joseph McMillian

Greenbrier County, to wit,

This day personally appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace for said County Martha McMillian & made oath that she well recollected that in the year 1781 that her son Joseph McMillian who has subscribed his name to the foregoing declaration was twice drafted, and that she prepared his clothes for the service and that he left home and did not return for some two or three months each time. Given under my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dec'r. 1833 (signed) George R. Gillilan

Greenbrier County to wit.

This day personally appeared before me George R. Gillilan a Justice of the Peace for said County John McMilian and made oath that he well recollected of Joseph McMilian in the year 1781 serving two tours in the war of the revolution one at Williamsburgh, and the other at the town of York the precise time of service he does not recollect, but to the best of his recollection he served upwards of three months each time. he further recollects that when the prisoners was brought from York to Winchester, that his (the said Joseph McMilians) father prevailed on the Captain to let him take his son's place for a few day's until Joseph his son could go home to see his people. he went home and returned in a few days and took his station. Given under my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dec'r. 1833.

Interrogatories answered.

1<sup>st</sup>. I was born in Fauquier County Virginia in the year 1763. 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have my name recorded in a Bible. 3<sup>rd</sup>. I was living in Fauquier County Va. when called into service, and in the year 1785 moved to Greenbrier Co. Va. where I yet live. 4<sup>th</sup>. I was drafted in the Virginia Militia. 6<sup>th</sup>. I was regularly discharged by Capt. Sharp.

[On 9 April 1834 Joseph McMillan was issued a certificate for a pension of \$20 per year for six months service. \$70 had been collected by the time the pension was suspended some time after the semiannual payment on 4 Sep 1834.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For a summary of the investigations see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton prosecuted David W. Sleeth and George R. Gillilan, who are mentioned in the report.]

Joseph McMillian. Pen. Serv'd. 6 mo. received \$20—

I the undersigned Joseph McMillian being called on by W. G. Singleton, agent of the Pension office, for a statement of my Services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution and of my age, give the following to wit – I was seventy years old the 18<sup>th</sup> of October last. am a native of Loudoun County Virginia and resided in the county of Fauquier until I was 21 yrs of age, & then settled in Greenbrier.

Some time in the month of February 1781 I was drafted & marched from Fauquier county with a requisition of Militia (four companies) commanded by Col. Armistead Churchill. Turner Morehead was my Captain. John Rust Lieut. & Joshua Singleton Ensign – we Rendezvoused at Fauquier Court House marched through Fredericksburg to Williamsburg where we remained for several weeks, & whilst there we had a slight engagement with the british in which we were defeated & retreated to Richmond at which place we staid until discharged – haveing been in service at least two & a half months —

In the latter part of august in the same year (1781) I was drafted again & marched from same county with a requisition of Militia (four companies) commanded by Col. Elias Edmonds. I was attached to Capt. James Winns company – we went on through Fredericksburg & Williamsburg and joined Genl. Stephen's Brigade at Springfield below Williamsburg on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September – remained there until Genl. Washington came up [14 Sep] when the whole army under his commanded went on to yorktown. two or three days after our arrival the Siege commenced. after it terminated I marched with the Prissoners to the barracks back of Winchester – remained there a few days and was discharged – I was less than three months in service in this tour – – In both tours I was five months & twelve days in actual service & this is all the service I done — David W. Sleeth & George Gillilan wrote my Declaration. I told them expressly that I had not been six months in service [as required by the pension act of 1832] – they induced me to believe that I was entitled to a pension for 3 months services.

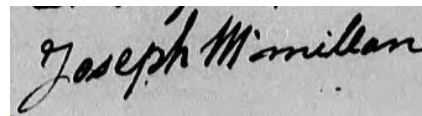
In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name Jany 24, 1835. Joseph McMillian

Witness Wm. R. Wood A Copy —

Note – this is an Honest man – he surrendered his certificate W. G Singleton February 11, 1835

