

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Martin R6965

Nancy

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/7/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky, Barren County, on this 25th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge the Circuit Court of Barren County, now sitting, Benjamin Martin a resident of Barren County in the State of Kentucky., aged Seventy four years the 8th day of July last, being duly sworn according to law on his oath doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832—that he entered the service of the United States under the following name officers and served as herein stated. I Benjamin Martin was born in Fauquier County, in the State of Virginia, on the 8th day of July 1758 agreeable to my family records, and there lived with my father Henry Martin until the first of September 1775. I then entered the service of the United States as a private soldier, under Captain William Pickett, John Marshal [sic, John Marshall], Lieut. Isham Keith, Ensign, we were called minute men, Thomas Marshal [sic, Thomas Marshall] was Major the Several companies in Fauquier being Collected, the middle of September we marched to Culpeper [sic, Culpeper] Court House and there we joined the Culpeper and Orange Minute Men and were formed into regiment under Col. Toliver, we marched from Culpeper Court House to Williamsburg, and there we camped several weeks Sending out detachments to prevent the British from landing, and plundering the inhabitants, about two hundred men under Captain Buford had a skirmish with Dunmore's Shipping, at Hampton and took a Sloop [sloop] that mounted several guns, soon after that we crossed James River at Jamestown with intent to go to Norfolk. We there joined the minutemen from the lower counties under Col. Woodford and Col. Charles Scott, but the British had built a fort and mounted Cannon on the north side of the river at the Long Bridge to prevent us from crossing, we built a strong breast work at the end of the crossway [causeway] on the south side, we continued to skirmish with the British and about the middle of November early in the morning the British regulars crossed the bridge and attacked our works. I was at that time on guard off the left of our works. The British were repulsed with the loss of Captain Fordice [sic, Charles Fordyce] and some soldiers, and at night left their fort, when to Norfolk, shipped their cannon and even on board of their Shipping and we soon after that marched into Norfolk. We continued skirmishing with the enemy and on the first day of January 1776, about one hour by sun at night the British commenced a heavy cannonade from their shipping, Set fire to Norfolk and laid it in ashes. We continued to guard that part of the country until the last of March 1776 and having been in actual service, six months, we were discharged at Suffolk until further orders. Col. Thomas Marshall and Col. Charles Scott, each of them enlisted a regiment of regulars and joined General Washington's Army, and John Marshall commanded a company of regulars and they had nothing more to do with the Minute Men. I received a discharge until further orders from Captain WM. Pickett. The first of August 1776 part of the minute men were called on again. I was a private soldier attached to Captain James Winn's Company and under command of Col. Elias Edmunds. We marched from Fauquier Court House the middle of August 1776. We passed through Fredericksburg from Fredericksburg to Williamsburg and then to a place we called Spring field camp, and were stationed there in order to march to any place near the mouth of rivers to prevent the enemy from plundering the inhabitants, and destroying their salt works. We continued to do such duty as were

called on to do and having served three months and the men very sick, we were again discharged about the 15th of November until further orders. This was the last call that was made on the minute men. I received a discharge from Col. Elias Edmunds.

1777, Early in Sept. Fauquier County was called on for volunteers to reinforce General Washington's army. I volunteered and was enlisted under Captain Benjamin Harrison, I served as a corporal, James Kee was Lieutenant, we were formed into a regiment and commanded by Col. Martin Pickett and marched from Fauquier Court House the middle of September We passed through Leesburg, and then to Nolen's Ferry on Potomac, then to Fredericktown in Maryland, then through Little York and Lancaster in Pennsylvania, we met General Wain's [sic, Anthony Wayne's] men that were wounded at Peolia [Paoli, September 21, 1777], going to Lancaster, and we joined Gen. Washington's army the day after the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777]. Our regiment camped near the Virginia Regulars commanded by General Charles Scott and Colonial Thomas Marshall, as soon as the British left Germantown, a detachment was ordered to Germantown. I was one of them, we marched over the Battleground. I noticed a gate below a house they called Chew's house, the gate was very much shattered with grape or canes shot and blood of men that had been killed was plainly to be seen on the ground, soon after that the British commenced a heavy cannonade on our forts on the Delaware River from their Shipping in order to force their way up to Philadelphia. I was with a detachment near Germantown when the Americans blew up a large British Ship and tremendous was the explosion it made. We continued in service three months and were discharged about the middle of December a little before the army went into Winter Quarters at Valley Forge. I received a discharge from Captain Benjamin Harrison.

