

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Justinian Jefferson S30508
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

MD

State of Kentucky } SS.
County of Mason }

On this 7th day of June 1842, personally appeared before me John McCarthy a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Mason & Commonwealth of Kentucky, Justinian Jefferson a resident of the Count of Mason & State of Kentucky, aged eighty four years on the 2^d day of September next, 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 7th 1832.

That he volunteered as a private in the Maryland militia in the spring of 1781 as well as he now recollects, in Montgomery Maryland. At the time he volunteered he belonged to a militia company commanded by Capt. George Walter. This militia company was required to furnish four men & for this purpose the company was laid off into classes, and he as they then expressed it "cleared one of the classes" The first officers under whom he was placed was named Campbell (an Irishman) but he does not now recollect the rank he held. From Mountgomery County where he volunteered or enlisted he marched under Campbell to Georgetown in Maryland where he remained some time under the command of Campbell & from Georgetown he was marched to Annapolis & after remaining there some time was marched back again to Georgetown where Captain William Moredock or Murdock [William Murdock] took command of the Company to which he belonged. He cannot recollect the name of any of his field officers at this period, but he recollects that his orderly Sergeant was named Applegate. Whilst in the company of Captain Moredock he recollects that Hezekiah Murphy [pension application W5395] and a man by the name of Hickman belonged to his mess and he cannot recollect the names of the others so as to state them with accuracy. From Georgetown he was marched down to the seige of York where he arrived on the evening the battle commenced. This was in the fall of 1781. He was at the seige of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and recollects well to have seen Gen'l. Washington, Lafayette De Grasse & [blank] there, and was present at the time Cornwallis surrendered his sword to Gen'l Washington. He recollects well how they gained ground on the British by digging entrenchments in the night time nearer and nearer to where the British were. He recollects also that the French ships blocked up the river below and as he understood to keep out the British ships. As well as he recollects he was discharged from the militia after the seige of York having marched back as he thinks to Georgetown. From Georgetown he went home and was there taken sick, but he cannot remember where his discharge was given him or who it was signed by, as he could not read. Before he went home but at what point he cannot now recollect but he thinks just after the seige of York he had enlisted for three years in what he understood to be Gen'l. Washingtons life guard. He recollects that Hezekiah Murphy enlisted with him and he think they enlisted under a Col. Coleman. He had a furlough to go home given him and after he arrived at home he was taken sick and the time given him by his furlough being nearly out he applied to a magistrate & had it extended on account of his not being able to travel. So soon as he was able to travel he went to the Head of Elk [now Elkton MD] where he found the troops. He was however still sick & unable to do much service. From the head of Elk he was sent to Frederick Town Maryland he still being sick. He was finally discharged but where or who gave him his discharge he cannot recollect. His last discharge was a conditional one, and he was to be ready again at a minutes notice. He cannot remember how long he served in the militia, or how long in the regular army, but he knows that he got home in the summer of 1782 and was never called on afterwards. He recollects that at the time he enlisted a quarrel took place between Capt Moredock & Col. Coleman The captain did not like to give up his men and Coleman said he would have them and this was the cause of the quarrel. He recollects of having seen Gen'l. [William] Smallwood but recollects nothing else of him. He never received any thing for his services except \$8 in Continental paper which was paid to him by a man by the name of Hickman. The 8 Dollars he got was worth about \$4. He has lost both of his

discharges long ago, and he knows of no one living at this time by whom he can prove his services – though he is informed that his name together with Murphys are on the list of Discharged Soldiers of the Maryland Militia at Annapolis Maryland. He has a record of his age & was born in 1758 in Maryland where he lived for 35 or 36 years – he then removed to Mason County Kentucky where he now resides. He states that he is now so old that his memory has failed him and that he cannot recollect names & circumstances as well as he could a few years ago. He applied for a pension about the year 1820 he thinks, but it was refused him, because they said he had too much property to have a pension. When they refused him his pension he then declared that he never would apply again. But he is now so old, and his wife who is yet living is also old and infirm, that he thinks he ought to apply again and that his circumstances require that assistance which the bounty of his country has provided for the soldiers of the Revolution. He states that he has no documentary evidence in his possession showing his services or the time he went into the army or the time he was discharged. He believes that he volunteered or enlisted in the Maryland Militia in the spring of 1781 that he served therein until after the seige of York a period of five months when he enlisted as herein before stated in what was called as he understood it at the time Washingtons life Guard and in which he served until the summer of 1782 a period he believes of seven months when he was discharged and returned home.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state.

Justinian hisXmark Jefferson

Land Office, Annapolis, 9th May, 1842.

I hereby Certify, That by “A List of discharged Soldiers of the two Battalions of Militia raised to serve nine months in the Continental Army in the year 1781” and remaining in this office, That the name of Jestinian Jefferson, appears upon said List to have been discharged on the 3rd of December, 1781, and received the sum of £10.16.8.

George G. Brewer/ Reg’r Land Off. W. S. Md.

Mr Jeremiah Cracraft – Sir the information Desired in this Request is to find the name of Jesse or Jestinia Jefferson on the War Register of the Revolution of the united states he was of the Maryland Line was marched to the Seige of York under the Command of Capt’n Wm Moredack or Modack and while at York the said Jefferson Enlisted under Colonel Coleman and was marched from York to the Eutaw Springs [see endnote] and was there discharged the said Jefferson says that the name of Zedock[?] or Zedekiah Murphy is recorded either before or after his name the Both Enlisted at the same time

Yours Respectfully/ Perry Jefferson

NOTES:

On 28 May 1842 John Jackson, 77, of Brown County OH, stated that Justinian Jefferson was raised by Jackson’s father from the time he was a small child.

On 13 June 1842 Perry Jefferson corrected his statement that Justinian Jefferson marched from Yorktown to Eutaw Springs SC to say that the march was to Head of Elk..