Greenbrier Virginia October 26<sup>th</sup> 1843

Dear Sir [J. M. Porter Secretary of War] I hope you will pardon the freedom I make use of in troubling you. when you find I am a soldier of the revolution that serv'd and sufred in the war of 81 when the seat of war was in Virginia, to be as brief as possible, I shall just mention to you facts that I can prove, and if you think I ought to have any thing for my services, you will be pleased to send me a few lines with some directions how to proceed I was Draughted some time in february about the 20<sup>th</sup> as well as I can recolect when Arnold and Phillips was about the James river we were in Frederckburgh the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> days of march we joined Weedons bregade in williamsburgh about the 12 of march was there till the brittish drove us away we retreated through the country to Richmond was there when phillips hove up to the mouth of chicahominy was campt on Shoco hill when his Honour General Lafayet come and took the command was discharge with the companyes from Fauquire that I belong to about some time perhaps between the sixth and twelf of may I think we were all at home by the 15<sup>th</sup>. I do not think we served 3 months we lact perhaps 6 or 8 days, was draughted again in automn I do not recolect the week nor day but we joyned Layfayet at williamsburgh about the time Cornwallace went towards york some weeks before General Wahington came there, I wrote to my parents the Eleventh of september as will as I can recolect stayed there doing duty with the army sometimes amongst bomb shells and big shot went on guard of prisoners north of Winchester was discharged and went home some time in november I know not the day or week, I never went to any court of record to prove my services, because I could not sware nor prove I had served six months but a certain David W Sleith with a justice of the peace came to my house (I am a cripple) and told me that all that had served three months was entitled to a pension told me they were doing business of that kind for other people and insisted on my giving them a declaration of my services with officers names to which I consented and gave them as correct as I could so they left me and had no difficulty in obtaining a certificate for Twenty dollars a year from the year 1831 my lifetime after that date, but before the certificate was in my hands or put in order to draw money for me frauds on frauds became so common in the pension office that Goverment sent an agent to western Virginia to investigate the claims in that quarter and suspended payment of pensions in western virginia I know not how long but so it was as he came through Greenbrier I went to see him and did not understand him at our first interview, I soon found that something was wrong he informed me that without I could swear I had served 6 months or had done so, I must give up my certificat or be liable to a prosecution, I understood he was to have a large bounty for Every one he could find out and convict of fraudulently drawing money by forgery or false swearing from goverment my answer was I had done neither and I followed him eighteen miles and gave him my certificate and never got a dollar the spring following I was summoned to the district court for western virginia where my declaration was brought from the war office by the agent, and the above mentioned David W Sleith and his partner a justice of the peace had anexed a certificate to it certifying I had sworn to six months service, on oath I denied the seeing or knowing any thing about it and that it was done without my consent or knowledge they were found guilty of [sic: indicted for] some kind of forgery, by the grand jury, were let to bail till the next Court for the district, and were clared on trial not being found guilty of such forgery as tended to draw money by fraud from goverment for my having performed service in the wars of 81 and stayed in the army as long as required of me for two towers, gave me a claim they the jury and others thought I ought to have a small pension. now sir for proof of what I have scrawled over, you will find my certificate on file perhaps, and recorded in Book E page not recolected and my claim extingquisht. dear sir please to send me a few lines Direct them to Maysville greenbrier virginia, and oblige  
NB I am rising eighty years of [one or two undeciphered words]

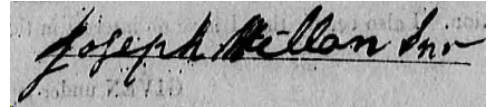
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph M. Millan". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

BOUNTY LAND CLAIM

STATE OF Virginia } SS:  
COUNTY OF Greenbrier }

On this 31 day of March, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me, Andrew Maloy[?] a justice of the peace within and for the county and State aforesaid, Joseph McMillion Sen'r., aged 90 years, a resident of the county of Greenbrier in the State of Virginia, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Joseph McMillion who was a private Soldier in the company commanded by Captain Turner Moorhead in the second regiment of Militia commanded by Col. Armested Curchhill in the war with England in the Revolution; that he was Drafted at in Fauquire Cty Va on or about the 20 day of Feb 1781 for the term of Three Months and continued in actual service in said war, for the term of Two Months and was honorably discharged at Richmond Va on or about the Eighth day of May A.D. 1781, as will appear by the muster-rolls of said company. I never received any writen discharge He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land, granted by the act passed March 3d, 1855, and he hereby declares that he has not applied for, or received, and he believes he is not entitled to Bounty Land except as above stated.

Signature of claimant



I also state that I was Drafted about the last of August 1781 for Three Months at Fauquire Cty Va and continued in Actual Service for the Term of Two Months under Capt James Sharp Cornel Elias Edmons and was Discharged at Winchester on or About the 15th of Novembe 1781



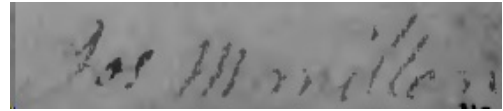
[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Greenbrier County. Most of the first page is too faded for transcription.]

