

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert McMillen W7426 Mary McMillen PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

In the county court } Ss
of Preston county }
in the State of Virginia }

On this 14th day of August AD 1832 personally appeared in open court, it being a court of record, Robert McMillen resident of said county and state aforesaid, aged 74 years who being first sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th AD 1832.

That he was drafted as a private malitia soldier for the Term of two months and entered the service of the United States, and served as herein stated. Sometime in July 1777 immediately after drafted as aforesaid, with one William More, the only private solder he now recollects, in Fagsmanner [sic: Fagg's Manor] Township in Chester county in the State of Pennsylvania, and served in the first Regiment of Malitia of the Pennsylvania Line, under the following officers viz General [James] Potter, Colonel Hanume[?] Major [illegible], Captain John Ramsey, Lieutenant Mathew Wiley and Ensign James Johnson was paraded in Fagsmanner aforesaid, and marched to the Town of Chester in the State of Pennsylvania, and was there put aboard of a vessel and taken up the River to Billings fort [Fort Billingsport at present Paulsboro NJ], and after serving out his term of two months there, returned to Chester aforesaid and discharged by his Captain Ramsey aforesaid. – he was then about 17 years of age, and being young he either destroyed or lost his discharge. And on the same day of his discharge aforesaid, he was hired as a substitute for the term of two months by Captain Allen Cunningham to serve in the place of some other man, whose name he does not know nor did he then, as the Captain last aforesaid was then in the habit of hiring substitutes for men who would not fight against the common enemy. he was then emmediately marched to Wilmington in the state of Delaware from thence to newport, there staid under arms 5 or 6 days – thence to the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] – but was not in the actual Battle but at a short distance as a Flanking party in sight – to Marcus Hook from thence to Chester aforesaid from thence to Darby, thence across the Schoolkill [sic: Schuylkill River] into the commons of Philedelphia thence to Rabenhood[?] thence to Barren hill Church – thence to Pots Grove – thence in a dark night to Chesnut hill [sic: Chestnut Hill] near Germantown. there they attacked some of the British forces and ran them out of the field. thence to Pots Grove again, and when General Washington marched to white marsh, on the way was he discharged by one Captain Blackburn of the 3^d Regiment of Malitia after having served out his term last aforesaid. and moveing from place to place he lost his discharge. And sometime in the summer of 1778 he was again drafted under Captain John Ramsey afsaid for two months more, but does not now recollect his other or any other of his officers and was marched from Chester aforesaid to the waters of Brandywine [Creek] and Daugh run [sic: Doe Run] as a scouting party to subdue the Tories, and there served out his said last term of two months, and was again discharged by Captain John Ramsey. He the moved into Westmoreland County in the state of Pennsylvania, then a Frontier settlement, and in April 1781 he volunteered with a number of others whose names he can not now recollect, to fight the Indians and was out 6 or 8 days, and returned home. and in May following in the year last aforesaid he joined a company of Rangers for 6 month and served out the time of 6 months aforesaid on the Frontier settlement and was command by Captain John Shearer Ensign John Gibson, and Joseph Hall Sergeant and was discharged by said Captain Shearer sometime in November in the year 1781 which discharge he has long since lost. Making in all about 12 months service. That he knows of no living witness who can testify to his services aforesaid and has no other evidence of his said services but what is here given. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. That he was born in York County in the

State of Pennsylvania, but has no record of his age except an Indenture by which he was hired a Prentice [sic: hired as an apprentice] and that is on record, as he supposes in the Clerks Office of the orphans court in the county and state that aforesaid. That since the Revolutionary War he lived a part of his time in Westmoreland county in the state last aforesaid, and the ballance of the time of 45 years he has lived in the county of Preston and State of Virginia where he now lives. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written.

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Robert McMillen". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "Entitled."]

Robert McMillon \$40.66

I the undersigned Robert McMillon at the requisition of the Secretary of War, give the following narrative of my age and services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution. I am about 78 yers. old and am a native of York County Pensylvania – during the war cant recollect in what year, I was drafted and marched from Chester County under Capt John Ramsey, to Chester town and thence to Billings fort – John Hammond was colonel. this was a two months tour – the next day after I was discharged I substituted for two months and marched under Capt. Allen Cunningham to Willmington & Brandywine at the latter place we had an engagement with the British Genl. Ervin [sic: William Irvine] & Col. [Evan] Evans was on command there – after the Battle we marched to Marcus Hook thence to Chester thence to Darby thence Philedelphia thence Robinhood thence Baren Hill thence to Swedes ford [on Schuylkill River at present Swedesburg] – erected a breast work there, and thence to Chestnut Hill and was there discharged after serving the two months. after this I served a tour in suppressing the tories under Capt Ramsey. I dont recollect how long I was in service on this occasion – nor can I tell the years in which any of the preceeding service was done – After this I moved to York County remained there two or three years and then (I think in the year 1781) I moved to Westmorelan County & in April 1781 I was in scouting parties after the Indians but cant say how long. after this service I was a Ranger under Capt John Shearer for six months. – and thus ended my service. Henry Enswinger wrote my Declaration. I told him same I now tell. In Witness of which I hereto subscribe my name Robert hisXmark McMillen
August 8, 1834/ Witness/ E R [illegible]

NOTES: On 12 Dec 1845 Mary McMillen, 79, applied for a pension stating that she married Robert McMillen near Fort Pitt on 22 Aug 1785, and he died on 16 Oct 1834. Sabina McMillen stated that she resided with Robert McMillen at the time of his death. A letter transmitting the application states that they were married by a Presbyterian minister, that one of her brothers was present but had since died, and another brother had not been seen for 16 years. On 4 Aug 1848 Mary McMillen was said to be 80.