

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Philip Slaughter W29886 Ann Mercer Slaughter (daughter) VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 June 2021.

[The first document is in the file of George Catlett, pension application W2524.]
20th Congress./ 1st Session [Rep. No 146.] Ho. of Reprs.

Philip Slaughter/ February 15, 1828.

Mr. Wolfe, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which had been referred the petition of Philip Slaughter, make the following Report:

The committee on Revolutionary claims who were instructed by the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th December last, to inquire into the propriety of remunerating Captain Philip Slaughter for his services in the Continental army, during the war of the Revolution, have duly considered the subject referred to them, and report:

That, from the facts submitted to the Committee, it appears, that, in the month of June or July 1776, the claimant was appointed a Lieutenant in Captain Long's [Gabriel Long S9166] company, in the 11th Virginia regiment, on Continental establishment, commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan; that he was afterward appointed a Captain in the same regiment; that he faithfully served through the northern campaigns of 1777, 1778 & 1779; that, in the two latter years he acted both as Captain and paymaster; and in the year 1779, he performed the additional duty of regimental clothier; that, soon after the campaign of 1779, he returned to his home in Virginia, on furlough, got married, remained at his residence in Virginia, and did not afterwards join the army; that, in the month of November or December, 1779, a portion of the officers of the Virginia line were ordered to the South; Captain Slaughter deeming it inconvenient to him, circumstanced as he then was, to perform a Southern campaign, and supposing it likely that he would receive orders to join the Southern army, authorized his friend, the present Chief Justice Marshall [John Marshall S5731], who was an Officer in the same regiment, to resign his commission for him in case he (Slaughter) should receive such orders. Judge Marshall, however, says, the impression on his mind is very strong, that he did not give in Slaughter's resignation, and that impression is strengthened, he says, by the fact, that Captain Slaughter was not ordered to the South, the order being confined to the elder officers.

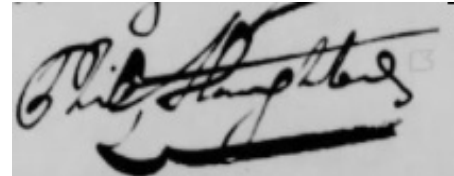
It appears by statements from the Pension and Bounty Land Offices, that Captain Slaughter, on the first of April, 1783, received a certificate for £563.15S.2d the balance of his full pay as Captain and paymaster, agreeably to an act of the Virginia Assembly, passed in November, 1781. And that he also received four thousand acres of land from the State of Virginia. He now asks his commutation of five years full pay, in lieu of half pay for life.

Your committee are of opinion, that Captain Slaughter did, virtually, continue in the service of the United States until the end of the Revolutionary War; that he was meretorious officer, and, from the character given him by highly respectable witnesses, entitled to receive from the Government all the emoluments to which officers of his grade were, under the resolves of Congress, entitled. They, therefore, report a bill in his favor.

State of Virginia – Culpeper County

I Philip Slaughter aged seventy one years the 21st day of December last past do upon Oath Testify & Declare that in the year seventeen hundred & seventy six that I was appointed Second Lieutenant by the Committee of Safety of the aforesaid County, in Captain Gabriel Long's Company in the Service of the United States – which company was order'd to Join the Eleventh Virginia Continental Regiment Commanded by Colo Daniel Morgan of Virginia – that in the year seventeen hundred seventy nine I Received a Captain's Commission to Rank as such from the first day of November Seventeen hundred & Seventy Eight – which Commission is now in my possession – the Eleventh Reg't having been reduced to the Seventh Va Continental Regiment. And that I Continue'd in active service untill the Winter 1779 – Eighty when the Virginia Troops were order'd to the South. I Return'd home as a supernumary officer,

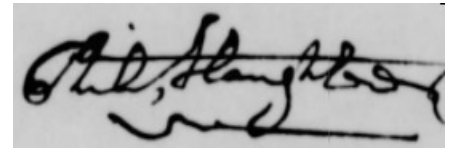
there not being a sufficient number of soldiers to furnish a command for all the officers & I do further Declare that I have never assigned nor other ways transfer'd my claim to the bounty land promised me by the United States – given under my hand this 13th day of July Eighteen hundred & thirty
Phil. Slaughter



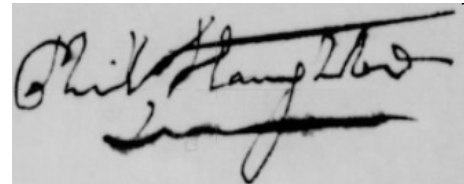
District of Columbia }
Washington County } S.S.

I Philip Slaughter do hereby declare and make Oath, that, I served as Pay Master and Regimental Clothier, in the War of the Revolution. That I am advised that, the Act of June 7th 1832, gives me the pay appertaining to the Staff appointments which I held, in addition to the pay, which I now receive under the Act of Congress passed in 1828. That I hereby relinquish all claim to any other Pension, except the one given me in the certificate which I hold, and now herewith return; and for which I expect to receive another certificate, which will entitle me to additional pay

Given under my hand and seal this 3^d day of December 1842.



