

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abram May S17562

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/27/13

[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 Indiana County of Monroe: SS

On this 9th day of October 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court of said County of Monroe the same being a court of Record and having general criminal and civil jurisdiction, now sitting – Abram May, a resident of Green County, adjoining the said County of Monroe, aged seventy 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 as well as now remembered about three years after the commencement of the Revolutionary War (the year he does not remember, being very frail and his memory much impaired) under the following named officers and served as herein stated. – That he entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Scott, of the Virginia Militia for the term of three months – and was during that time marching to and stationed at West's Fort on the West fork of the Monongahela River, in order to guard that part of the Western frontier. His Lieutenant's name Maxwell – His (declarant's) residence was in Tigers valey [Tygart's Valley], about forty miles from West's Fort in said State of Virginia; but he does not recollect the County in which she lived or whether that part of the country was then organized – it was a frontier country, and but few families residing there, and they, the greater part of that perilous period in forts – at the end of the period above set forth, during which time he was in actual service, to wit, three months, he received a discharge in writing by his commanding officer showing that he had honorably served his tour according to his engagement. This discharge he has long since lost, and has now no documentary proof of his said service. Nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove his said tour of duty except the testimony hereto annexed of two of his younger brothers. He further states that the service was performed in the fall of the year.

In the spring of the year, he thinks, in the month of April 1781, this declarant was drafted, and entered the service of the US a drafted militia man for the term of six months, in the Virginia militia, from Hampshire County under Captain Cunningham; but the command soon devolved upon a Lieutenant Beddinger, under whom we joined a considerable body of troops at Winchester, Virginia, under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], who had charge of a considerable number of British prisoners, that had been taken in South Carolina. From Winchester we were marched to Williamsburg (as well as he now remembers) in said State, where an exchange of prisoners took place. From Williamsburg we marched to Richmond, Virginia, and the Corps to which this declarant belonged, was ordered from thence to join General Washington who had invested Yorktown – This declarant, was at Richmond taken sick, and with some others, who were unable to March, was left at that town, where he was confined until after the expiration of

his term of service. He has never enjoyed good health from that time to the present, and although it is half a century since, yet he has no hesitation in saying that he verily believes his Constitution was impaired in that campaign in such a manner as to render him frail and infirm during the remaining period of his life down to the present time. He did not receive any discharge in writing, owing to the absence of his officers who had gone on to the main Army – with all the effective forces: The time having expired for which this declarant had been drafted, before he was able to March, and news having reached Richmond that Cornwallis was taken, this declarant, after having taken the advice of the respectable citizens as to what he should do, and being advised that, as his time had expired he might with propriety return home, he accordingly did so – but he expressly declares that he faithfully served the whole of said tour of duty. He has no documentary proof of this service and is compelled to rely upon the statement which he makes of his services, and herein submits, together with the corroborating testimony that accompanies this declaration. To the following interrogatories this deponent submits the following answers:

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In the lower part of Virginia in 1762.

2. Have you any record of your age?

Answer. My age is recorded in the German language in a testament which my brother now possesses – having received it from my father in his lifetime: I know of no other record of my age.

3. Where have you lived since the Revolution.

Answer. 20 odd years in North Carolina – 15 years in Kentucky – 4 years in Illinois 2 years in Tennessee – & 4 years in Indiana.

To the 4th question in the directions from the Secretary of War, it will appear that the declarant for the first 3 months, he was a volunteer – and for the 6 months tour, he was drafted.

This declarant, states that he is not able to name any of the officers of the Regular Army with whom he served. He is of German extraction and was at that time but illy acquainted with the English language.

He hereby record 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 in the Union – and he has never applied for any pension before the present –

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Abraham May, X his mark

[Leroy Mayfield, a minister of the gospel, and William Moore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Also appeared in Open Court William May, brother of the above applicant, age 62 years – and states upon oath first duly administered, that he remembers the time of his said brother's Abraham May's 2nd tour of duty – set forth in the above declaration – and further says, that his said brother was drafted, and entered the service as he above states – and was absent (as this affiant always understood) with the Army during the time of between six & seven months. This affiant was not himself in the Army but he has no doubt of the services of the said six months tour by his brother as he has declared – The first tour this affiant was too young to remember – and further saith not.

Signed & sworn to in Open Court on the day & year first aforesaid.

S/ William May, X his mark

Also appeared Jacob May aged about 66 years, states upon Oath as aforesaid that he knows of the departure of his brother Abraham May, for the Army as he has stated in the above declaration, in both tours – that he was absent the time that he has mentioned, and that although he (this witness) was not himself in the Army he has no doubt that his brother performed both tours as he has stated first of 3 months – the 2nd of 6 months. He states that he has every reason to believe that his brother was out in the service of the US during the time he has mentioned, that he has, that any other of the volunteers who he knew to leave their home for the Army, performed their respective tours – and further saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed the date first aforesaid.

S/ Jacob May

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob May". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Jacob" is on the left and "May" is on the right, with a small flourish at the end of the "y".

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