

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Matthews R7024

f23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/18/09: rev'd 7/16/16

[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.]

State of Alabama

Circuit Court Sumter County: to wit

On this the fourteenth day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Leon L. Perry, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of the State aforesaid now in Session in the County aforesaid John Matthews a resident of Sumter County in the State of Alabama aged Seventy-three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. -- The Affiant was born in what was then called Cumberland County (since Moore County) in the State of North Carolina in the month of December 1760. This affiant was regularly drafted in March of the year 1779 he being then 19 years of age. General Butler [John Butler] commanded the brigade in which he served the Regiment was commanded by Col. Johnson [Jonas Johnston of the Edgecombe County North Carolina militia] and affiant served under Capt. Nathan King [Nathaniel King]. This affiant was at the battle of Stono [Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] which as well as he now recollects was fought on the 20th of June 1779 -- and this affiant received a written discharge on the 10th of July following having served five months -- and this affiant declares that he has lost or mislaid his discharge so that he cannot lay his hands upon it. This affiant further avers that shortly after his discharge he was made prisoner by a detachment of Cornwallis' [sic, Cornwallis'] Army then on their march to Hillsboro in North Carolina that after remaining for some time a prisoner, affiant was discharged on parole.

Interrogatories and answers

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born the 30th day December 1760 in Cumberland County North Carolina.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer -- I have my age recorded in the family Bible of my father in his handwriting.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer -- I was living in what was then called Cumberland County the part of the County in which I live has since been attached to Moore County in North Carolina. I then moved to Pendleton District in South Carolina where I knew Elias Earle Esquire & General John Bailis Earle. I afterwards moved to Hall County in Georgia where I remained for two years from thence to Alabama where I now live to wit in Sumter County.

[Not put or answered: 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?]

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] was chief in command General Butler's brigade Col. Johnson's Regiment Capt. Nathan King Lieut. Gibbs. I was as before averred at the battle of Stono where Major Dickson was wounded

[6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?]

Answer I did receive a written discharge from the service but have lost or mislaid it.

[7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

Answer I am known to Zachariah Graham, Jesse Cooper, James A. Bates, Jesse P. Saunders [signed his surname "Sanders"] and John Erwin Esquire Senator from Greene County State aforesaid who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief in my services as a soldier of the Revolution. This affiant cannot produce a clergyman to make affidavit to his character for veracity because the only clergyman to whom he is known is absent from the County.

This affiant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Matthews



[James A. Bates & Jesse P. Sanders gave the standard supporting affidavit.



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State of Alabama, County of Sumter} SS

On the 18th day of February A D 1835 personally appeared in open Court before Peter Doty the presiding Judge of the County Court of Sumter County now sitting John Matthews a resident of Sumter County and State of Alabama aged Seventy four 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 7th, 1832—

I was born on the 30th day of December AD 1760 in Cumberland County (now Moore County) in the State of North Carolina where I was raised. I have no record of my age in my possession the family Bible in which my father recorded my age is or was in the possession of one of my brothers.

I was living in said Cumberland County when sometime in the month of March AD 1779

I was drafted into the service of the United States for a three month tour to commence from the time of our crossing the South Carolina Line—We crossed this line on the 10th day April (on the road to Camden) from whence we marched through Orangeburg.

And on the 20th day of I fought the Battle at Stono--on the 10th day of July following I was discharged—took a written discharge but have lost it—

In this Tour of duty I served in Capt King's Company (who was an Uncle of our Senator in Congress The Hon. Wm R. King)- our Major's name was Richardson [James Richardson] from Bladen County- Our regiment was commanded by Colonel Johnston—Our brigade by Genl Butler And General Lincoln was our Commander in Chief—

I then returned home to Cumberland County but in a short time afterwards volunteered to guard a Public Store called “Obears Place” in the County of Cumberland and in this service, served out a term of three months under Capt Patrick Travis (who was an Irishman) –but when my term of service expired I did not take any written discharge not regarding it of any importance--Frank Danly and James Dobbins, one or both of whom were sergeants had the management of this “Public Store”—

About this time the Tories became very troublesome and I frequently turned out against them under Captain Heard [Armstrong Heard] and Colonel Alston [Philip Alston].

