Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Philip Slaughter W29886
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The first document is in the file of George Catlett, pension application W2524.]

20th Congress / 1st Session [Rep. No 146.] Ho. of Reps.

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’s, pension application 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, pension application 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 meritorious 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 until 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

[signed] 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 3rd day of December 1842. [signed] Phil Slaughter

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

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.