

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Peter Martin R6956 Isabella Innes Martin f59SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/15/09: rev'd 6/12/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

The National Gazette: Philadelphia Saturday, July 7, 1832

OBITUARY.
On the 24th day of June, departed this life, at Baltimore, **JOHN P. MARTIN**, Esq. of the city of Trenton, in the 74th year of his age.
This venerable man was a native of North Carolina, but during most of his early years a resident in Charleston, S. C., at which place his father was a clergyman of the Lutheran Church, and one of the first of that communion who emigrated from Germany to the United States. The deceased entered the army as early as the year 1776, being not sixteen years of age, but, as he was often heard to say, in full vigour of body and almost six feet in height. The struggles of the patriots in South Carolina were, as is well known, peculiarly severe; and young Martin, with a spirit of adventure which marked all his years of strength, threw himself at this gloomy epoch into the most doubtful and perilous services. The camp and the prison, the lonely watch and the mixed combat, all varieties of military toil, witnessed his self-denial and courage; and there are still remaining in Charleston a few who remember his contempt of all selfish ends and personal dangers.
In the year 1777, while cruising against the enemy, he was made prisoner by a British frigate, and carried into New York. After a confinement of five months, he was, in 1778, exchanged at Newport, and sent to Providence, Rhode Island. The horrors of the prison-ship were often alluded to, by Mr. Martin, in later years; and it is to be regretted that he had not preserved some written memorial of those days of trial. He had only in part recovered from the sufferings of this imprisonment, when he set out, on foot, in utter indigence, to journey from Boston to Charleston. This painful, and as it proved, perilous expedition, he accomplished; not, however, to seek repose at home, for in 1779 he was one of the first to offer his aid in the assault on Savannah, by Lincoln and D'EStaing. In this attack two of his companions were killed by his side. In 1783, he took part in the entire siege of Charleston, and continued in its defence until the surrender. In 1781 he served under Gen. Sumpter, and it is worthy of being mentioned, that both these patriots died upon the same day. In short Mr. Martin was a soldier of the revolution from the beginning to the very consummation of the war; and when, in 1783, he returned home, it was with the honourable but painful memorials of that spirit of sacrifice, with which he had endured and fought. These memorials were disease, debility, almost total blindness, and a deprivation of half the employments and joys of life.
For many years he resided at Lumberton, N. C., subsequently at Mount Holly, N. J., and lastly in the city of Trenton. As might be supposed from what has just been said, Mr. Martin lived much in retirement. Even in the

said, Mr. Martin even much in retirement. Even in the places of his residence, the most interesting traits of his marked character were known only to a few. Yet there were some so strongly impressed that the most casual observer could not but desecy and admire them. Such were these: unfeigned faith and charity after the New Testament model, exhibited in visible fruits, simplicity of heart, incorruptible honesty, unfaunted freedom in expressing and maintaining what was received as true or right, decision of character in every matter of private or public interest, tempered by that liberality which grows out of copious reading and inter-course, and those sympathies which are cultivated by affliction; a regard for the decorum and the courtesies of life, avouring of the old school of manners, but relieved by affectionate and unstudied cordiality.

In the decline of life the varied ills which had long been hovering over our lamented friend, gathered more closely, and settled on him, beyond the hope of removal. Mr. Martin was on a journey homeward from Washington, when he was arrested in Baltimore by a disease, which after five weeks of extreme suffering, issued in his death. It was in full accordance with his confession and his life that he prepared for his departure. He died in serene hope of immortal health and perfect purity, through the mercy of God and the atonement of the divine Redeemer.

This unadorned statement will doubtless fall below the recollections of Mr. Martin's friends in various parts of the Union. It is, however, the tribute of sincere respect. A.

