

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John McDonald S38932

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee

First Judicial Circuit of the said state. This thirteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen personally appeared before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of law and of Equity for the said state the same being a court of record –

John McDonnald of Jefferson County in said state aged about sixty six years who being by me first duly sworn deposeth and saith that at Hillsbrough [sic: Hillsborough] in the State of North Carolina he was inlisted under Captain Archibald Little of the Maryland line [sic: see endnote] who administered to him the necessary oaths – that he was inlisted and and sworn in for three years that this was in the year 1777 – to serve in the Army of the United States Maryland line that he did served under Captain Little for three years in the 14th Regiment Commanded by Colonel Smallwood [see endnote]. That he was at the taking of Burgoine at Seratoga [sic: Burgoyne at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777] – at which last place he received a wound in the front of his leg. That he served his s'd time with fidelity and was honorably discharged by Col Smalwood at Charlston [sic: Charleston SC or possibly Charlestown MD]; before his discharge he was in the Battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776] and Brandywine [11 Sep 1777; see endnote]

After the above service he was inlisted for 18 months under Captain Crook in the same line (Maryland) in Charleston [see endnote] who swore him in the service of the United States for the above term and performed his service under the same Col Smalwood and was in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] – during the last period he was a drummer

The last period closed the American War [sic: see endnote] When he was discharged – both which discharges he has had the misfortune to have burned with his house and household property not long after he rec'd them. That he has no other Evidence but his above declaration to prove his services unless the Rolls kept by his Col be preserved

That he is old infirm and in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Government for a support

That he never has been a pentioner and hereby releases all claim to a pention except under the provisions of the late act of Congress which provides for persons ingaged in the searice of the United States in the Revolutionary War as Soldiers.

John his mark McDonnald

State of Tennessee }

Jefferson County } SS

On this twelfth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty personally appeared in open court being a court of record and so constituted by the law of the State of Tennessee having the power to fine and imprison, Towit before the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for Jefferson County aforesaid John McDonald aged about sixty nine years resident in the State and County aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows. That he enlisted in Hillsborough, under Captain Little, fourteenth Regiment Maryland line. then served three years, under Washington, from about the year 1779 up to 1782 after the battle of the Eutaw springs was then discharged by General Smallwood, having been in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] – Brandywine – Eutaw, and some smaller engagements, at the Eutaw was wounded – believes he served at the Eutaw during an eighteen months tour under an enlistment under Captain Crook, discharged again by Smallwood from this last enlistment – part of three years lay at Vally forge [sic: Valley Forge, winter 1777-78]. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the

land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule

One bay horse or pony worth. . .	\$50.00
One cow worth worth.	10.00
One old loom worth about.	<u>8.00</u>
	\$68.00

John hisXmark McDonnald

That he is by occupation a weaver, but by reason of age and bodyly infirmity illy able to pursue it. That he has no wife, and lives with a son who has a wife and child to provide for by his own manuel labour This declarant further states that he has before made application for a pension under the act of Congress and is informed by letter from the war department, that the same under former regulations has been allowed him but his certificate has never been received; where it is he knows not. That he refers to his former declaration for greater certainty as to his services

John hisXmark McDonald

NOTES:

There does not appear to have been an officer named Archibald Little (or Lytle) in the Maryland Continental Army. An Archibald Lytle was Captain of Hillsborough District NC Minutemen until 26 Jan 1777, when he was promoted to Lt. Col. in the North Carolina Continental Army. In either capacity, Lytle could not have enlisted a soldier into the Maryland Line. Maryland troops arrived in the Carolinas for the first time late in the spring of 1780 and were at Hillsborough NC in the summer of 1780.

William Smallwood was a Colonel in the Maryland Line from 14 Jan 1776 until 23 Oct 1776, when he was promoted to Brigadier General. There was no 14th Regiment of the Maryland Line.

Note that the Battle of Trenton occurred before McDonald’s stated time of enlistment, and he could not have been at both the Battle of Brandywine and the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

Maryland troops were not in Charleston SC until after it was surrendered by the British on 14 Dec 1782. I found no record of a Capt. Crook in the Maryland Line.

Although the Revolutionary War is often considered to have ended with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781, the formal conclusion did not come until November 1783.