

## Pension Application for Joseph Prescott

S.3740

B.L.Wt.1697-300-Surgeon's Mate. General Hospital, Issued July 24, 1795. No Papers.

25th CONGRESS,  
2d Session.

[ Rep. No. 814. ]

HO. OF REPS.

JOSEPH PRESCOTT.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 355.]

JANUARY, 9, 1838.

Mr. HARPER, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

### REPORT :

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Prescott, report :*

That this application was examined by this committee, and a favorable report made thereon, on the 29th of January, 1836, which is annexed hereto, and made part of this report. This committee, on an examination of the case, concur in the opinion heretofore expressed, and report a bill for the relief of Joseph Prescott.

JANUARY 29, 1836.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of Joseph Prescott, report :*

The petitioner states that he was a surgeon in the American army on continental establishment, in the revolutionary war, from the year 1776 until the close of the war. He entered the general hospital of the northern department in the fall of 1776, as a volunteer assistant; and in the spring of 1777 he was ordered to Ticonderoga, where he obtained a commission as surgeon's mate; at the evacuation of Ticonderoga he went on duty for the remainder of that campaign in the general hospital at Albany.

In June, 1778, he was in the campaign at the Highlands, under General Gates, and was attached to the flying hospital, returning at the close of that service to the general hospital at Albany. In the following year he served in the expedition commanded by Major General Sullivan, against the six confederate tribes of Indians, and at the close of it returned again to the general hospital.

In 1780 he proceeded to the southern army, then under the command of General Gates, and did duty as junior surgeon of Mayland's regiment of horse, in the neighborhood of Camden.

On the 10th of February, 1781, he was the director of the hospital department at the Cheraw hills, and by an original order of that date, from Surgeon General Brown, at Guilford, the hospital at that place was put under his charge, and as surgeon-in-chief of the same he moved with it to Charlotte, in the expectation of advancing upon the enemy. He continued to serve in Carolina and Georgia until the 14th of January, 1783, when he received permission, on account of ill health, to return to the North with a portion of Mayland's regiment of cavalry. In a few weeks he was ordered to Constitution island, opposite West Point, Thomas Allen, print.

where he continued until most of the troops were disbanded, and the port of New York opened.

The petitioner further states that, being in active service when the troops were engaged with or in pursuit of the enemy, he had no opportunity of obtaining his commission as a surgeon, though he officiated for several years as such, and was so known in the whole of the southern campaigns, and at the close of the war; that, in consequence, he is only known upon the records of the Third Auditor's office as a surgeon's mate.

The petitioner claims commutation of five years' full pay, in lieu of half pay for life, as a surgeon, with such interest thereon as would have accrued, provided the same had been subscribed by him to what is called the funded debt of 1790.

The evidence adduced by him in support of his claim is an original order from Surgeon General Brown, of the 10th of February, 1781, at Guilford, requiring him to proceed, with the hospital under his care, in the best manner in his power, and with as much expedition as possible, to Charlotte, for they were about to make a movement, and, as he supposed, advance upon the enemy. He also produces three original letters: one from Nat. Alexander, dated Charlotte, August 21, 1781, and directed to Dr. Joseph Prescott, Camden; another from the same person, dated Camden, August 1, 1782, directed to Dr. Joseph Prescott, flying hospital, southern army; and a third from Charles Drum, dated Germantown, December 26, 1783, directed to Dr. Joseph Prescott, former junior surgeon of Mayland's regiment of light-horse, Boston—all of which accompany the petition.

The facts set forth in the petition are also supported by the affidavit of the petitioner, and that of his son, swearing to the declarations heretofore made by his father, in regard to his services, and the loss of his commission.

By the resolution of Congress of January 17, 1781, "all of the officers in the hospital department and medical staff, hereinafter mentioned, who shall continue in service to the end of the war, or be reduced before that time as supernumeraries, shall be entitled to, and receive during life, in lieu of half pay, the following allowance, viz: chief physicians and surgeons of the army and hospitals, and hospital physicians and surgeons, purveyor, apothecary, and regimental surgeons, each equal to the half pay of a captain." By the resolution of Congress of the 22d of March, 1783, commutation of five years' full pay is given to the above-mentioned officers, in lieu of half pay for life.

The committee is satisfied, from the particular account of the services of the petitioner, as stated by himself, and from the proofs adduced, that he did actual service in the army of the Revolution, on continental establishment, from an early period of the war until its termination, as a surgeon; and, as such, that he is entitled to the full pay of a surgeon for five years, being the same as that of captain, under the resolution of Congress of the 22d of March, 1783. The committee therefore report a bill.

25th CONGRESS,  
2d Session.

## H. R. 355.

JANUARY 9, 1838.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Mr. HARPER, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, reported the following bill :

### A BILL

For the relief of Joseph Prescott.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*  
3 *the proper accounting officers of the Treasury be, and they*  
4 *are hereby, required to adjust and settle the account of Doc-*  
5 *tor Joseph Prescott, late a surgeon of the army of the United*  
6 *States on continental establishment, and allow him five years'*  
7 *full pay of a surgeon of the army, in commutation of the*  
8 *half pay for life promised by the resolutions of Congress ;*  
9 *with such interest thereon as would have been payable if a*  
10 *certificate had been given to the said Joseph Prescott for the*  
11 *amount of said commutation, and the same had been by him*  
12 *subscribed to the funded debt of the United States, under the*  
13 *act of August fourth, one thousand seven hundred and nine-*  
14 *ty; and that the same be paid out of any money in the*  
15 *Treasury not otherwise appropriated.*