[p 6]

State of Connecticut, County of New Haven

On this Tenth day of October A.D. 1853, personally appeared before me, Judge of the Probate Court, within and for the District of New Haven, in said County of New Haven, the same being a Court of Record, Isabella Innes Martin, aged seventy-three years, a resident of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of John Peter Martin deceased, who was a Volunteer (a Private) in the German Fusiliers Company of Charleston South Carolina, and on their expedition to Savannah, and received pay therefore on the 13th May 1776, as per accompanying Transcript from the Rolls of said Company; that he served with said company on the expedition to Port Royal Ferry, from Sunday January 17th 1779, until their return on 6th March 1779, and received pay therefore, as per Rolls of said Company; that he also served with said German Fusilier Company on Guard, at various times in December 1778, in January 1779, as per transcript from said Rolls; that he served as a Volunteer in the Second South Carolina Regiment of the Line, under Colonel Pinckney [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney] at the Assault on Savannah, on the 9th of October 1779; that he did duty during the Siege of Charleston South Carolina, as a volunteer, (in the Spring of 1780), with a Battalion of Artillery of the Line, in an advanced half-moon battery; and that after his recovery from the smallpox, in the autumn of 1780, he further served until the end of the War, in General Sumpter's [Thomas Sumter's] Brigade, in a Regiment of State Cavalry, commanded first by Colonel Henderson [William Henderson], and afterwards by Colonel Wade Hampton; that the whole of his military services were rendered in the American Revolutionary, or War of Independence, ending with the Peace of 1783; that his Honorable Discharge, at or near the City of Charleston South Carolina, after the evacuation of that city and the disbanding of the South Carolina State troops, would have appeared from the Indents of pay to a considerable nominal amount which her deceased husband always averred he had received and sold, (as per Deposition of Daniel Strobel) but that the official Records of said Indents, after searches made in the National and South Carolina archives, appear to be lost, probably by the burning of public records at Washington by the British, in the War of 1812, as was supposed at the Pension Office,

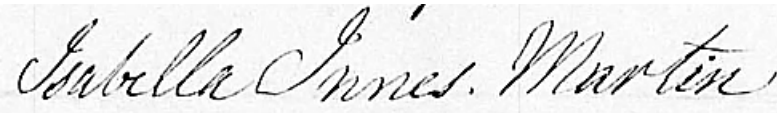
some years ago.

And the said Isabella Innes Martin further states that though she now claims only the pay and the emoluments of a Private Soldier, on account of her deceased husband's services in said war, yet that he always averred that he was promoted at the Fall of Charleston to higher Rank, and performed the duties thereof in said War, and that she may hereafter present proof, and claim corresponding increased pay.

She further states that she was married to the said John Peter Martin in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, on the 21st day of June A.D. 1814, by one Jacob J. Janeway, a Clergyman, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Arch Street, of which she was a member, and that her name before her said marriage was Isabella Innes; that her said husband died at Baltimore Maryland, on the 2nd day of June, A.D. 1832, (as per the accompanying obituary notice, in the National Gazette of Philadelphia Pennsylvania, of the date of July 7 1832, from the pen of the Reverend James Alexander, then of Trenton New Jersey and now of New York City), and that she is still a Widow –

She makes this Declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Pension to which she may be entitled under the "Act passed January 3rd 1853, as also the arrearages or allowance to which she may be entitled under the 2nd Section of the "Act of July 4th 1836, applying to widows of soldiers who died, (as did her husband), between the 4th of March 1831, and the 7th of June 1832, as also the Bounty Land to which she may be entitled under the "Act passed September 28th, 1850," or any other act equally or more advantageous to her.

S/ Isabella Innes Martin



[p 2: Certificate to dated October 24, 1853 given in Middlesex County New Jersey by the Reverend Jacob J Janeway in which he states that in the year 1814 he was the Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Arch W. Philadelphia Pennsylvania, and that on June 21 of 1814, he united in marriage John P Martin and Isabella Innes.]

