

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.