I well [recollect an] instance [incident?] one of these expeditions—I think it was in the fall of 1779 or else in the summer of 1780 (I have nothing but my memory to rely on for the date of this transaction) a general muster was held at Chatham Court house and the next day afterwards there was a Court Martial and during the setting of this Court Martial Colonel Fanning (a Tory Colonel) [David Fanning] appeared with his Tory command and made all of the officers composing the Court Martial prisoners. As soon as the event was known I turned out under Captain Heard and Colonel Alston and pursued Colonel Fanning as far as the Raft Swamp but we could not overtake him.

I went out on many other similar expeditions under these officers and am sure that I could not have served less than One Month in this kind of service—making in all Seven Months Service—

After this time Lord Cornwallis Marched from South Carolina to Guilford Court House where General Greene [Nathanael Greene] gave him battle [March 15, 1781] and turned his course for Wilmington and soon after this two Tory Colonels (one of them Col Fanning and the other called Sadler [?] Hector McNeil) with some British officers collected their forces and marched on Hillsborough where they took Governor Burke [Thomas Burke] and a number of officers and Soldiers prisoners [Hillsboro, September 12, 1781]. On their way thither I was myself taken prisoner by them and after using threats and persuasions to induce me to join with them, an officer by the name of McKay at the end of the second day after my capture wrote and gave me what he called a Parole and when he gave it to me he said “Now take care of yourself”—

I remained in this situation under parole until the end of the war a period to the best of my recollection of near two years—

I have no documentary evidence to establish my service and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my said service and imprisonment under parole with the exception of Zachariah Graham whose affidavit is here annexed--

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State—

Interrogations propounded by the court to the applicant and his answers thereto--

1st Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in Cumberland County (now Moore County) in the State of North Carolina- on the 30th day of December 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it-

Answer 2nd I have no record of my age in my possession the family Bible in which my father recorded my name was or is in the possession of one of my brothers

3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer 3rd I was living in Cumberland County (now called Moore County) State of North Carolina when I was called into service I have since lived in Pendleton District South Carolina – then in Hall County Georgia & thence to Mobile and I now live in Sumter County Alabama

4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer 4th I was first drafted into service – I afterwards volunteered--

5th State the names of some of the Regiment officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Militia Regiments or you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service –

Answer 5th I recollect a Major Bowey [sic, Bowie?] with the regular troops of South Carolina & I recollect a Major Dickson whom I saw wounded in the neck by a bullet

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it—

Answer 6th I received a discharge at the end of the three months for which I was drafted, and have long since lost it- It was given to me by Col Johnson. I never received any other discharge—

7th State the names of persons to whom you are know in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer 7th John Thompson and Chris C Scott and ___ of Sumter County know me and can testify to my character as a man of veracity-- & have stated the circumstances of my services and imprisonment as nearly as I can now recollect--

Sworn to and Subscribed in Open court the 18th day of February 1835-]

S/ Danl Womack, Clk

S/ John Matthews

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Matthews". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a thick, dark horizontal line.

[John Thompson & Christopher C. Scott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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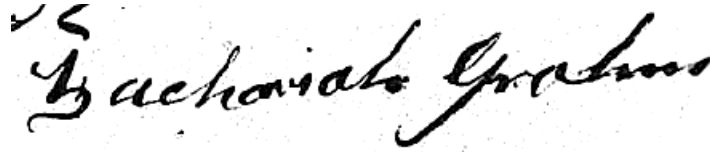
Also personally appeared in open court in like manner Zachariah Graham of Sumter County aged Seventy years who after having been duly sworn according to law upon his oath saith that [several words obliterated by ink blots] affiant lived in the neighborhood with this applicant in Cumberland County (now Moore County) in the State of North Carolina -- That this affiant distinctly recollects that said Matthews went out into the service & recollects his return and recollects to have heard it said that he was in the battle of Stono.

That he recollects the guarding of public store at Obears place and that said Matthews the applicant was one of the guard -- And that he recollects that said Matthews the applicant was frequently out in the war on other occasions against the Tories -- And he recollects to have been heard it generally spoken of in the neighborhood that said applicant was made a prisoner some went towards Hillsboro & was let go on parole --

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court.

S/ Danl. Womack, Clk

S/ Zachariah Graham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zachariah Graham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Zachariah Graham".