[p 10]

Issued first of October 1784 to Mr. Peter Martin late Quarter Master in Thomas's [John Thomas, Jr.'s] Regiment Sumter's Brigade State Troops for ninety-four pounds sterling, being amount pay and bounty land due him for services in that Regiment with interest on the same from 15th of April 1782 2 date agreeable to a resolution of General Assembly of the 11th day of March last.

	£	S	D
Principal	94	00	0
Interest	6	11	7

I certify that the above is a true Copy of the original indent in this office Book M Page 440

S/ Thomas P Walker, Deputy Comptroller South Carolina

This is to Certify that after a careful examination of the records in this Office it appears that "Peter Martin" served as Quarter Master for 5 months in Colonel Thomas's Regiment Sumter's Brigade commencing April 15th 1781 and then became a supernumerary

S/ Thomas P Walker, Deputy Comptroller South Carolina

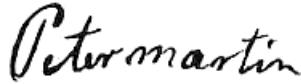
Comptroller Generals Office

Columbia South Carolina, March 6, 1855

[pp 37-38; abstracts of the minutes of the Fusiliers Company of Charleston showing some service by Peter Martin.]

Received 13th May 1776 of Lieutenant Peter Bocquet the following payment for duty done by a detachment of the Fusiliers Company on the expedition to Savannah and received in full for the said expedition – £11.10

S/ Peter Martin



Guard at the old Magazine being part of the Fusilier Company on Wednesday 9th December 1778

S/ Peter Martin

Guard of the Fusilier Company at the Main & Magazine Guard on Wednesday first January 1779

S/ Peter Martin

Guard of the Fusilier Company at the Main & Magazine Guard on Saturday 9th January 1779

S/ Peter Martin

Guard at the old Magazine being part of the Fusilier Company 9th December 1778

S/ Peter Martin

Guard of the Fusilier Company at the Main & Magazine Guard on Tuesday 22nd December 1778

S/ Peter Martin

Fusilier Company being ordered to Camp at Court Royal Ferry on Sunday the 17th January 1779 & Returned to Charleston the 6th March 1779

S/ Peter Martin

We the Undersigned do acknowledge to have received the under mentioned Psalms from Captain William Livingston in full for duty done by the Fusilier Company to the 6th of March last Included and received 17th April 1779 – £52.11

S/ John Peter Martin



The State of South Carolina Charleston District

Personally appeared before me Joseph Sampson who being duly sworn did depose and say that the above Extracts are true and correct copies made by him from the Minute Book belonging to the German Fusilier Company which is now kept in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Charleston District, that the signatures of Peter Martin first above made is a correct and exact facsimile of the handwriting of Peter Martin subscribed to the receipt in the said minute Book; and the other six signatures of Peter Martin are in the handwriting of the Secretary of the said Fusilier Company – This deponent further deposing saith that the last of the above signatures, that of John Peter Martin is a correct and exact facsimile of the original signature as made by him in the minute Book aforesaid, and taken by this deponent from said Book.

S/ Jos. Sampson

Sworn to before me this 11 March 1846

S/ C. R. Brewster NP

[p 41: abstract of the rolls of various SC military organizations showing services of a John Martin and/or John P. Martin.]

Transcript from South Carolina Rolls.
(Extracts.)

The 1st South Carolina Regiment commanded by
Col. G. Pinckney.

	Entries of	Continental	Service.
Martin John	7 May 76	Discharged	3 August 78
Martin John	12 Nov 78	Disch.	76
x	x	x	x
The 2 ^d South Carolina Regiment Command ^d by Col. Marion.			
Martin John	Lieut.		
x	x	x	x
The 3 ^d South Carolina Regiment commanded by Col. Thompson			
Martin John	26 July 76	Disch.	10 Aug 76
Martin John	26 "	Disch.	10 "
Martin John	20 Jan 77	Capt. Goodwyn's Co.	
x	x	x	x
The 4th South Carolina Regiment or Artillery.			
Martin John	4 Aug 75		
x	x	x	x
The 6th South Carolina Regiment. Col. Sumpter 1776. Col. Henderson			
Martin John	23 June 77		
x	x	x	x
The 6th South Carolina Regt.			
Hampton made Bay mount.			
x	x	x	x

Pension Office,
March 3^d 1846.

