

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Martin S15935

f10SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/15/09 & 6/6/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[Lee County] Virginia

At a court begun and held for Lee County at the Courthouse thereof on Monday the 21st day of October 1833.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

On this 21st day of October 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Lee County in the state of Virginia, now sitting, John Martin resident in said County, aged Seventy one years, who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath 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 in the Revolutionary War under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit: that he enlisted as a substitute for his father (who was drafted at about forty five years of age) in a company commanded by Capt. Charles Sexton in the Regiment commanded by Col. James Williams in the militia of South Carolina and was marched by Capt Sexton to the Savannah River opposite to Augusta in Georgia, where the British troops were stationed and was placed in the Regt. commanded by Lieut. Col Hayes [Joseph Hayes], General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] being the chief-in-command; after remaining sometime on the Savannah, we were reinforced by the command of Genl. Ash [John Ashe] of the North Carolina troops with nine month men, who crossed the river in pursuit of the British when they left Augusta, and overtaking them at Brier Creek they gave him a signal defeat according to the recollection of this applicant this battle was fought on the 5th or 6th of March 1779 [sic, March 3, 1779] and a few days after this battle this applicant with his regiment left Savannah for the post of 96 as a guard over about 342 prisoners, British, Hessians and Tories, arriving with them at the post of 96 about the 12th of March 1779 where they were guarded until this applicant left the service about the first of April following being discharged before the end of his enlistment (which was for six months) on account of having the ague and fever. The applicant's service commenced on this expedition about the 1st of January 1779 and he was discharged after having served about three months or a little upwards. That in the month of June 1779 this applicant again enlisted for a term of three months as a substitute for one Tom Ratliff in a company commanded by Capt. Greer in the same South Carolina Regt of militia commanded by Col. James Williams and was marched by Capt. Greer from 96 District where the applicant resided passing by the Eutaw Springs to Bull Swamp near Orangeburg where we were stationed about two weeks on our way but hearing at Butt Swamp that the British had retired from Stono to Sullivan's Island, we were again marched home from Bull Swamp and discharged after a service of about six weeks and held as minute men to serve out the term of our enlistment when ever

called upon. That in the month of August following the applicant with his company who had been discharged with him as minute men were called upon to go on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, Capt. Greer still in command of the company. This expedition was commanded by Genl. Williamson and was composed of not more probably than five or six hundred men among whom were a company of regulars commanded by Capt. Tutt [Benjamin Tutt]. We marched over the mountains to the Indian towns called the Overhill towns which we destroyed and after destroying also their corn and provisions again marched home without encountering any of the Indians in battle. On this expedition this applicant served out the balance of his three months tour of enlistment and received a regular discharge therefore. That in the month of October in the year 1779 as well as this applicant now recollects, he entered the service as a volunteer to go against the British at the siege of Savannah [September 16-October 18, 1779]. On this service the applicant started from his residence in the District of 96 in a company commanded by Capt. Davis [probably William Davis] who marched us to Savannah passing by the post of 96, through the Cherokee ponds and crossing the Savannah River passed through Augusta and by Brier Creek where Genl. Ashe had been defeated on the Savannah. When we arrived at Savannah, we joined the main army under the command of Genl. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and on the day of the battle was put under the immediate command of Genl. Francis Marion. The other principal Officers of the American Army at this place were Col. Parker commanding a regiment of regulars from Va. Count Pulaski, a Polander who was wounded in the battle and died four days afterwards and the French Commander of the fleet, The Count D'Estague [sic, Count d'Estaing]. In the battle this applicant's Capt. Davis was wounded and died of his wounds in three days after the battle. Sergeant Jasper [William Jasper] of Marion's Corps was also killed in the action, very much regretted by the whole corps. The assault issued in a severe defeat to the Americans who had raised the siege leaving Savannah in possession of the British; Provost [sic, Augustine Prevost] as well as the applicant recollects being their commander. The applicant was marched home from Savannah by the Lieut. Commanding the company whose name he does not now remember, and was discharged after having served on this expedition a little over two months. That in the month of May or June in the year 1781 this applicant again enlisted as a volunteer in a company of volunteers commanded by Capt. William Harris, Lewis Sexton being one of the subordinate officers of the company and marched to the aid of Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at the Siege of Ninety Six [May 22-June 19, 1781]. The applicant remained in Genl. Greene's army during the Siege and the Battle of Ninety Six and until the Siege was raised after the defeat of Genl. Greene. In this service the applicant was in the regiment commanded by Col. Hayes of the South Carolina Militia and served about six weeks when he was discharged. In the Siege of Ninety Six, Genl. Greene was aided by Cols. Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and Washington [William Washington] of the light horse. For this last service the applicant does not remember that he ever obtained a discharge in writing. For the other services enumerated he had written discharges which being then but a boy, he deposited with his father and knows not what has become of them since, as he left the neighborhood of his father shortly after the close of the war, and settled in distant part of the country living first about four years in the County of Hawkins in now State of Tennessee, and since about forty two years at his present residence in this County.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ W. S. Morison, D. C.

S/ John Martin¹

[Isaac Chrisman, a clergyman and James Allen gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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In Goochland County Court 19th of September 1842

It is ordered to be certified, that it appears to the satisfaction of the Court, by the evidence of Drury W K Bowles & Barnet Wilson, credible persons, given in open Court upon oath, that Nelson Martin, Judith Duval wife of Benjamin Duval & Nancy Banks wife of William Banks, are the only children of John Martin deceased now living; and that the said John Martin was a Revolutionary Pensioner, and died in this County on the 15th day of this month, September, 1842, and that the said John Martin left no widow, and that all the aforesaid Children of the said John Martin deceased are 21 years of age.

[Attested by William Miller, clerk]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the South Carolina militia.]

¹ The handwriting of the signature is identical to the handwriting of the document itself. Consequently 8, I do not think it is the actual signature of the veteran