

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James McCracken W9191

Mary McCracken MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris and Will Graves. Revised 4 Nov 2016.

State of Maryland

City of Baltimore Sct.

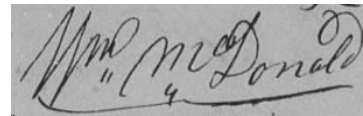
On this ninth day of June in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen personally appeared before me the undersigned James McCracken a resident of Harford County State of Maryland aged about sixty two years, an applicant for a pension under the late act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the united states in the Revolutionary war" and then and there made the following declaration on Oath by me administered, "that he enlisted at Charleston [Charlestown] Cecil County, State of Maryland, as a Dragoon in the 3<sup>d</sup> company, commanded by Capt. Joseph Eagleston [sic: Joseph Eggleston, pension application W8687] in Col Henry Lee's Legion, in the spring of the year 1778 [see endnote] – continued in the service in said Company until the close of the war, when at Charleston South Carolina, they were dismounted, the Horses sold and deponant together with some hundreds of others transported by water to Hampton Roads, from thence put on board a schooner and sent home to the head of Elk [now Elkton MD], where they were discharged by Capt. Michael Rudolph, from whom he received a written discharge dated in August 1783 – which discharge he hath lost. That he never received his warrant for one hundred acres of Land to which he is entitled from the US. nor for the fifty acres from the State of Maryland – that his name hath never been inscribed on any pension list – and that from his extreme reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his Country for support

James hisXmark McCracken

State of Maryland

City of Baltimore Sc

On this ninth day of June in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, personally appeared before me the subscriber Colonel William McDonald, residing in the City of Baltimore, who being by me duly sworn deposes and saith, that he knows James McCracken now present to have served in the revolutionary war, that he entered at Charlestown, Cecil County, State of Maryland, in the Spring of 1778 into Lee's Legion – 3<sup>d</sup> Troop, Joseph Eagleston Captain – and remained to the close of the War – during all which time he was distinguished as a brave and faithful soldier – deponent further saith that to his certain knowledge said James McCracken is in extreme indigent circumstances.



Harford County

Sixth Judicial District of Maryland towit

Harford County SS.

ON this 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sept'r 1820, personally appeared in open court being a court of record, for Harford County for the said District James McCracken aged sixty five years, resident in Harford County in said District who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows:

I enlisted in Charles Town in Cecil County, Maryland under Capt'n Harry Lee attached to the [blank] in 1776 and served until 1781 [see endnote]./ No. of Certificate 4.663

and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Schedule

|                                      |              |             |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 yellow [mulatto] Woman             | 37 years old | \$50.00     |
| 1 black boy Vincent                  | 16 do do     | 150.00      |
| 1 do do Harriss[?]                   | 14 do do     | 150.00      |
| 1 do girl Jerice[?]                  | 10 do do     | 150.00      |
| 1 do Boy Jerry                       | 2 do do      | 50.00       |
| 3 Milch cows                         |              | 30.00       |
| 5 Hogs                               |              | 5.00        |
| 1 Cupboard & contents                |              | 5.00        |
| 1 Case Drawers                       |              | 3.00        |
| 6 Chairs & 2 Tables                  |              | 3.00        |
| Sundry articles of Kitchen furniture |              | <u>5.00</u> |
|                                      |              | \$601.00    |

My occupation was a farmer

I have no family except a wife

James hisXmark McCrackin

State of Maryland County of Harford Ss

On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 1823 personally appeared in open court (being a court of record for the county of Harford James McCracken resident in said County aged sixty eight years 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 acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 that he the said James McCracken in the year 1776 in the state of Maryland in the company commanded by Captain Joseph Eccleston in the regiment commanded by colonel Harry Lee in the line of the state of Virginia on the continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said corps until 1781 when he was discharged from the said service in Cecil County in the State of Maryland That his name has been placed on the pension list and dropped therefrom on account of his property

Stevenson Archer Chief Judge of the Sixth Jud'al. Disst MD

[Oath similar to that in the 1820 application follows.]