I certify that the foregoing extracts are copied from a book in this office containing records of the 60th Carolina line of the Continental Army.

J. L. Edwards,
Commissioner of Pensions.

[faint] Cap. Warley's Co.
[faint] Capt. Felix Warley's Co.

[p 46: Letter dated October 29, 1821 and posted from Mount Holly New Jersey by John P Martin in which he discusses domestic matters not relating to his service in the revolution but presumably bearing his legitimate signature as follows:

John P. Martin

[p 47]
On this fourteenth day of October A.D. 1853, personally appeared before me, a Commissioner of Deeds, in and for the City and County of New York, Sarah R. Strobel who, being duly sworn, declares that she is the widow of Benjamin Strobel formerly of Charleston South Carolina, who was a nephew of the late John Peter Martin, who was in early life a resident of Charleston South Carolina, and afterwards lived in Mount Holly, and Trenton New Jersey; --

that she was well acquainted with the said John P. Martin, and has often heard his revolutionary military services and sufferings spoken of by his many relatives in Charleston and elsewhere, who always familiarly mentioned him as "Uncle Peter Martin," though his name in full was John Peter Martin, and that they always addressed him by letter as such, that she is also particularly acquainted with the Applicant in this case, Isabella Innes Martin, & likewise knows that the said John Peter Martin died at Baltimore Maryland, on the 2nd day of June 1832, and further states that she, the said Sarah R. Strobel, has no pecuniary interest in this claim.

Sworn before made this 14th day of October 1853.

S/ James Harrison

S/ Sarah R. Strobel



[p 51]

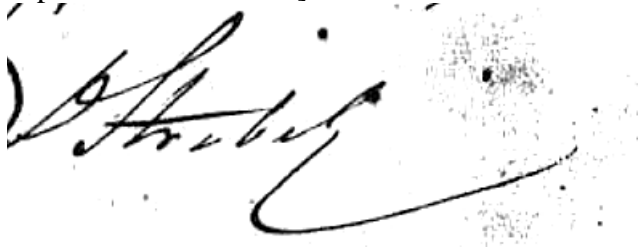
I, Daniel Strobel, late Consul of the United States at Bordeaux in France, at present Deputy Collector of the Customs at New York, being now in the sixty sixth year of my age, I do solemnly swear that I have been from early youth intimately acquainted with John Peter Martin, formerly of South Carolina but late a resident of Trenton in New Jersey, recently deceased and with many of the circumstances which relate to the patriotic exertions & sacrifices he made, & to the services he rendered to the Cause, during the whole course of our revolutionary Struggle for Independence and were performed by him without receiving in return any effectual compensation or remuneration. From all which I can solemnly affirm and I now confirm my own knowledge that before he was yet 15 years old he joined, as a volunteer, the party under the American General Howe [Robert Howe], which was ordered to make an expedition into the (then) British province of East Florida, so early (I think in the year 1775); which expedition proved abortive In 1776. He was under arms, & at his post, when Charleston was invaded by the British land & naval forces under the direction of General Clinton and Admiral Parker, & was defeated at Sullivan's Island. This signal defeat restoring temporary tranquility to the South, -- and a State of repose, whilst this country was elsewhere engaged in the struggle for her liberties, being [indecipherable word or words]¹ with the ardor of Mr Martin's patriotic feelings, & the extraordinary activity and energy of his character, he determined to seek [?] the enemy on the Sea & inflict what wounds he could upon him on that element, but in this enterprise he was unfortunately captured, carried into New York, & thrown into a prison ship; where he remained many months in great suffering & distress being often urged & tempted whilst there by promises of better treatment & prospects, but as [more than a line of text which I cannot decipher in any manner that makes sense] to detach himself from the sacred cause he had embraced. He was finally exchanged (in 1778) and sent to Providence in Rhode Island, from whence he proceeded penniless, naked & on foot towards home, encountering various perils, & all the privations & fatigue of so long a journey through a country of which many parts were then but thinly settled, & some abounding in persons who were deadly enemies to the partisans of the revolution. He reached Charleston, however, in safety, but not to remain supine. The ardor for public service, so predominant in Mr Martin's character, was not long afterwards called into activity, by an

