

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Matthews R7023

f42VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/20/13

[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 Georgia Lincoln County: On this 23 day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open Court being the Superior Court of said County before the Honorable William H Crawford the Presiding Judge, John Matthews who being first duly sworn in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 – says –

That he is a resident of the County and State aforesaid, that he is in his 78th year of his age, was born in the County of Prince William and State of Virginia, and entered the service of his Country under the following named officers and served as herein set forth viz.:

Sometime in the year 1775 when the troubles of Virginia began to grow to its worst, by internal and external enemies the Governor then of Virginia Lord Dunmore becoming alarmed left Williamsburg the place where he resided the seat of Government of Virginia and went on Board of Shipping, from where he issued his different proclamations, among which was one to the Slaves to give them their freedom if they would flock to him. And it was the cause of a great many doing so, about this time a call was made for what was then termed minutemen, deponent was then living in Prince William County and volunteered his services in a Captain Leaches [probably Andrew Leitch] Company and a Colonel Hendricks [probably James Hendricks] Regiment. He was from Alexandria, they were marched to Hampton in Virginia and remained deponent believes over five months when the minute service was broken up and ordered to raise Troops by enlistment for the term of two years. Captain Leach who was commanding in the minute service, received the appointment or was continued and immediately commenced raising a Company from the minute men by enlistment for two years which he compelled deponent being one of them and it was the first company raised in the third Virginia Regiment they continued at Hampton for a few months, and were marched up to Alexandria and made a halt for some short time, when other companies partly raised in the same manner Captain Fitzgerald & Captain Lee commanding those Companies uniting at Alexandria. We were marched directly to New York City, remained there one night & marched off next morning. We were under the command of Colonel Weeding [this may be a mistaken reference to Colonel George Weedon] from Fredericksburg. We marched up from New York City to Kings Bridge fifteen miles about and there had an engagement with the Hessians in that action, Major Leach who had been Captain at the enlistment of deponent; & for some time after, but was promoted or raised by seniority, and the Lieutenant by name of Peyton promoted to Captain Major Leach was in that engagement killed, from there we marched to White Plains, previous to this Colonel Weedon had been promoted to a General, though they were under the command of General Washington from the time they reached New York. At White Plains there was a severe Battle [October 28, 1776] in which deponent was engaged but not in the hottest part of the Battle. Soon after as they could get off from there retreating through New Jersey until they reached Delaware at Trenton and


[paper damaged and illegible word] up the Pennsylvania side to a place called Blue Mount where they remained for some time, General Washington having removed all the water crafts on his side of Delaware, the British pursued on to Trenton on the Jersey side in this situation the armies were lying until the morning of the 26th of December 1776. General Washington had the night before prepared to attack the British Army composed principally of Hessians and done so, deponent was in the engagement and the Americans took & killed as was reported a thousand; from this time there was no particular engagement the Army occasionally marched from different positions and many took the Small Pox, and deponent also which came near killing him he was suffered to remain at a place called New Town until he recruited his health. He united with the Army as soon as his health was so he could at White Marsh. Nothing particular happened that deponent can relate until the Battle of Brandy Wine [Brandywine, September 11, 1777]. Deponent was in the hottest of that, the Army's marching within seventy or eighty yards before a gun was fired. This Battle was a sore trial to many parts of the Army that was most immediately engaged and in this deponent was wounded in both of his legs by a Ball. The armies being withdrawn, deponent was ordered to the Barracks in Philadelphia, where we soon had to move again, the British marching also to that city. The American Army moved to Trenton and deponent was moved to Princeton where he remained until his wounds healed that he could travel. He went again into the Army who moved to Valley Forge and took up winter quarters where he remained until his time expired. He was formerly discharged by Colonel Thomas Marshall and he returned home. –

Deponent remained in Virginia after this until the year 1789 he removed to Georgia and has remained in that part of Wilkes County which is now Lincoln, and in Lincoln County ever since & where he now resides.

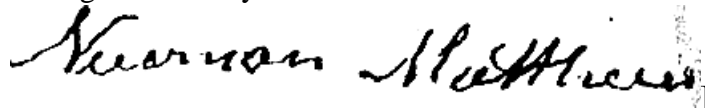
Deponent further swears that he has no documents to prove his service. He is able to prove by his Brother Newman Matthews the only living witness in his section of country of his entering the service of his Country and the absence and return of deponent.

Deponent further swears that he has never received a pension nor even wages, poorly clad, and badly Fayette, but is satisfied in the loss of his blood & time in the cause for which he fought. There were promises made to the Virginia soldiers of Lang and & pay, but he deponent never received any nor his name of any Pension List Roll of any Agency of any State. And he hereby relinquishes all except the present.

S/ John Matthews



[p 5: Newman Matthews, brother of the claimant, gave a supporting affidavit in which he testified to his brother's entering the Army, being wounded and returning after being absent while serving in the Army.



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State of Georgia Lincoln County: Before me Elijah Frazer a Justice of the peace in & for said County personally appeared John Matthews who being by me duly sworn deposeth and saith in

addition to his former proofs and showing as an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of the United States of the 7th of June 1832 and in further explanation and support of his claim as a Soldier of the Revolution. That he was promised a bounty of two hundred acres of Land for his services aforesaid declarant solemnly swears that he has never received said Bounty of Land as promised for services as a soldier of the Revolution nor has he received money in lieu thereof, nor has he deponent ever authorized and agent to receive the Land nor has he directly or indirectly ever been benefited in any way for the same and in fact he deponent further swears he never received his full wages for his services.

Deponent further swears that he is unable to prove a negative, that he never did receive satisfaction yet he most solemnly swears and appeals to all record for a showing to the reverse that he never received the satisfaction promised him for his services as a Soldier of the Revolution either directly or indirectly.

In testimony whereof the said John Matthews have hereunto subscribed his name this 25th day of May 1835.

S/ John Matthews

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Georgia Lincoln County: In the Superior Court of said County State president his honor Garrett Andrews Judge of the Superior Court of the Northern Circuit of said State –

Personally appeared in open Court John Matthews who being duly sworn according to law in order to Amend and offer additional testimony to his former declaration and proofs to obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress heretofore submitted and now on file in the War Department, that he had been advised, and believed that he could not obtain a pension under the Acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 on account of his having a sufficiency of property to prevent him from taking the Oath or coming under the provisions of that Act and the amendments & additional laws on that subject, that he was apprised of some being stricken from the list on account of their property who had obtained a pension and who were not as well off as deponent.

Deponent further declares that he might be enabled to prove by Nicholas T Barksdale, Micajah Henly [?], Joel B Sutton & Thomas G Glaze that Newman Matthews Senior is a man of credibility considered and believed as a man of truth & strict honor having lived many years in the County & State. All of which witnesses are men of good standing.
Sworn to in Open Court 27th of October 1840

S/ John Matthews