That since the exhibition of my first Schedule the following changes have been made in my property

A small negro girl I then owned worth at this time about one hundred dollars has been distrained[?] by Nathaniel Smith of said County for somewhat above one hundred dollars rent I am now altogether unable to redeem the said Negro and do not believe she will sell for more than the rent which is due and that

The Schedule of my real and personal property is as follows

|                             |      |                          |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 2 Iron pots and a Teakettle | 2.50 |                          |
| Chairs worth about          | 3.00 | James his mark McCracken |

United States of America

State of Maryland, Harford County SS.

ON this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1824, personally appeared in open court being a court of record, That is to say, the regular County Court in and for the said County of Harford in the Sixth Judicial District of Maryland James McCracken aged seventy two years, resident in Harford County aforesaid in said District who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: That he enlisted at Charles Town in Cecil County & state aforesaid in the spring of the year 1778 for during the war, in the 3<sup>d</sup> Company of Dragoons commanded by Joseph Eagleston Esquire in Colonel Henry Lee's Legion – continued in the service in said Company until the

close of the War, when he was dismounted at Charleston in So. Carolina, horses sold and himself with some hundred others sent by water to Hampton Roads from thence put on board a schooner and conveyed to the head of Elk where he received a written discharge from Captain Michael Rudolph. That he was heretofore placed on the pension list roll of the State of Maryland at the rate of eight dollars per month as will appear by reference to a certificate granted by the Secretary of War dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1818, and numbered 4663, but was discontinued and stricken off on the alteration of the law of 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 which required the exhibition of a Schedule of property, he then having in his possession one negro man, one negro woman and one small girl, which were erroneously returned as Slaves and their term of service recently sold by the Sheriff under Fieri facias to satisfy a debt previously owing –  
 [Oath similar to that in the 1820 application follows.]

Schedule referred to Viz't.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| One female Negro child 7 years of age valued at about. . . . .            | \$20.00       |
| Two Cows, which would not sell for \$10 each. . . . .                     | 20.00         |
| Four Hogs supposed to be worth about \$1.50 each. . . . .                 | 6.00          |
| Three pots, two kettles, two common tables, six D'o chairs, one cupboard} |               |
| with sundry common Cupboard furniture &c the whole not worth }            | . . . . 15.00 |
| No other property same necessary wearing apparel & bedding                | Amo't \$71.00 |

That his family consists of himself aged 72 years, his wife named Mary aged 53 years and in very delicate health. An orphan child named Elizabeth Smith aged four years and the little negro above mentioned

That he formerly followed fishing and going by water for hire, but from advanced age and various infirmities is now incapable of performing manuel labour so as to procure a living for himself, and is actually “in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country”  
 James hisXmark McCracken

State of Maryland, Harford County, towit,

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty six, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for the sixth Judicial District, which proceeds according to the course of the Common Law, with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, which keeps a record of its proceedings and has the power of Fine and Imprisonment, James McCracken resident in said County, aged about seventy two years, 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 acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, and the 18<sup>th</sup> [sic] of May 1820; that he the said James McCracken enlisted to serve during the War, some time, according to the best of his recollection, in the year 1776, at Charlestown in Cecil County, State of Maryland, in a Company of Cavalry, commanded by Captain Joseph Eccleston, in the Regiment, commanded by Col'n. Henry Lee, and commonly called “Lee's Legion, in the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in said office, Corps, until the end of the War, when he was discharged from the said service, at the Head of Elk, in the said State of Maryland; that his name has been placed on the Pension list and dropped therefrom on account of his Property.

[Oath similar to that in the 1820 application follows.]

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Negro Lewis, 2 years old, worth. . . . .  | \$20.00      |
| Negro Vincent, to serve 8 Months. . . . . | 30.00        |
| Negro Jenny, aged 18 (infirm). . . . .    | 20.00        |
| Two Cows, worth \$12.00 each. . . . .     | 24.00        |
| Six Hogs worth \$2.00 each. . . . .       | 12.00        |
| Household and Kitchen Furniture, worth..  | <u>25.00</u> |
| Total. . . . .                            | \$131.00     |

That his Family consists of himself, his wife aged about fifty eight years, Negro Lewis, Negro Vincent, and Negro Jenny; that from his great age, and the infirmities of himself and wife, that he is unable to support himself without the assistance of his Country; that he is unable from infirmities to

pursue any employment, except netting Seines, which he can only get to do occasionally, in the Winter.  
Test/ Wm F. Miller

