

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William McKennan: W3104

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Pennsylvania}

Washington County}

On this the twenty fifth day of July eighteen hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before the undersigned an Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Washington aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth McKennan a resident of the borough of Washington in the County Washington aforesaid, aged between seventy seven and seventy eight years, who being first sworn according to law, doth make the following declaration, on her oath, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of William McKennan Esquire, formerly of the State of Delaware, late of the County of Washington Pennsylvania, aforesaid, deceased, who was a Captain in the Delaware Regiment in the Army of the United States.

She further declares that she was married to the said Captain William McKennan in the fourth day of August in the year, as she believes, of seventeen hundred and eighty five; that her husband the aforesaid Captain William McKennan died in the fourteenth day of January eighteen hundred and ten; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz. at the time above stated.

She further declared that she distinctly recollects the month and the day of the month in which her marriage was solemnized, yet, from age and infirmity she cannot positively designate the year, except by a reference to her age at the time of her marriage and the period of the birth of some of her children. The date of her birth is recorded in the old family bible in her possession, and that part of it is preserv[page torn] She was born on the eighteenth day of April seventeen hundred and sixty one, and she recollects distinctly, that at the time of her marriage she was twenty four years and three or four months old. She further states that the old family bible to which she refers contained a record of the date of her marriage, but that from use the leaf in which the entry was made has been torn out and is lost; That she was married by the Rev'd. Thomas Reid D.D. a regular minister of the Presbyterian Church in the State of Delaware, and that so far as she knows, there was no town, county, parish or church record made of her marriage. [signed] Elizabeth McKennan

State of Ohio}

Licking county Sct.}

Before me the subscriber one of the associate Judges of the court of Common pleas in & for said county personally appeared T. M. Thompson, of said county (a native of the state of Delaware) now in the 69th year of his age, nearly complete, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith, that he hath a sister, Elizabeth McKennan, late Elizabeth Thompson, still living, now & for many years relict of Col. William McKennan, late of Washington county in the state of Pennsylvania, deceased - that she was born in New Castle, State of Delaware, on the 18th of April 1761 & was married to Col. William McKennan, in the month of August, in the year 1785, in Redlion Hundred, in the county of New Castle & State of Delaware afs. by the Rev'd. Doctor Reed, a regularly ordained minister of the Presbyterian church. This deponent further saith that he was present at the marriage & hath a distinct recollection of it - he remembers that among others present at the wedding was the father of Col. McKennan then an aged minister of the Presbyterian church. That after the marriage the married couple first resided in the Town of New Castle in Delaware afs'd: - from there they subsequently removed to a farm belonging to deponents father in the vicinity of his resident farm in the county & state afs'd & on the death of this deponent's father, to his late mansion farm, where they continued to reside till the year 1797 when they removed to Charlestown on the Ohio river, in Brooke county in the State of Virginia & finally to Washington, in the county of Washington & state of Pennsylvania where they

continued to reside till the death of the said Col. William McKennan, which happened on the 14th January 1810, leaving behind him six children, at the time of his death. that for several years subsequent to the death of her husband, his widow, the said Elizabeth McKennan, continued to keep house, after which she took up her residence with her son T. M. T. McKennan Esquire, of the town of Washington in Pennsylvania, in whose family she hath since resided & continues now to reside. This deponent further saith that the said Col. William McKennan & Elizabeth McKennan (late Elizabeth Thompson) from the day of their marriage till that of his death continued to live (most happily) together as man & wife & that she hath since continued to be & now remaineth his widow. This deponent further saith that, as he hath always understood & verily believes, the above named Col. William McKennan entered into the service of his country about the commencement of the revolutionary war, as an ensign or lieutenant, & remained in the service till it's close, at which period & for sometime previously he held the commission & rank of captain in the Delaware regiment - that during the revolutionary struggle he was engaged in much active service, having been personally present in many of the hard fought battles amongst others that of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], Monmouth [28 June 1778], Camden [16 Aug 1780, or possibly Battle of Hobkirk's Hill SC, 25 Apr 1781] & at the siege of York Town & capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] - at the battle of Germantown he was severely wounded in the arm which caused him much suffering & expense in after life - the wound having become inflamed & the arm having to be lanced & many pieces of the fractured bone extracted, this deponent well remembers after his marriage when he had to place himself under the care of an eminent Physician in Philadelphia & there remain for several months before a cure was finally effected. Some of the superior officers of the said Col. William McKennan were General [William] Smallwood, Col. [David] Hall, Major John Patten. This deponent further saith that he hath been enable to testify to the facts narrated in the foregoing deposition by reference to the family record transcribed, in his own handwriting, into his own family record from the old family bible of his father - from frequent conversations had, at various times, with the said Col. McKennan, in his life time, & with others conversant with the subject of the revolutionary contest & from this deponent's own personal recollection & knowledge, and this deponent further saith not [signed] T. M. Thompson
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of July A.D. 1838

NOTE: Elizabeth A Morgan, 50, widow of George Morgan Esq. and niece of William and Elizabeth McKennan, deposed that she was adopted by the McKennans.