Washington Dec. 5 1842. Received from the Pension Office certificates signed by Ro. Porterfield [Robert Porterfield S8965] and J. Marshall relative to my services as Paymaster during the Revolutionary War



JANUARY 10, 1893 [part illegible]
Mr. BLODGETT, from the Committee on Pensions submitted the following/ REPORT
To accompany H. R. [illegible]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9433) granting an increase of pension to Miss Ann Mercer Slaughter, have examined the same and report:

This bill was passed by the House on the report of the Committee on Pensions, which is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9433) granting a pension to Ann Mercer Slaughter, beg leave to report:

Miss Slaughter is the daughter of Capt. Philip Slaughter, who commanded the Culpeper Minute Men, and was the first officer in the Colony of Virginia to respond to the call of the Virginia patriots in the Williamsburg assembly for troops against Great Britain. His company marched into the town flying the famous flag with a coiled rattlesnake painted upon its fold and carrying the significant motto, "Don't tread on me." Ann Mercer Slaughter is the daughter of this Revolutionary hero and patriot. she is now in poverty, helpless, and wholly blind, and is in the eighty-third year of her age.

Your committee earnestly recommend the passage of the bill.

The great age and poverty of the beneficiary, in the opinion of the committee affords ample justification for the passage of this bill, which is reported favorably, and that the bill be recommended to pass.

Dear Sir

Culpeper C. H. June 16th 1830.

An act of Congress passed in May 1828 recognizing Capt P. Slaughter of Culpeper as one of those officers who had served to the close of the war, a proviso excluding him from the benefits of the general act of May 1828 which gave pay from March 3rd 1826 was put into the act for his relief of May 1828. This proviso was repealed by an act of the last session. Capt S. was actually in service in 1775 he was commissioned in the Continental line in July 1776 promoted in 1778 declared by Congress, that is in the report accompanying the act to have "continued virtually in service" to the end of the war. That is Nov'r 1783. The act of assembly of October 1780 (I think) gave for each year over six years, $\frac{1}{6}$ th part of Land bounty in addition. From July '76 to July 82 is 6 years to July 1783 is one year over & from that time to November is $\frac{1}{3}$ of a year But the practical construction given this act I was told at Washington had been in all cases where the service had been for a part of the second year to allow land bounty for the whole of that year. I have no doubt the same prevails with the State Executive. With this decision of Congress in his favour Capt Slaughter believes that he is entitled to 1333 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres more of land & that he may obtain a warrant for it transmits the enclosed petition. If any thing further be necessary may I ask to be informed of it? Had Capt Slaughter continued in his former affluence he w'd probably, never have asked this debt to be paid. His fortunes have suffered a reverse that seriously affects him.

With best wishes I beg you accept my friendly Respectful Salutations [signed] J. S. Barbour

1830 June 25 It appears that claimant resigned in 1781 Claim rejected

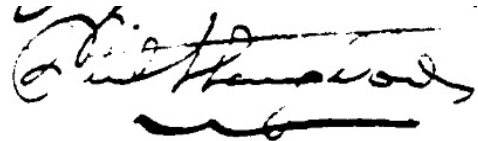
[undeciphered] July 1830

Dear Sir [Honorable John H. Smith] Your favor of the 2nd[?] Ult'o arrived and in due [illegible] informs me that the Executive has rejected my application for a warrant for additional bounty land &c So far as I can see the [undeciphered] I requested him to send to [undeciphered] by the revolutionary Committee of Congress gave all the [undeciphered] evidence laid before that Committee, on my application for five years full pay or half pay for Life – the papers have all come to hand, & I now inclose them to you, together with the following [several undeciphered words]

In very early 1775 then a Schoolboy not 17 years old, I left School & Inlisted in Capt John Jameson [R15404] Company of Minute Men. That fall the Minute Men were call'd for by Colo Patrick Henry, who was [undeciphered word] in Williamsburg; we immediately march'd to Williamsburg, (where for want of guns) about one half of the Minute Men from Culpeper, Orange & Fauquier, were order'd home – the other half remain'd, & were at the Battle of the Great Bridge [9 Dec 1775], & in the [undeciphered] of Norfolk [burning of Norfolk, 1 Jan 1776?]. My Father remain'd, & Insisted on my returning home, & going to School. I did so. But the [undeciphered] 1776 I left School a second time, & Inlisted in Capt Jameson's troop of Cavalry, & in July 1776 I was appointed a second Lieutenant in capt Gab'l Longs Company, by the Committee of Safety of Culpeper County – which Company was first intended to join a rifle Regiment to be commanded by Colo Hugh Stephenson of Va. & Lt Col Rawlings [Moses Rawlings VAS683], & Major Otho Williams of Maryland – Va to furnish 5 companies, and Maryland 3 companies. We marched to the North in the fall 1776 – a part of the regiment, under Lt Colo Rawlings was captured at Fort Washington [16 Nov 1776] after which, the companies raised in Maryland were attached to the troops of that State & the companies raised in Va, were order'd to join the Eleventh Virginia Continental Regiment commanded by Colo Daniel Morgan in Col Weedons [George Weedon BLWt2418-850] Brigade. I [undeciphered word] with the Main Army under Gen'l Washington in Pennsylvania New Jersey & New York until 25 day of December 1779 when the Va troops were under marching orders for South Carolina & did march that Winter. The Regiments having been reduced for want of men (the 11 Va then was attached to the 7th Va Reg & afterward called the 7th Va Continental Reg) There were a number of supernumary officers, who return'd to Va. for want of command. I was one of them. I am supported by the Testimony of Chief Justice Marshall & General Robert Porterfield, in saying that I not only performed the duties of an officer in the line but that I actually perform'd the complicated Duties of Captain, of Paymaster, & Regimental Clothier, to the entire satisfaction of all the officers & men of the Regiment – &