James hisDmark McCracken

That since the exhibition of my last Schedule, the following changes have been made in my Property, towit, Negro Jeremiah, sold to Cooper Boyd for \$180.00, Negro Hampter, to serve for seven years, sold to Benjamin Silvers, Negro Rachel to serve six years, sold to the same. Negro Hannah five years old, and to serve until 21, sold to the same; that the price given for the three last mentioned Negroes, was two hundred and six Dollars; that at the time of the said Sale to said Silvers, an execution was in the Hands of the Sheriff of Harford County, against him, at the suit of Andrew Porter, Adm'r. of Robert Porter, deced, on a Judgment, on a Judgment obtained against him, for a Debt created more than twelve years ago, and to prevent said Servants from being removed out of the State, this declarant made a private sale to the said Benjamin Silver, who paid to the Sheriff the aforesaid, the said sum of two hundred and six Dollars in full of the Debt, Interest and Costs due on said execution; that the price received for Negro Jeremiah this declarant received himself, and with the proceeds paid a variety of small Debts, which he owed to various persons, and which he cannot now ascertain, and the residue he has expended, in the necessary support of himself and family

James hisDmark McCracken

[The following are transcribed by Will Graves from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Baltimore December 1st 1819

B. W. Coleman Esquire

Dear Sir

This will be handed to your good self by my very respected friend Wm J Moore Esq. whom I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance, and also the affidavits of myself & James McCracken which you will please to have the goodness to present to the Honorable the Governor & Council of the State of Virginia, they will I hope be found sufficiently in form and in point of facts to ensure with your friendly aid, the warrants for bounty land for our Revolutionary Services. I shall as advised by Major H. Lee address a respectful letter to the Governor, Major Lee promises to write also to him in my favor, it appears they both served together in the late war – Should you be so fortunate as to obtain the warrants, it would not be amiss to have them located alongside of each other, if practicable, be so good as to write us on receipt of the vouchers. –

With Sentiments of Esteem & respect I am Dear Sir

Your Obt. Servt.

S/ Wm McDonald

Sir

The undersigned for himself & James McCracken of Cecil County Maryland having served in the Revolutionary War under Lt. Col. Henry Lee & honorably discharged at Elkton at the close of that War, respectfully address you as claimants for bounty Lands awarded by the State of Virginia. I was not apprised that these Bounty Lands had been awarded until after the receipt of a letter from Lt. James Herd [James Heard] dated Woodbridge, New Jersey 21st of August 1819 (at next is a copy of the same) which I forwarded to Major John Pryor addressed to him at Richmond from whom I received no answer, the same being an acknowledgment of my services & should most certainly profit by the offer made but considered the sum asked too extravagant. In further Evidence my friend B. W. Coleman Esquire will hand you depositions taken before Judge Brice [image impossible to read for several words] Service performed & [several indecipherable words]

I pray your attention, most respectfully, to this subject & that a warrant for Bounty Plans may be issued to myself & James McCracken

Your Ob. Servt.

S/ Wm McDonald

Sir.

By a late Law of Virginia you are entitled to a Bounty of Land 200 acres my Certificate is required by the Executive of Virginia to establish your claim, you must first declare on oath before a Judge of your Court with the Seal of the Court affixed the precise time that you enlisted in the Legion commanded by Lt. Col. Henry Lee and transmit to me (Postage paid) and then I will forward to you my certificate – You must [indecipherable word] it to Major John Pryor of Richmond Virginia who will obtain your warrant for you it will be located in the Virginia reserve in the State of Ohio between Scioto & Miami worth at present 5\$ an acre & probably in one year will be worth 10\$ an acre, as my returns of the Legion are at present at Albany I shall be obliged to go there in order to establish your claim, therefore you must transmit me 50\$ to defer my expense, there is no time to be lost as the Act of limitations expires in September next.

I am Sir Your Obt. Servt.