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of William McKinnan [McKenna] VAS613 [vsl 26VA](#)
& William McKenna W3104 Elizabeth McKenna f24DEL¹
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/5/13

[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.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Petition for bounty land

The heirs of William McKinnan – Captain C. L.

The evidence, in this case, is as follows – C. P. Bennett,² a respectable witness, testifies – that Captain William McKinnan entered the Army of the Revolution in June or July 1776, as Lieutenant, in Captain Thomas Keans Company, attached to Colonel Patterson's Regiment of flying Camp – was ordered to join the Division Amboy New Jersey – under the command of General Hugh Mercer in 1777. He was at the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & Germantown [October 4, 1777]; in which last battle he was wounded – that in 1778, the said McKinnan was attached to General Scott's [Charles Scott's] Division of Virginia Troops – in 1780, he belonged to that Division & marched with it to the South, under the command of General Baron De Kalb – was in the battle at Camden, (Gates defeat) 1781 [sic, August 15-16, 1780] – was at the siege of York [which culminated in the surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781] – and after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, marched to the South and joined the Army under General Green [Nathanael Greene] – that he afterwards took the command of the Infantry of Colonel William Washington's Legion, and served in that Corps until sometime in 1782; when he was in the expedition of [one or more lines apparently cut off at the bottom of the image of this page]

[p 2] of Charleston by the British Troops, Captain McKinnan marched the remnant of the Regiment, to which he belonged, to the state of Delaware; where they were discharged in October 1783.

P. Jaquett,³ a credible witness, testifies – that he was an officer in the Army of the Revolution – that he knows the statement of facts which has been made by Governor Caleb P Bennett, to be just & true, in relation to the services of Captain McKinnan – that Captain McKinnan belonged to the same Regiment, to which he (the witness) belonged –

The certification of Peter Hagner, 3rd Auditor in the Treasury Department of the United States, states that it appears from the Revolutionary War records on file in his office, that Captain William McKinnan of the Delaware line was in service from April first 1777 to the end of the war: and that he has received his commutation of 5 years full pay in lieu of half pay for

¹ [William McKenna W3104](#)

² [Caleb P. Bennett S35779](#)

³ FPA S46500

life.

The certification of J J Milligan proves the respectability of the two first named witnesses.

[part of the tax at the bottom of the image of this page is cut off and missing] affidavit supports [p 3] The Continental Commission of Captain William McKinnan has been filed with the Petition, bearing date 1780 (October 27th)

This is the whole of the evidence, which has been filed by the Petitioner. I will add – that Caleb P Bennett Lieutenant C. L. received November 9, 1832, bounty land for a service of 3 years and Peter Jaquett Capt.-C. L. received bounty land for 3 years service, on the 8th of November 1832. Both of these officers were in the same service in which Captain McKinnan was – to wit – they were commissioned as officers in the Delaware Regiment – they were transferred with that Regiment to the Virginia Continental line – they served 3 years, or more in the Virginia Continental line – and receive land bounty from Virginia, for that service.

Respectfully submitted
John H Smith, Commissioner &c
June 20th, 1834

To Governor Tazewell

[p 17]
Treasury Department
3rd Auditors Office
31st May 1834
Sir,

In accordance with your request I have the honor to state that it appears from the Revolutionary records on file in this Office, that Captain William McKinnan of the Delaware line, was in service from the first of April 1777 to the end of the war – and that he has received his commutation of five years full pay in lieu of half pay for life.

S/ with great Respect
S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

Hon. T. M. T. McKennan [Thomas McKean Thompson McKennan]⁴
House of Reps.

[p 19: McKinnan's commission as a Captain in the Delaware Line]

[p 20]

⁴ McKENNAN, Thomas McKean Thompson, a Representative from Pennsylvania; born in New Castle, New Castle County, Del., March 31, 1794; moved to Washington, Pa.; attended the public schools; was graduated from Washington (now Washington and Jefferson) College, Washington, Pa., in 1810; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1814 and commenced practice in Washington, Pa.; deputy attorney general in 1815 and 1816; elected as an Anti-Masonic candidate to the Twenty-second and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1831-March 3, 1839); elected as a Whig to the Twenty-seventh Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Joseph Lawrence and served from May 30, 1842, to March 3, 1843; chairman, Committee on Roads and Canals (Twenty-seventh Congress); president of the Pennsylvania Electoral College in 1848; appointed Secretary of the Interior in the Cabinet of President Fillmore and served from August 15 to September 12, 1850; resigned and became president of the Hempfield Railroad, now the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; died in Reading, Pa., July 9, 1852; interment in the Washington Cemetery, Washington, Pa.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M000501>

