

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John May R7056

Sarah May

f45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/28/13

[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.]

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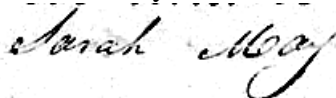
State of Kentucky Pike County: SS

On this 15 day of September 1845 personally appeared before the Pike County Court in open Court Sarah May a resident of Pike County and State of Kentucky aged 86 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows["]

That she is the widow of John May who was in the Artillery service in the Virginia Continental line of the Revolutionary War. That she is not able to state the exact year that he entered the service but this may be inferred from the statements hereinafter contained. That he entered the service in the County of Berkeley and State of Virginia and her recollection is that his Captain's name was Cherry and a portion of the time she thinks he was under the command of General Lee and she has a recollection of hearing him frequently speak of being on the opposite side of the River from the battle of Long Island and also of General Washington's retreat over the River. She recollects of being in Martinsburg Berkeley County Virginia when he returned from the Army and she saw to young men one by the name of Jacob Orr the other by the name of Jacob Pink with many others take him into Skinner's Tavern in Martinsburg and treat him to something to drink and they seemed to be rejoicing together and on inquiring the cause was told that it was John May who had just returned from the Army. Of this she has a distinct recollection. This was in the month of April and to the best of her recollection was in the year 1779 or 1780. And in the March following John May and this affiant were married. Her husband frequently told her that he entered the service in his seventeenth year and he was in his twentieth year when he and this affiant were married he having returned from the Army in April and we being married in March following which was in the year 1779 or 1780 as before stated. They were married by publishing the banns and the certificate given her by the preacher that married them was lost with other records of the family. She does not recollect from any information what particular services he rendered further than above stated or whether he was in any engagement or not. The reason of her not recollecting more fully as to his service is that she was not in that section of country when he entered the service but came there (to Berkeley County) while he was in the service. She herewith sends a certificate from the Auditor's Office in Virginia as evidence of his service and she thinks she can explain why the expression is made use of in said Certificate "delivered to widow." That said John May lived with a widow May in Martinsburg Virginia at the time when he entered the service who was his aunt as she understood and returned to live there on his return from the Army and soon after his return purchased the house and lot on which the said widow May lived and she has no doubt gave his wages in

payment or part payment for the same as his means was then limited and she supposes gave an order for said wages. She further states that she recollects having frequently seen his discharge and that it was lost or destroyed many years since with other papers and records of the family but she cannot state certainly how it was lost or destroyed or the exact time when. She refers to the file of the Secretary of War where she presumes his name may be found registered. She further states that her husband John May died on the 25th day of January 1813 and that she has remained a widow ever since as will appear by the proof here with subjoined. That she was married to him after the expiration of the last term of his service at the time before stated and prior to the first day of January 1794. She further states that she is satisfied he must have been in the service two years and she has a distinct recollection of frequently hearing him speak of having had charge of the artillery weather as an officer or not she has no distinct recollection. She further states that her name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State and that she hereby releases all claims to any annuity except the present. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before the justices of Pike County Court in open court

S/ Sarah May



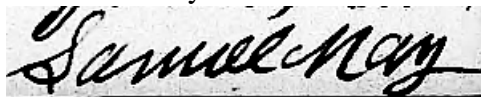
[p 7]

The deposition of Samuel May of lawful age taken at the Clerks Office in Prestonsburg on the 19th day of September 1845 who being first duly sworn deposeseth & saith

I recollect having frequently seen in the lifetime of my father John May what he called his discharge. This was from the time I was large enough to notice such things until about my nineteenth year. He kept his papers in a sack or small bag and when he wished to examine for a paper he poured the papers out and it was one such occasion that I noticed the paper called by him his discharge. It has been 41 or 42 years since I was in the Company of my father any worth notice and it has been 32 years since his death. I recollect to have frequently heard him speak of having served in the Army in the revolutionary War.

I recollect distinctly of having frequently heard my father John May and my mother Sarah May speak of having been married by publishing the banns and I have heard mother speak of the marriage having taken place in Martinsburg Berkeley County Virginia. I also have a distinct recollection of frequently hearing father and mother from my earliest recollection up to the time that I left them in my 20th year speak of having been married very shortly after the expiration of father's service in the Army.

S/ Samuel May



[Attested in Floyd County Kentucky September 19, 1845]

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This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the first day of May 1784, in the name of John May, as a Corporal of Artillery for £75.14.5, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to his widow and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
4th day of September 1845.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 34: Joseph Ford of Pike County Kentucky gave testimony that he was then 97 years of age; that he was well acquainted with John and Sallie May who lived together as man and wife; that he first became acquainted with them 56 or 57 years ago on the Watauga River near the mouth of Roans Creek in Carter County Tennessee; that they were living together as man and wife and it was understood that they had moved from Virginia. He signed his affidavit with his mark and it was attested September 18, 1845.]

[pp 39-45: copy of a legal action brought in Floyd County KY by Robert Hause, plaintiff vs. John May and Sarah or Sally May his wife, defendants, "In Trespass on the Case." This was evidently introduced in an attempt to prove the marriage of the applicant to the veteran.]

[p 2]

"Tlepolard May the son of John May and Sarah May born in the year of our Lord 1805 July the 26th was born in the 14th year of the Commonwealth of Kentucky whose name is taken from Homer."

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I do Certified that John May enlisted in the first Regiment of Artillery a Corporal, the 22nd day of December 1776, and Served until the 22nd day of December 1779.

S/ Saml. Eddins Capt. Artillery [Samuel Eddins]

S/ Edwd Carrington Lt. Col. Arty[Edward Carrington]

Test

Rich Walters

The bearer Mrs. Anne Burton [?] was the

Wife of Jno. May and he is dead

S/ E. Carrington

Lt. Colo. Artillery

A Copy

S/ Cha: Jonas Ck Auditor Office