Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Minson Galt R14353 VA Half Pay Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Mar 2015.

[From <u>Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection</u>/ Williamsburg City – Heirs of John M Galt.]

To the Honble Judges of the District Court now sitting. The Petition of John Minson Galt.

That your Petitioner was appointed a senior surgeon of the Continental Hospitals in the City of Williamsburg in July 1776 and continued to aid in the said Hospitals 'til the establishment of the state Hospitals in Dec'r. 1777; at the express desire of the Executive your Petitioner left the Continental Hospitals and entered into those of the state in which he acted 'til their discontinuance on the 19th of January 1780, at which time he was appointed to the Apothecary's place til the stores were removed to Richmond in August following – in October of the same year he resumed at the desire of Government the Functions of his office during the Invasion of General Leslie [Alexander Leslie, Nov 1780] and took under his charge the sick of a body of Militia in service under the command of General [Thomas] Nelson. In Feb. 1781 he was appointed senior Field surgeon and continued to act in that Capacity til after the reduction of York [surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781], and from that period remained a senior surgeon to the end of the war.

That your Petitioner conceives by the Laws of this commonwealth that he is entitled to half pay or to five years full pay in commutation thereof. Yet the Auditor of Public Accounts has refused to give to your Petitioner Certificates or Warrants therefor; from which decision of the Auditor pray an appeal to this Honble Court, and prays that the said Judgment of the Auditor may be reversed, and that he may be directed to give your Petitioner such Certificates or Warrants as he is by law entitled to – and your Petitioner will ever pray &c

The Auditor admits notice of the above appeal.

Aud's Office 11 Ap'1 '91

J. Pendleton

Doctor Galt entered into the medical Staff of the United States early in 1776 and afterwards I believe took post in the state medical department but in what capacity I presume can be best learned from the Doctor's appointments or the records of the Executive having been myself while in the regular Army always on the Continental establishment I had on that account less reason to know the particulars of the military arrangements of this state. Sometime in the year 1779 or 1780 the medical establishment of the state was considerably diminished and in the latter year upon the removal of the seat of Government to Richmond almost totally put down, at least so far as it had existed in the City of Williamsburg – there was however some shew of a Hospital department still kept up in the lower country of which Doctor Galt as long as it existed had the direction. In the Autumn of 1780 General Leslie invaded the seaboard district of this Country with a british fleet and army – a very considerable body of Militia were called out into actual service and remained in the field until about the middle of December. The troops were commanded by General Nelson, a part of them was under my direction. Doctor Galt was called out by order of Government to take charge of the Hospitals which were revived in the lower Country for the reception of a numerous body of sick people owing to the inclement season of the year, and the want of every species of Camp equipage. [Gen. Benedict] Arnold's invasion took place on the first day of January 1781. From that period untill the capture of the british army in York Town this Country was in a constant state of warfare. Doctor Galt was employed during that whole period, as a senior surgeon, after the siege of York all the sick and wounded of this State's troops were left in his care, and I believe that the Doctor was occasionally engaged in the service of the State from the 1st of January 1781 until the troops were disbanded by order of Governor [Benjamin] Harrison, on the annunciation of the late treaty Jas. Innes [Col. James Innes VAS1344] of peace with Great Britain

In Council Feby 1 1781

The board advise that during the continuance of the Militia in service a chief surgeon be appointed to attend the principal encampment, to make proper provision for the sick and wounded, to appoint deputy surgeons to the principal corps acting seperately, and assistants if they be found requisite, that he also employ all necessary attendance for the sick and wounded; that for the present particularly; he appoint a surgeon to attend Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson's Camp and that Doctor Galt be considered as acting under him at Gen'l. Nelson's camp; that he furnish from the medicinal stores of the state whatever necessary medicines they contain, and apply thro' the Commander in Chief for what may be furnished by the Continental Stores; that the Chief Surgeon be allowed 200# Tob'o [pounds of tobacco] or its worth in money as fixed by the grand Jury at the General Court next preceding the date of his Warrant, with two rations and two forages a Day, the Deputy surgeons 100 lb of Tobacco by the day to be paid in the same way with one ration and one forage a Day and the assistants 50 lb of Tobacco by the day each to be paid in the same way.

Doctor Pope [Matthew Pope R17152] is appointed Chief Surgeon, he providing at his own expence some person to perform his duties at Richmond during his absence

A copy Arch'd. Blair C.C.

I do hereby certify that Doctor John Minson Galt entered as a Surgeon in the Continental Hospital in Williamsburg under the direction of Doct'r. William Richman, on the first day of July in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six

Witness my hand this 6th of April 1791

James Kemp [R15581] then Clerk to the Hospitals Virginia

I certify that ye Doct'r. John Minson Galt entered into the State Hospital upon its first establishment in Wmsburg, which I think was in December 1777, as a senior surgeon and continued in that office until ye discontinuance of ye State Hospital 19 Jany 1780. The pay was made equal to continental pay, which was four dollars pr. day

Jas. McClurg [James McClurg VAS564]

Richmond April 7 1791

The aforegoing are copies of papers filed on an appeal of John Minson Galt senior, from a decision of the Auditor of Public accounts, & in which case a Judgment was entered in the District Court held in Richmond the 10th day of September 1791 — teste J. Robinson [undeciphered abbreviation]

Resolved, that the Committee on Revolutionary claims be instructed to enquire into the propriety of allowing the Heirs of William Thompson who was an officer in Crocketts [Joseph Crockett's] Regiment commutation pay for his revolutionary services.