Genl Porterfield who was my Mess Mate certifies that when I accepted of the appointment of Pay Master & Reg Clothier that I expressly stipulated, that my staff duties shou'd always give way to my Regimental duties, & that I shou'd at all times, when a Battle was expected, command my company, & that I did so, at Brandy Wine – German Town [Brandywine 11 Sep 1777, Germantown 4 Oct 1777] &c &c never shielding myself [undeciphered word] of having money cloathing or any thing else – which my staff appointment woud have qualified – on the 25 of December 1779 I left Trenton in New Jersey, for Va as a supernumerary officer – in the year 1780 I was married & in the last of the year 1780 [undeciphered] in 1781 Capt Marshall (now Chief Justice) inform'd me that it was probable that a part of the supernumerary officers wou'd be ordered to the South. I inform'd him that I was just fixing myself to go to housekeeping, & that if I was order'd to the South I shou'd be compelled to resign, & did authorise him, in that event, to notify my wish to the commanding officer. See his explanation on that subject) when he voluntarily went before the Revolutionary Committee to give [several undeciphered words] as stated in their report to Congress. Some time 1781 or 1782 for after a lapse of half a century It is impossible for me to remember dates; my wife became very unhappy, [undeciphered] that I shou'd send my commission to Congress & at her earnest request I enclosed it to General Peter Mughlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] with whom I was well acquainted, & inform'd him the same. He kept my commission about 3 or 4 months, without [undeciphered] me any thing about it and I then thought that I had resign'd. & so express'd myself to my friends But after a considerable lapse of time I received a very friendly letter inclosing my commission back, & saying he did not think of accepting it & that I must not think of resigning after having undergone so many perils & hardships & thereby deprive myself of all the emoluments Congress had promised the Officers. as a proof that Gen'l Mughlenberg return'd my commission, I now inclose it but beg you will take particular care of it for never having parted with it except a few months, while in Genl Mughlenbergs possession I never mean to part with it, as long as I live. I have thus given the most correct account of my service, that I can recollect after a lapse of fifty years. You can shew this letter, & I beg you to shew it & all the inclosed printed testimony & reports to all those gentlemen who was at the board when my petition was presented; as to the warrant for additional bounty land, it is a small object, compared with any suspicions, that might arise with respect to my having resign'd. I do aver, I never did make any offer whatever, to do so except what I have stated, pass'd between me & Captain Marshall (now Chief Justice) & Genl Mughlenberg. I also inclose to you my commission, & Land warrant for bounty land from the United States & beg in any event they may be return'd but shou'd the board think proper to give me a Land Warrant I am willing they may keep [several undeciphered words] and printed testimony & the 2 reports by the [undeciphered] but shou'd they [undeciphered] then send the inclosed to the Hon'ble J S Barbour all my papers of every description including the first petition – as to Major Lewis certificate it must have been written while I & others believed I had resigned but the great length of time about 50 years makes it impossible for me to call to mind at this time further particulars & shall be satisfied with the decision of the Executive Board both for me or against me.

Remember affectionately to your good Lady Yr friend



Mrs[?] Slaughter begs to be affectionately remember to you & your amiable family. P. S.

You will see by the number of certificates I had to obtain & lay before the committee that they were very minute & particular before they reported a bill in my favor P. S.

Dear Sir [Gov. John Floyd] Catalpa July 24th 1830

Capt. Slaughter has this morning called to see me with a letter & other papers prepared for his friend & kinsman Mr Smith of the Executive Council.

My views of this case may be erroneous, but it really seems to me to be a case without any, the slightest, difficulty.

The question is how long was Capt. Slaughter virtually in Continental service. Some evidence apparently contradictory was presented to Congress examined & discussed before that body & there decided. Judge Marshall gave oral testimony before the Committee which is embodied in its report & is fuller than his written certificate. That testimony had its weight with the Committee. The fact of his having rec'd land for three years service only was not the decision at Washington may be thrown in to turn the scale. I write you in great haste & with a superannuated pen, and I beg you accept my best wishes & most respectful Salutations
[signed] J. S. Barbour

1830 July 30. Submitted with Claimant's Commission & add'l evidence. Advice 25 June rescinded and Claimant allowed one year & 6 months add'l Bounty Captain Cont'l Line
Commission returned [undeciphered signature]

NOTE: The bounty-land file also includes printed copies of Congressional bills referred to in the letter dated 16 June 1830. They do not provide additional details.