Greenbrier County December the 28<sup>th</sup> 1847

the humble petition of Joseph Mcmillan to the Legislature of Virginia now assembled at the Capital in Richmon prayeth that your Honourable body the Senate and house of Representatives that in consideration of [three or four undeciphered words] in the Revolutionary War for which [three or four undeciphered words] that you would be pleased to consider my case[?] and if it should appear reasonable you would confer a [most of page undeciphered] to Richmond Camp at a rope walk at the lower end of the town some days then on shoco hill was there when General Lafaett came saw manchester burnd with warehouses and other buildings was discharged on a thursday on Shoco hill got to frederecksburg the second saturday in may [12 May 1781] got home the most of us monday and tuesday following which tour perhaps lacked 7 or 8 days of Three months

I was draughted again in the latter part of sumer but taking no thought about the time I do not recolect the week nor day but from the statement I could possebly give was about time of Fauquire August Court I wrote a letter to my fater from the camp below Williamsburgh the month of September where camp some time before General George Washington came from the north I was in Captain James Winn Company Colonel Elias Edmonds Ridgement General Stevens Brigade but was at york transfered to a Captain Sharps company from Culpepper an serv'd at the tour under him was at the seige of york done my Duty in different places and never lost a day by sickness or any other caus saw the British stack their arms and was on guard of the prisoners on their march to Winches wading deep waters for prisoners had to wade Rappahanock, Shehadoah [sic: Rappahannock and Shenandoah rivers] beside many smaller

streams as well as guard I was discharged at the Barracks back of Winchester some Days after we got there and went home some between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20 of November  
I am broke down with hardships




Jany 4<sup>th</sup> 1848 ref'd to Claims


1848 March 14<sup>th</sup> Chairman ask to be discharged from further consideration of this petition.

Dear Sir I intened going to see you or sending some person with my letter before you left home but my situation was and is yet so that I cannot get about and had to let it alone. I have now wrote down the account or amount of my services I cannot at this get to a justice to prove them for yo perhaps remember I was sworn to my services not less than 3 or 4 times in court and my mothers and Brothers affidavit is on record now in the Clerks office at Lewisburgh [sic: Lewisburg], now my Dear Sir if any proof more of my service should be wanted besid your knowledge of the circumstances that took place in court their testimony officially taken may get, I think it not worth while at present to get them, perhaps my Claim may Claim if I may use it one may not be noticed If so you let it fall to the ground, although I suffred for my bing so young and from my weakness I am to put up with any thing or nothing as may happen, Some people pensions because some of their father's & service I am aware of much money paid to soldiers of the Revolution I am perhaps the last person that may apply for any thing for the service done in that war, and nothin but a reverse of fortune is the cause of any pition for aid I am in my 84 year far brke down with age and affliction I want you to give my best complement to Mr Hiram Hill for he saw me in tribulation at Gauley Bridge in the year 1830 with my thigh badly broke in two places and much cripled other way perhaps Mr Hill may se cause to assist you in some for I think him a good man for since Mr Hill saw me I have not been able to work for 2 years I was on my Crutches not able to attend to any thing I never had a Servant of any kind, and my son that was my support has been in straitened circumstances and has a family [several undeciphered words] shall leave the matter with you Sir if you can make out my scribling or [undeciphered word] it better from what I have wrote so as you may think or if you think the [undeciphered word] will throw it aside I must say that it has ever been opinion that every man that was at york [several undeciphered words at end]



NOTE: McMillan's warrant for 160 acres of bounty land is shown below because they are seldom found. It was returned on 22 Oct 1856 by Jane McMillian, 82, who applied for her own bounty land, stating that as Jane Hanna she was married to Joseph McMillian by Salathiel Weeks, a Methodist minister, on 22 July 1791, and that her husband had died 9 July 1855. Her application was witnessed by Susannah Hanna and James A Watts before Andrew Mcmillion, a Justice of the Peace.


  
 Bounty Land



  
 Department of the Interior

**OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS**

*It is hereby certified that under the Act of March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855, entitled, "An Act in relation to certain Acts granting bounty land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States."*

*of said Act, the said*

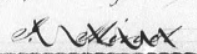
*has been granted*



*is entitled to locate ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES, at any Land Office of the United States, in accordance and in conformity to the legal provisions of the public laws upon any of the public lands subject to sale at the minimum or lower graduated prices.*

*Given under my hand and the Seal of the Department, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1856*

*No 26772*


 Commissioner

*Note. You can locate this Certificate at any of the United States Land Offices, or it will be located for you by the nearest Land Office on the return of it with your request to that effect enclosed therein, specifying the State and Land District in which you wish the location made. If you locate it, fill up and sign the following application.*

To the Register of the Land Office } Locate this Certificate, in the \_\_\_\_\_ quarter of section  
 at \_\_\_\_\_ in Township \_\_\_\_\_ of Range \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Must \_\_\_\_\_ Register.