

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph McMahan (McMahon) W23941 Mary McMahan¹ f71VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/9/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 8]

The State of Ohio Adams County Court of Common Pleas

On this 19th day of March A.D. 1828 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record, having been made a Court of record by the laws of this state By proceeding according to the course of Common Law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount – By keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine & imprisonment for the County aforesaid Joseph McMahan aged sixty-seven years in May next a resident of the County aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the 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 the 18th day of March 1818 and the act of Congress of the 1st of May 1820. That the said Joseph McMahan enlisted "for three years or during the war" (was the terms) in Pittsburgh in the latter part of the spring or beginning of the Summer of 1777 in the company commanded by Captain George Rice of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Heth [William Heth] in the Virginia line on Continental establishment in the revolutionary war; that he first joined the regular Army of the United States at the Cross roads about 20 or 21 miles from Philadelphia about the 21st day of August 1777 that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the service of the United States until the month of October 1781 when he was taken from the high Hills of Santee in South Carolina by Major Waggoner a Major of the (then) Army of the United States, to Winchester in Virginia; that Major Waggoner then & there sent him at liberty & told him to go home, without giving him a discharge nor did he know it was necessary for him to have one and therefore did not apply to the Major for one for had he applied he believes that Major Waggoner would have given him a discharge – That he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support – That his reason for not making an earlier application for a pension is that he was unwilling to do it while he was able to support himself & family by labor but being now so old & infirm that he is not able to support himself and family any longer, I labor & having no other means he is reduced to the necessity of making this application – That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any State; that he has no other evidence now in his power, of his said service except the depositions which he has procured to be forwarded; that he is by occupation a farmer but so old & infirm that he is not able to labor, he being much afflicted with a disease commonly called the Consumption or decay; that his family consist of himself & Mary his wife (she being old & infirm & not able to labor) and 4 children to wit Abner about 19 years of age, Phebe about 15

¹ BLWt38530-160-55

years of age who is afflicted with fits – Greg about 12 years of age who is troubled with a complaint which in all probability will prevent him from laboring as long as he lives and Oliver about 8 years of age – neither of whom except the eldest can contribute anything worth mentioning towards their support.

As the present is the first regular application he ever made to the Government of the United States for a pension, no schedule of his property was taken in the year 1818 that he has more property at present than he had in that year – the Mare mentioned in his schedule of property was procured by him since that time – And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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

S/ Joseph McMahan

Schedule of Joseph McMahan's property to wit

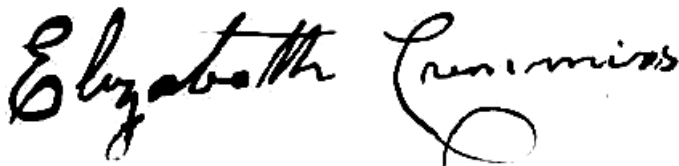
one Mare	\$30.00
five Sheep	6.25
one Cow and 3 calves	13.00
Eight Hogs	<u>8.00</u>
	\$57.25

S/ Joseph McMahan

Sworn to and declared on the 19th day of March 1828 in open Court

S/ Joseph Darlington, Clerk

[p 43: On April 18, 1826 in Jefferson County Ohio, Mrs. Elizabeth Cummins gave testimony that she is the sister of Joseph McMahan; that she knows he entered the service in 1777 under Captain George Rice in the 11th Regiment commanded by Colonel Heath; that she went with her brother "who still continued in the Army, to Charleston in South Carolina in the spring of the year 1779 but the said Joseph was detained within about 6 miles of said City, & he was prevented by the enemy from entering that city – This Deponent believes that the said Joseph McMahan was in the battle at the Eutaw Springs [September 9, 1781] & after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, the said McMahan left the Army of the United States."



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[Facts in file: Phebe (Febee) McMahan married Jonathan Davis; that the veteran and his wife were married by Adamson Toneyhill, JP, in Pittsburgh, PA in March 1792.]

[p 40]

The Deposition of William Smith of the age of sixty-seven years taken before the subscriber a

Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Adams and State of Ohio the said William Smith being first duly sworn deposed and saith that he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War in the year 1777 when he the said Smith was but a boy, that he continued in the Revolutionary War until the conclusion of the War. That during the time he was in the Army aforesaid he was well acquainted with Joseph McMahan who now applies for a pension from the United States. That the said McMahan served in the Army of the Revolutionary War in Company with this deponent for several years – the said McMahan served in Captain George Rice Company in the 11th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Heth. That this deponent was acquainted with and in company with the said McMahan in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War both in the State of Pennsylvania and in the State of South Carolina at which time the said McMahan was an enlisted Soldier in the service of the United States. That this deponent and the said McMahan separated from each other at the high Hills of Santee in the State of South Carolina while they were both in the service of the United States and further this deponent saith not.

S/ William Smith, X his mark

[p 6: On January 23, 1850, in Albany, Whiteside County Illinois, Mary McMahan, 79, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph McMahan, a revolutionary war pensioner for his service as a musician and first a Fifer & last a drummer; "this deponent further declares that her said husband, Joseph McMahan, left this Town in the Spring of A.D. 1838, and went to Cincinnati Ohio and did then and there draw his yearly Pension and soon after took Passage for home on the Steam Boat *Mozelle* and was blown up and killed in said Explosion, and all his papers and effects were lost". She does not state in this application when she married the veteran. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12: On July 13, 1855 in Whiteside County Illinois, the widow, 88, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Joseph McMahan. Again in this application she does not state when she married the veteran and she signed this application with her mark.]

[p 15: what appears to be a family register with entries as follows:

John McMahan was born April the 22, 1793

Elizabeth McMahan was born December the 30th 1795

James McMahan was born January the 15th 1798

Benjamin McMahan was born November the 20 1799

Joseph Mahan [sic] was born May the 22 1802 and died December the 16 1814

Robert McMahan was born August the 5 1804

Sarah McMahan was [born] May the 1 1807 and died April the 12th 1835

Abner McMahan was born June the 2 1809 and died February the 20 1832

Mary McMahan was born August 22 1811 and died September the 4 1823

Phebe McMahan was born February the 11 1814

Greg McMahan was born May the 2 1816

Oliver McMahan was born August the 14 1818

I do Certify that the above is a true and perfect copy of the record in the Family Bible of Joseph and Mary McMahan

S/ Oliver McMahan

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Oliver M. Mahan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[Attested September 15, 1851]

[p 18: On August 16, 1852 in Whiteside County Illinois, John McMahan son of Joseph and Mary McMahan gave an affidavit stating that he was 59 years of age on April 22 last.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 7, 1828, for service as a private for 3 years in the Virginia Continental service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]