¹ m-embroid

invasion of the British from Georgia, which eventuated in their repulse in the action now Beaufort, by the Carolina forces in which he served. In the following spring (1779) a more serious attempt was made against South Carolina by a strong force of the enemy from Georgia which succeeded in reaching the gates of Charleston, but were compelled to retire; and when attacked by the American troops at Stono, Mr. Martin was one of the detachment sent into their rear to attack and harass them on their retreat. In the autumn of the same year (1779) occurred the invasion of Georgia, and the attack & the [indecipherable word]² repulse sustained by the combined French & American forces before Savannah, on or about the 9th or 10th of October. On this occasion, Mr. Martin, & 2 or 3 of his ardent young friends, joined, as volunteers, the 2nd South Carolina Regiment of the line, commanded by Colonel Pinckney, anticipating that that Regiment would be selected to perform the most distinguished & consequently most dangerous services -- and so it turned out, -- for the Regiment formed part of the forlorn hope in the assault, and suffered severely. Two of his young friends were shot down one on each side of him, & his own escape was considered miraculous. The following spring (1780) an irresistible British land & naval force invaded South Carolina, and laid siege to Charleston. The defense was obstinate & frustrated [?], & the service severe to all, -- but Mr. Martin never contented himself with performing the duties only of ordinary service, when in his opinion his exertions could be otherwise more effectually employed. With this view & disregarding every other consideration of [indecipherable word]³ personal hardship & danger, he voluntarily attached himself to a battalion of artillery of the Line which occupied a half-moon battery in advance of the lines; a post of peculiar peril & fatigue; which he never quitted, day or night, until the town was surrendered -- a period of many weeks. Hitherto, tho' often encountering many perils, he had escaped from personal injury, but now an enemy little before thought of, seized him, laid him prostrate, & rendered him a sufferer & an invalid for the rest of his days. The town had scarcely surrendered when he was taken ill with a malignant Small pox, which operating on a system that had so long endured & too recently been worn down by the fatigue & hardships he had under gone at his post, during the Siege, reduced him to death's door for several months, & finally deprived him of one of his eyes, ever after greatly injuring the sight of the other, and irreparably shattering his previously robust constitution—but the energies of his mind, & above all his ardent patriotism, survived the dreadful trial; for as Soon as it was understood that some of his countrymen under Sumter, Marion & other heroic leaders, were up again in arms in the interior, he [indecipherable word]⁴ to escape, and to join them: And was afterwards, & until the Independence of his Country was recognized by the Peace with Great Britain, he continued in constant public service, under one or other of the chivalrous [?] leaders of those days which tried the Souls of men, cheerfully supporting the fatigues, privations, & perils, which characterized the War in the South, notwithstanding his physical infirmities, & by which these infirmities were greatly aggravated and rendered permanently afflicting for the remainder of his Life. At length a triumphant peace was affected; which alone put on end to the ardent & incessant patriotic

² *circumstances*
³ *inconceivable*
⁴ *continued*

exertions of Mr. Martin; and when the enemy had evacuated South Carolina he returned to Charleston, but destitute of a single dollar, & of even one change of clothing, (as I well remember) & coarsely & poorly Clay Ed by those in which he stood; – but apparently happy,. [two and half more pages of challenging, handwritten text which does not appear to add any details as to the services of the veteran. Strobel states near the end of his statement that he is the nephew of Mr. Martin.]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Strobel". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. There are some dark, irregular spots and smudges to the right of the signature, possibly due to the scanning process or the original document's condition.