Resolved that the Committee of Revolutionary claims be instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing to the Heirs of John M Galt, who was a Surgeon in the service of the State, during the war of the Revolution five years full pay in commutation of half pay for life; and that they have leave to report by Bill or otherwise.

Jany 9th 1830 George W. Munford CHD [Clerk of the House of Delegates]

Auditors Office/ 11 Jan 1830.

It appears from a Register in this office of Certificates issued to the officers and soldiers of the State line in the Revolutionary army that a Certificate issued on the 27 april 1783 to John M. Galt a Surgeon for £1480. 18. 9 being for the balance of his full pay or depreciation

Jas E. Heath aud

Capitol 22^d Feb. 1830 Rec'd the petition and documents of Elizabeth Thompson heiress of Gideon Johnston of the Clerk of the Com of Revolutionary Claims

J Garland

[The following are from rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.]

To the Governor and Council of the State of Virginia.

The memorial of the Heirs of Surgeon John M. Galt respectfully represents that he was appointed Surgeon and Apothecary to the Hospitals for the State on the 20th day of February 1777 and continued in service to the end of the war. This fact has been established to the satisfaction of the General Government by their admitting his claim to half pay. Land Bounty was also granted to him by the State of Virginia soon after the close of the war for three years, but it is evident that he served nearly seven years.

Your memorialists respectfully ask that they may be allowed for the additional time their ancestor served over six years. Wm. Lambert Att'y. for the Heirs.

In Council the 20th day of February 1777.

Resolved that John M Galt be appointed Surgeon and Apothecary to the Hospitals for this state, and that he be allowed fifteen shillings per day for his services; He is to furnish two mates to be approved of by the Director General who are allowed five shillings each per day (neither the Surgeon or his mates are allowed any rations.)/ A Copy Jno B Richardson

In the house of Delegates Saturday November 29th 1783

Resolved that the petition of John Minson Galt praying that he may be allowed the same bounty in lands as is given by law to Surgeons in the Continental Army is reasonable.

17th December 1784 agreed to by the Senate

Teste John Beckley CHD copy Teste/ John Beckley CHD

Will Drew C.S.

I John Tankard [S48512] of the County of Northampton aged 70 years do hereby certify that I was a student of medicine for several years under Dr John M Galt deceased late of Williamsburg and consequently was well acquainted with him. I do further certify that at a very early period of the Revolutionary War the said Galt was a Surgeon in the service of the State of Virginia, that is to say as early as the State required the services of Surgeons; I was his assistant in some of his Surgical operations, and I recollect distinctly that at and during the siege of York the said Galt and myself assisted Dr Matthew Pope who was director General of the Va Hospitals in surgical operations. I further certify that during the said War I was the Deputy of Doctor Pope and as such I supplied Dr. Galt with medicines from the Public Stores

I further certify that there was [undeciphered word] interval[?] in the medical services of the said John M Galt who was stationed at the Hospitals at [?] Williamsburg and I have no reason to doubt that the said Galt did continue in service until the end of the War. I never heard of his quitting the service. Given under my hand this 19th day of March 1831 Jno. Tankard

[From the federal pension file.]

Pension Office/ 28 March 1849 Copy

I certify that I have examined the claim of the Administrator of the late Dr. John Minson Galt, who was a Surgeon in the Virginia State Troops, during the war of the revolution, and I find that he is entitled under the Act of the 5 July 1832 and the amendatory act of the 3^d of March 1835, transferring the settlement of the Virginia half-pay claims to the War Department to the amount of the Judgment obtained by him at the Circuit Superior Court of Henrico County, Virginia, in June 1847, being five years full pay with interest thereon from the 22^d of April 1783 till the 30 of June 1833, deducting from the amount the sum of eight thousand seven hundred and fifty nine dollars and thirty four cents, then received by the representatives of said Galt, deceased, at the Treasury of the United States; and with interest on the balance then due, from that time till the date of such warrant. The amount paid under the certificate from the Pension Office of the May 2, 1845, is also to be deducted. The full pay is to be calculated at the rate of seven hundred and twenty five dollars per annum. The amount is payable to James Lyon Esq'r. Attorney of John M. Galt, Administrator of John Minson Galt deceased.

(signed) J L Edwards/ Commissioner of Pensions

Approved/ (signed) T. Ewing/ Secretary of the Interior

NOTE: The federal pension file includes several other documents of a legal nature that provide no further information about Galt's services.

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Addendum to John Minson Galt R14353

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 15 Dec 2023.

[Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com include documents showing that in 1847 Dr. John Minson Galt was administrator of the estate of his grandfather of the same name.]