

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Montgomery S8901

MD Sea Service VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Maryland Frederick County, Sct.

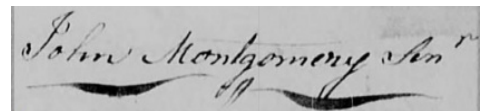
On this sixth day of February eighteen hundred and thirty four personally appeared before the County Court of the County aforesaid, John Montgomery a resident of the 9th election district of said County, aged seventy three years, and being first duly sworn according law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 7th 1832. To Wit: That he entered in to the service of the United States on board the Ship Defence in the latter part of April 1777, and continued in said service till February 1778. The officers of said Ship were Captain George Cook, Commander, 1st Lieutenant Ross, 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant Rogers, sailing master Samuel Walker, that Montgomery himself rated as a midshipman, but never received a warrant or commission. The ships defence during the time that he was on board of her was never at sea but remained moored at the chain which was drawn across the Patapsco, below Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay being entirely blockaded by the British fleet, the said Montgomery continued on board the defence from April til December, when his commander Captain George Cook, being appointed to take charge of the Flotilla of Row Gallies, desiged to protect the coast against the depredations of the enemy, he accompanied him on board said Flotilla and served therein till some time in the month of January 1778 when he obtained a furlough and returned home for a short time, in February '78 he came to Annapolis, on his way to Baltimore with a view to go again on board the defence, where he supposed she was, but found her at Annapolis laid up as unfit for service, and all the hands discharged except a few retained for the purpose of keeping the Ships, the said Montgomery also declares that he went on board for a few days and then recieved a discharge from the Ships Clerk which however is lost.

He the said Montgomery on his oath doth further declare that he again entered into the service of the United States as a Militiaman in September 1781 and served in a regiment commanded by Col. Joseph Lane of Westmoreland County Virginia, he marched as a serjeant in the company of capt. Thomas Edwards the 1st Lieutenant was George Garner, he entered the service as a substitute for David Wardrop, he marched to York Town, and during the siege of that place [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] served in a detachment, commanded by General [George] Weedon, stationed at Gloucester Point for the purpose of guarding the ferry, he recollects no regular American officers who were with them, but there was a body of French troops stationed near, about which this declarant is able to say nothing, he continued in the service for about two months when the Regiment was disbanded by a verbal order, so that he did not receive a discharged In consequence of which and the loss of his aforementioned discharge he has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person now living who would be able to testify thereto of their own knowledge, but he is well known to the following gentlemen and refers to them for his character as to veracity, and the general belief of his services as a revolutionary soldier, VS, Major Benjamin Murdock Messrs Elisha Bell, Plummer Ijams, Nathan Hammond of Orman, and Dr. Belt Brashear all residents of Frederick County Maryland.

The declarant further says upon his oath, that he was born in Calvert County Maryland in 1760, as appears by a record of his birth now in his possession contained in his family Bible, transcribed from the family record kept by his Father. He was raised in Westmoreland County Virginia where he lived when he entered the United States service in both instances herein specified, since the year 1782 he has lived in Maryland, and for forty years has been and now is, a resident in Frederick County in said State.

He the said Montgomery 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Montgomery Sen^r". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Land Office, Annapolis, March 18th 1834.

Sir [James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner], Your's of the 24th ultimo, with the declaration of John Montgomery enclosed was received; I have carefully examined the papers in this case; it appears by the accounts in this office, of Seamans Wages of "Ship Defence;" Captain George Cook, (Commander,) that John Montgomery received £3.7.6 per month as Skipp'r Tender commencing June the 7th 1777 to the 31st of December 1777; it also appears by a List of bounties paid by Ship Defence; to August 15th 1777; that he also received £7.10 bounty; the declaration is herewith returned

I am very respectfully; Y'r. Ob't. S't/ G. G. Brewer

NOTE: Montgomery received a pension of \$76.66 per year for serving for 1 year and 8 months as Midshipman and for 2 months as a Sergeant. On 28 June 1853 John Montgomery and James Montgomery, both of Urbana in Frederick County MD, applied for an increase in the pension of their father, who died on 2 March 1846. They claimed a larger pension for his service as a "Skipper." Their claim was denied because the rank of Skipper was not recognized during the Revolutionary War. They stated that another child, Isabella Brian, had died after their father.