

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Martin R6957

Telitha Martin

f22NC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 2]

State of North Carolina County of Wayne: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

On this Second day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before J J Daniel Judge of the Superior Court of Law for the County aforesaid now sitting, Joseph Martin, of the County & State aforesaid aged about 74 or 75 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he enlisted in France in the French Troops and sailed from Brest in the French Fleet under Count d'Estaing -- himself on board *Le Rebatter* -- in the year 1779 or 1780 -- on the passage of cross the Atlantic the Fleet had a severe engagement with the British Fleet which continued until night -- After being on the ocean 4 or 5 months -- was landed a few miles below Savannah in Georgia then in possession of the British -- The troops of the Fleet had a very severe battle with the British in the attempt to retake Savannah, but were repulsed with loss -- After this repulse -- Declarant left the French Troops -- and rambled over the country until at last he found himself in Southampton County in Virginia about the time the British were in Norfolk and Portsmouth, -- Declarant then went with one William Denson who employed him as his substitute in an eighteen months service to which he was drafted, he was placed under Col. Blount in his Regiment -- Col. Parker commanding another Regiment. In consequence of his being a stranger in the land -- and of his very imperfect knowledge of the language, he remembers the names of no other of his officers except Lieut. Benjamin Griffin to whom he sold a captured horse.

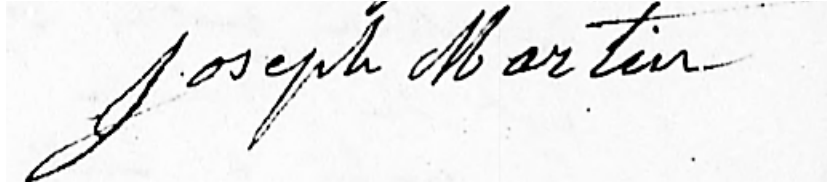
During this term of service Declarant was put in a company of Light Horse and was sent out as a spy -- He met two British soldiers called York volunteers -- whom he captured and carried to camp -- When Declarant had been in this service about 7 months according to his best recollection -- he was ordered to be marched to Petersburg and be placed under Continental officers -- Col. Blount gave Declarant a furlough for 3 or 4 days to visit a female of his acquaintance to whom he had become attached and to whom he was afterwards married -- upon promise to report himself at the expiration of the time to the commanding officer at Petersburg -- He accordingly reported himself according to his engagement to the commanding officer at Petersburg who would not receive him for reasons which declarant does not know -- being then almost totally ignorant of the English language -- and shortly after before he could see his former Col. and be replaced the surrender of Cornwallis had taken place and his services were no longer needed -- One thing this declarant solemnly swears that he did not leave the Army disgracefully

but was always willing to serve his adopted country against his ancient foe.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Joseph Martin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Martin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

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State of North Carolina County of Wayne: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1833
(Supplemental Declaration of Joseph Martin)

On this 22nd day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful the Justices of the Court aforesaid now sitting Joseph Martin of the County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration supplemental to his declaration above

That the period of war when he served was ~~in the winter of 1779~~ and spring of 1781.

That he served as much as 7 months -- as private.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service -- nor does he know of any living [witness] whose testimony he can procure of his actual service.

That he was born in the Town of Rodes [Rodez?] in France in the year as he believes of 1758.

That he has no record of his age.

That he was living in Southampton County in Virginia when he was called into the service, from whence he removed in 1782 to Wayne County NC where he has always & since lived.

That he entered the service as substitute for William Denson --

There was no Regular Officer with the Troops where he served: Col. Parker -- Col. Blount's Regiments are all that he can remember -- being then almost entirely ignorant of the English language as stated in his Declaration --

That he received no discharge -- reasons assigned in his Declaration --

That he can refer to Gab: Sherard, Esq., Honbl. Jesse Speight, Arthur Barden, Esq., James Griswold and Rufus Daniels, Esq. as persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier in the Revolution --

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year of this Supplemental Declaration above written.

S/ Joseph Martin

[John Howell, a clergyman, and William Barden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7: On December 1, 1852 in Wayne County North Carolina, Telitha Martin, resident of Goldsboro in Wayne County gave a power of attorney to Ervin A. Thompson of Goldsboro to pursue the pension due her husband Joseph Martin under his application for a pension as a soldier of the revolutionary war.]

[Facts in file: the veteran died about 1835; his widow, Telitha, died in Goldsboro, NC, in 1859; there is no information relating to their marriage or any children they might have had other than a reference in a letter dated October 29, 1860 post marked from Fort Valley Georgia in which the correspondent, F. A. Ansley, makes reference to unnamed children of the veteran who wish to know if they are entitled to a pension in right of their father's service.]