

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John May R7051

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Tennessee } SS.

County of McMinn }

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said county, John May a resident of said county and state, aged about 71 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer Militia man about the latter part of April 1777 in Henry County Virginia in a Company Commanded by Captain James Shelton of the County of Henry & State of Virginia and was attached to a Regiment Commanded by Colonel William Christy [William Christian], which campaign has been generally known by the name of Christys Campaign against the Cherokees Indians, and the same time the Treaty was entered into with the Cherokee Indians at the Long Islands of Holston [now Kingsport TN, 20 Jul 1777]. William Blevins was Lieutennant and Isaac McDaniel Ensign of the same Company. We Rendezvoused at Anthony Smiths on the Mayo River in Henry County [now Patrick County] Virginia, then marched on up the Hollows of the Dan River [sic: The Hollow on the headwaters of Ararat River] to Flower gap [in present Carroll County], thence to Fort Chizel [sic: Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County], thence on down the County passing through Abingdon. Thence we struck for the head of Holston River, and Thence on down to the Long Island were the Treaty was held. declarant was engaged in no battle. declarant marched in company with Captain Peter Haston [sic: Peter Hairston] who commanded a company from the same County, and was discharged at the Long Islands of Holston about the 1<sup>st</sup> of July having served out the time for which he engaged, which was about 3 months — Declarant again entered the service of the United States about the month of December 1779 as a mounted gunman for 12 months to be ready at all times at a moments warning to defend the Country against the Tories, under the Command of Captain Thomas Bush and Lieutenant Peachy Blecher enrolled in Henry County and State of Virginia on the Marrowbone Creek all under the Command of Colonel Abraham Penn Rendezvoused at Henry Francis's [on South Mayo River] in Henry County within one mile of the North Ca line, from thence we marched on to the Moravian Towns in North Ca. thence to the Shallow ford of the Yadkin River [10 mi W of present Winston-Salem], thence crossed the Yadkin at the Shallow ford passing through a battle ground that northern party of whigs had with the Torys the night before [14 Oct 1780], thence to Cussauns where we remained some days, from thence we marched up the Yadkin some distance and crossed it again, bore on from thence to the hollows of the Dan on our course home until we arrived from where we started, and in the month of October or November 1780 declarant received no discharge for this tour. Declarant again entered the service of the United States as a substitute in Miles Jennings room for a 3 months tour of duty, in a company commanded by Amon Cryte [sic: Hama Critz] Captain, Lieutenant William Renfrow [sic: William Renfro], Ensign Tarrence [sic: John Tarrance or Tarrant] enrolled in June or July 1781 in Henry County Virginia. declarant received a furlough from the Commandant of the Company to join head quarters at Mobbin Hill [sic: Malvern Hill] on James River about 16 miles below Richmond on the north side which he done, thence marched to the Pamunky [sic: Pamunkey] River to New Castle Town [now Old Church], and at that place cleared out a parade ground Thence marched on down the Pamunky River on the south side to Bacon's old fields, at which place declarant received his discharge; having been attached to the Waggon department at New Castle. Declarant received discharges for two term of duty but has lost both; Declarant has in his possession a Receipt from Nathl Rice Lieut Commanding Post of P. Edw'd. [Prince Edward] County Virginia which is in these words; Rec'd. of John May of Henry County one six months soldier by the name of Archibald McCoy. Given at Prince Edward

Courthouse Oct'r 12<sup>th</sup> 1781 and signed Nathl. Rice Lieut Comd Post. P. Edwd for which declarant according to the Regulations of them times entitled him to a credit for a tour of duty [for returning a deserter].

Interogatories put to John May in open Court

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you Born

answer I was born in Essex County Virginia in the year of our Lord 1760 some time in the month of november

2<sup>nd</sup> have you any Record of your age and if so where is it

Answer I have no Record of my age but heard my father sware that my age was as above stated

3<sup>d</sup> Where ware you living when called into service Where have you lived since the Revolution War and where do you now live

Answer I lived in Henry County Virginia when called into service thence moved to Buncomb [sic: Buncombe] County North Carolina thence moved to Blount County Tennessee thence moved to MCminn County where I now Reside and have lived for the last 12 years

4<sup>th</sup> How ware you caled into service ware you drafted did you volunteeer or ware you a substitute and if a substitute for whome

Answer I first Enlisted, secondly I substituted in Miles Jennings place after which I Inlisted in the said service for twelve months after which I took a Disarter which was to sarve for a Tour of Duty for three months and delivered him at head quarters

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular officers who ware with the Troops whare you served such Continental and Malitia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer Colonel Christie commanded at the Long Iselands of Holstain, afterwards Capt Crite marched us to head quarters on Maben Hill and then we ware under the command of Gen Layfatte [sic: Lafayette] there was a General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] was there commanding the regular Troops But I belong to General [Robert] Lawson's Brigade

6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whome was it given and what has become of it

Answer I have received discharges but do not know what has become of them nor do I recollect who gave them to me I recollect Capt Crite give me a paper to a field officer and he discharged me but have no recollection of the officers name nor what became of my discharge

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whome you are known in your neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for verrasity and their belief of your services as a revolutionary soldier

Answer the Reverend Obediah Boulden the Reverend John Boulden Coln Henry Bradford and Robert Sloan Esqr and Capt Joseph Cobb who are all aquainted with me for several years with all the neighbourhood

William May, Senior, [pension application W5335] makes oath that he is acquainted with the above declarant and knows of his having served the two last named tours of duty under Captain Burk and Cryte, that he served with him in both tours, both commanded in one term by Captain Cryte, and that he belonged to Captain Dillard [John Dillard's] Company at the time declarant was commanded by Capt Bush, he states he was not on the tour of Long Island, but is knowing to declarants going out on said Campaign and that the times specified by declarant affiant believes to be correct — Sworn to & subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832.

[signed] William May

NOTE: On 6 May 1844 in Polk County TN James Hawkins, 47, applied for a pension for the service of his father-in-law, John May, who died 28 Dec 1839 leaving a widow, "Charotty May," who died on 27 Dec 1842 and the following children: Leroy May, William May, George May, Peter May, Phalby Markrum, Elender Rodgers, Escheler Harris, and Marry Hawkins. The application was supported in 1844 by Rhoda May, 78, who stated that she married William May, brother of John May, in 1783 about three years after John May was married. In the same year Daniel May, 58, of Polk County stated that he was the son of William May, brother of John May. Another document indicates that John May married Charity Taylor in Henry County.