S/ James Heard

Maryland City of Baltimore to wit:

On the thirtieth day of October in the year of our Lord 1819 Personally appears before me the undersigned, James McCracken of Cecil County and State aforesaid, aged sixty-four years or thereabouts, who deposeth on oath by me administered that he enlisted as a private under Colonel Henry Lee at Charles Town in Cecil County aforesaid early in the summer of 1778, at which time the Legion was recruiting, and mustered and served in the 3rd Troop commanded by Captain Joseph Egleston [Joseph Eggleston] in said Legion from that period to the close of the Revolutionary war. That sometime in the month of July 1783 Deponent with many others were transported from Charleston in South Carolina in a Large Ship to Hampton Roads from thence conveyed in the Schooner Buckscin [?] to the head of Elk in the Chesapeake Bay, there honorably discharged on or about the 23rd of August of same year by Captain Michael Rudolph [Michael Rudolph]. That Agreeably to the terms of Enlistment he was entitled to receive from the State of Virginia \_\_\_ Acres of Land as Bounty: Which Bounty Land or any commutation or satisfaction therefore he hath not at any time received directly or indirectly – the said James McCracken therefore make this his declaration for the purpose of being presented to the Honorable the Executive of the State of Virginia, respectfully requesting a patent may be directed to issue in his favor Agreeably to the original Law.

Deponent further saith he hath no knowledge of any surviving Officers of said Legion whose Certificate he could procure nor of any private except Colonel William McDonald whose deposition is hereto annexed.

S/ James McCracken, X his mark

S/ N. Brice, Chief Judge Baltimore Cy Court

State of Maryland, City of Baltimore SS:

On this Thirtieth day of October in the year 1819 Personally appeared before me the undersigned, Colonel William McDonald of the city aforesaid, aged sixty years or thereabouts, who deposeth on oath by me administered That he enlisted as a private under Captain Henry Lee in the winter of the year 1776/7 near Middlebrook in the Jerseys that sometime in the spring or early part of winter of the year 1778 while the Legion was recruiting, the within mentioned James McCracken, now present, entered or enlisted as a private and served in the same squad with Deponent in the 3rd Troop Commanded by Captain Joseph Egleston in Colonel Henry Lee's Legion to the close of the Revolutionary war when said McCracken together with Deponent and many others came by ship from Charleston SC in the month of July 1783 and were honorably discharged by Captain Michael Rudolph of the Legionary Infantry at the Head of Elk on or about the 23rd day of August 1783.

S/ Wm McDonald

S/ N. Brice Chief Judge Balt. Cy Court

State of Maryland Baltimore County SS:

On this Thirtieth day of October 1819, personally appeared before me the undersigned James McCracken after being by me duly sworn deposeth and saith that during the Revolutionary war with Great

Britain that is to say in the summer of the year 1778 he enlisted at the Head of Elk in Cecil County Md as a private in the 3rd Troop Commanded by Captain Joseph Egleston in the Legion of Colonel Henry Lee in the service of the United States at which time William McDonald, now present, was a member of said Company that said McDonald & Deponent remain together and said Company in the same squad & mess to the close of the war – came together from South Carolina in the month of July 1783 to Hampton Roads, and thence to the head of Elk and there honorably discharged by Captain Michael Rudolph of the Legionary Infantry on or about the 23rd of August in the year 1783.

S/ James McCracken, X his mark

S/ N. Brice, Chief Judge Balt. Cy. Court

NOTES:

Henry Lee was Captain of a company of Virginia dragoons (mounted infantry) beginning on 18 June 1776. His company was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Dragoons on 31 March 1777. On 7 April 1778 Congress promoted him to Major-Commandant and authorized him to raise additional troops under his own command. His legion (combined cavalry and infantry) was designated Lee's Partisan Corps on 21 Oct 1780, and on 6 Nov 1780 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

If McCracken was sent home from Charleston SC it could not have been earlier than 14 Dec 1782, when the British abandoned that city.

The file contains a record showing that on or about 20 April 1814 James McCracken paid Abraham Gorrell \$10.00 for building him a log house. There is also a copy of a bill for \$25 owed by McCracken to Dr. Thomas Worthington for "medicines and attendance in a case of typhus fever succeeded by carbuncles upon the back in 4 & 5 months (April & May) 1822."

On 21 Nov 1840 Mary McCracken, about 73, applied for a pension, stating that she married James McCracken on 26 Feb 1789, and he died on 17 May 1840. The file contains a record of the marriage of James McCracken and Mary Smith by John Ireland in Harford County on 26 Feb 1789. On 28 Sep 1855 Mary McCracken, 87, applied for bounty land, stating that as Mary Smith she married James McCracken on or about 15 Feb 1789.

The file contains many other papers not transcribed here.