Wilmington Delaware May 19th, 183_

Captain William McKinnan long since deceased, entered the Army of the Revolution in June, or July 1776 as Lieutenant in Captain Thomas Kean's Company, attached to Colonel Samuel Patterson Regiment of Flying Camp, and ordered to join the division assembled at Amboy New Jersey, the Command of General Hugh Mercer of Virginia. [In] 1777 he was a Lieutenant in the action fought at Brandywine, & Germantown [where] he received a serious wound in the arm, below the elbow, shattered both bones of his rist [wrist] which disabled that arm, more or less I believe the remainder of his Life, in 1778 he was in attached to General Scott's division of Virginians, 1780 he belonged to the Division and marched with it to the South under the command of General Baron De Kalb & was in the Battle of Camden, South Carolina under General Gates was defeated, [in] 1781 he was at the siege of Yorktown Virginia, and after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, proceeded on to the South, and joined the Army under Green [Nathanael Greene]; and there took the command of the Infantry of Colonel William Washington's Legion, and served in that capacity and in active service, 1782 he was on the expedition at Combahee River, where Colonel Laurens [John Laurens] lost his life, and at the moment when our Country's liberties were in his grasp by his death the nation lost his best friend his nation State one of her most devoted sons; and the nation a patriot of the first order, again [at] the evacuation of Charlestown by the British, Captain McKennan by General Order marched the scattered re remnants of once a fine Regiment to their native State, where in October 1783 they were disbanded (a band of Brothers) a number of whom were never to meet again in this side of Time. Captain McKennan was the officer selected by the Regiment to settle their accounts with Wm Brown [? faint] Auditor or agent of Government, which he accomplished to the satisfaction of all concerned. – The foregoing is a

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[The above is probably the certificate of Caleb P. Bennett referred to in Commissioner's report above.]

[p 22]

I certify that I was an officer in the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary war and I know the within statement of facts to be just and true in relation to the services of Captain McKannon [sic] who was an officer in the Army of the revolution – in the Delaware Regiment to which I belonged.

S/ P. Jaquett



[Attested in New Castle County Delaware May 29, 1834]

[p 23]

State of Ohio Licking County: Sct.

Before me, the subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Thomas M Thompson of said County, being now in the 65th year of his age, who, being duly sworn according to law deposeth & saith – That for many years previously to his decease he was intimately acquainted with Colonel William McKennan [sic], late of Washington County in the State of Pennsylvania deceased – That, this Deponent always understood & verily believes that the said deceased entered the revolutionary war as an Ensign or Lieutenant in the Delaware

Regiment in the year 1776, afterwards reached the grade of captain & served during & until the end of the war; that in the battle of Germantown the said deceased received a severe wound in the arm which healed over for a time, but which subsequently, after the close of the war & the marriage of the said deceased broke out afresh – the arm became much inflamed & very painful, so that the loss of the limb & even of his life was at a time apprehended – in this dilemma, accompanied by his wife, he visited Philadelphia & placed himself under the care of one or more imminent Physicians in that city, where he examined for some considerable time; the bone of the arm was found to be fractured & a number of fractured pieces were extracted, but after severe and prolonged suffering a cure was effected & the arm restored so as to never afterwards to occasion the deceased much inconvenience – most of the foregoing incidents are stated from Deponent's recollection. This Deponent further saith that the said deceased served, during a part of the war, in the southern Army under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene], as Deponent learned from frequent & various conversations with said deceased in his lifetime detailing incidents which then occurred & particularly in relation to General Greene, to whose character he was very partial – This Deponent further saith, that after the close of the revolutionary war, the said Captain William McKennan intermarried with Elizabeth, the daughter of John Thompson Esquire, of New Castle County, State of Delaware, & only sister of this deponent & settled in the Town of New Castle – afterwards the said deceased removed with his family to the mansion farm of

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[p 24]

Deponent's father, the said John Thompson Esquire deceased, in New Castle County aforesaid & from thence subsequently, to wit, in the year 1797 to Charlestown on the River Ohio, in the Western Virginia, on which occasion this Deponent accompanied them & for some time the deceased & this deponent were engaged in partnership in the Mercantile business – from Charleston the said deceased removed to Washington County, Pennsylvania and finally to the Town of Washington in said County, where, for several years, he held the office of Prothonotary & of said County & where he departed this life & was buried, in the month of January 1810, leaving behind him a widow, the aforesaid Elizabeth McKennan, & 6 children – To wit, William Bennett McKennan, John Thompson McKennan, Thomas McKean Thompson McKennan, David Finney McKennan, Elizabeth Ann [McKennan], who intermarried with Gibbs Morgan, Esquire of Baton Rouge & James Wilson McKennan; all of whom are now deceased, leaving heirs of their bodies, except the said Till T. McKennan, at this time a member of Congress & James W McKennan, now a minister of the Gospel. This deponent further saith, that the said Colonel William McKennan, before his death, made his last will & testament by which he devised & bequeath all his estate, real & personal, to his wife, the said Elizabeth McKennan, who is still his widow, now in the 73rd or 74th year of her age & who, for many years past half resided & still continues to reside with her son, the Honorable Till T. McKennan aforesaid in the Town of Washington, Pennsylvania; and further this deponent sayeth not – Sworn & subscribed this 7th day of June 1834 – before me

S/ Elias Gibson, JP

S/ T. M. Thompson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "T. M. Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal line. There are some ink smudges and a small flourish at the end of the signature.