The last of August 1780, the militia of Fauquier were called on to reinforce our army in Carolina. I substituted in the place of James Kamper he being a married man and I being a single man, Francis Triplet was Captain and John Combs Lieutenant, I was appointed first Sergeant. Another company was attached to us under Captain James Winn. We marched from Fauquier Courthouse, the first of September, we passed through Fredericksburg, then to Richmond, then to Petersburg, from thence to Hillsborough in North Carolina, and there we joined the Maryland troops under Col. Howard [John Eager Howard], we marched from Hillsborough in N.C. to a place called New Providence and General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] took command. Col. Daniel Morgan was promoted to Brigadier General, the Augusta and Rockbridge militia joined us, the Virginia militia was form into a Battalion, Captain Triplett was promoted to Major and John Combs was made Captain in his place. General Greene detached General Morgan with the Maryland troops under Col. Howard, the Virginia militia under Major Francis Triplett and Col William Washington's Light Horse. General Morgan marched down on Pecklet River [sic, Pacolet River] and took up camp on a hill near the River and continued to send out detachments and defeat the Tories. And about the Middle of January we were informed that Col. Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] was coming on us with superior force. We retreated to a place we called Cowpens and took up camp all in order for Battle. The British attacked us early in the morning. I was in the road all the time of the action I covered Captain Combs, he was killed. Captain Dobson and Lieutenant Ewen was on the left of the Maryland Troops near me—the British were completely defeated. We marched on with the prisoners to Salsberry [sic, Salisbury]. I continued with the army until the first of February and received a discharge as first sergeant for six months. The discharge was given my by Major Francis Triplett, on the road near the North Carolina line, the tour a private soldier. I moved from Virginia in the year 1795 to Kentucky and settled about eight miles east of Lexington in Fayette, County, when I moved to Kentucky, I destroyed all my useless papers and among the rest my discharge as I expected never to have any use for them. In the year 1812 I moved to where I now live in Barren County, Kentucky. I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my names i not on the pension roll of any state. Subscribed and sworn the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Martin

Benjamin Martin

[Hudson Martin and John Cole gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The persons here named all well acquainted with me Jesse Morris, Joel Dickinson, James Duff – Colonel John Cole – James Harris

I have no Documentary Evidence and I have no knowledge of any living witness by which I can prove my Service. I have a Record of my age which I took from my Father's family Record.

The first Tour I served as a private soldier six months – the Second a private Soldier three months – the third a Corporal three months – the fourth first Sergeant six months – Sworn and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. S/ Benjamin Martin

[p 13: On February 17, 1841, in Barren County Kentucky, Nancy Martin, 81, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she was 81 years old on March 27, 1841; that she married Benjamin Martin on June 20, 1781; that her husband died September 20, 1838 in the County of Barren State of Kentucky. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 14: On February 17, 1841 in Barren County Kentucky, John Martin, 55, gave testimony that the family record contains an extract which reads "Benjamin Martin and Nancy his wife was married the 20th day of June 1781"; that the original record of Benjamin Martin is in his hand writing and has been in the possession of Nancy Martin since the death of Benjamin Martin on September 20, 1838.

John Martin
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[p 17: In February 1852 in Barren County Kentucky, Benjamin H Martin filed a claim under the 1838 act stating that Benjamin H Martin, Mary Cole and Rebecca Grider are the only surviving heirs at law of Benjamin and Nancy Martin; that Benjamin Martin was pensioned at the rate of \$77 per year for his service in the revolution; that his mother applied for a pension and died in barren County June 9, 1841; that his mother's maiden name was Nancy Kemper; that his parents were married in Fauquier County Virginia June 20, 1781; that his mother Nancy Martin was 82 years old when she died.]

[pp 20-21: This file contains Bible records indicating that the children of Benjamin and Nancy were:
Letty born April 4, 1782

Nathan born September 3, 1783

John born November 13, 1785

Betsey born May 21, 1788

Mary born August 1, 1790 married a Cole

Nancy born September 4, 1792

Rebekah born May 3, 1798 married a Grider

Benjamin H. born July 10, 1800

Lucinda born July 6, 1802

Said Bible record also indicates that Benjamin Martin was born the 8th day of July 1758 and that Nancy his wife was born March 27, 1760.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private, Corporal & Sergeant in the Virginia service.]