

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hilary (Hillary) Mears S18508

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/21/13 rev'd 4/26/14

[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.]

At a Court held for Accomack County at the Court House thereof by adjournment on Wednesday the first of August 1832

Hilary Mears of the County of Accomack this day personally appeared in Court and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the said June 1832 viz. "State of Virginia, Accomack County to wit, On this first day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court now sitting, Hillary Mears a resident of said County & parish of Saint George, aged 73 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Corporal oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he served in the militia of Virginia in Accomack County, from the time he was 16 years of age till he was discharged by reason of age; that during the War of the Revolution he served in Captain William Polk's Company – that during the war of the Revolution the militia were frequently called out to keep guard & were in actual service a considerable portion of the time – the companies were divided & a part of them perform duty alternately. That Colonel Simson [probably Selby Simpson] was commander of the militia of the County of Accomack, during part of the war. Colonel Corbin [George Corbin] after him & Colonel Cropper [John Cropper] after Colonel Corbin – that this deponent was engaged principally on the Sea & Chesapeake Bay coast in preventing the enemy from landing for the purpose of obtaining supplies & plundering the inhabitants – in consequence of the very exposed situation of this County there were frequent alarms given and the militia were compelled to turn out to defend the County. This deponent performed duty at Upshais point, at Parramore's landing, at Metorupkin & other points as the urgency of the occasion required – this deponent verily believes and does therefore does not hesitate to declare, that he was in active Service under arms at least 3 years during the War of the Revolution, in the County of Accomack, – This deponent was born in St. George's parish Accomack County Virginia in or about the year __ and he has a record of

The deposition of Hilary Mears an applicant for a pension who says in answer to the 4th & 5th objections that he was enrolled in the militia at 11 years of age and just before the War commenced & was in service each & every year during the War = that the 9th Virginia Regiment was marched away in the first of the year 1776 & then this County was left undefended excepting by the militia = that the militia companies were classed & divided by the officers, & portions performed duty regularly = that guard was kept during all the War = that he kept guard in 3 or 4 weeks for about 8 days each tour in each & every year during all the War & was in service regularly at said stated tours = that besides these regular tours of duty there were alarms frequently given & that he attended all alarms = that it is impossible to state the periods of

commencing & finishing said tours of duty – that he was in service at least one third or more of his time & probably nearly half of his time including the time in going to & coming from alarms = that he is confident that he was in service three years in the time of the War = – In answer to the 17th objection 4th, 6th & 7th interrogatories/he says –

as to the 4th interrogatory

That he was regularly enrolled in the militia & performed his tours of duty according to the direction of his officers – that he was never a volunteer only at alarms for a day or 2 at a time – & that he was not a substitute –

To the 6th interrogatory

That no discharges were give in writing but the militia were dismissed by their commanding officers when their tours of duty ended –

As to the 7th interrogatory

That in his original application he referred to the Reverend Matthew Floyd, John Harmon of H & William Elliott for testimony as to his character for truth & for their belief as to his services – and he mentions also George Bell – Jacob Bell, Edward O. Finney, Esquire, Thomas Ashby, Thomas W Smith, Littleton Willis, Torsubel Willis all of whom are my neighbors & will testify as to my character for truth & veracity.

S/ Hillary Mears, X his mark

The deposition of Houston Kellam aged upwards of 76 years who says that he has lived nearly all his lifetime a neighbor of Hilary Mears & knows that he did serve his regular tours of duty on guard & that he attended alarms & perform services as he states in his deposition aforesaid.

S/ Houston Kellam, X his mark

The deposition of John Harmon of H. aged about 69 years who says that he has known Hillary Me years ever since he himself was a boy & knows that he did serve his regular tours of duty & attended alarms as he states in his Deposition.

S/ John Harmon of H

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Harmon of H". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

At a Court held for Accomack County on the 30th day of December 1850

Ordered to be certified that it appears to the Court by satisfactory evidence that Hillary Mears was a soldier of the Revolution, that he died on or about the first day of April in the year 1836, that he left no widow but that he left the following children to wit: William B Mears, Jesse Mears, Nancy Mears who intermarried with John Turlington, George Mears and Elizabeth Mears – That since his death, the following have died, Nancy Turlington, wife of said John Turlington, who left has her children William T Turlington and Nathaniel Turlington who are twenty-one years of age and upwards, Elizabeth a Turlington and John H Turlington, who are minors – and that Peter Turlington is their guardian – William B Mears, who left children to wit, David P Mears who is upwards of twenty-one years of age – Jesse Mears and Thomas Mears who are minors. It is ordered to be further certified that George H Bell is the legally constituted

administrator of the estate of the above named Hillary Mears.
[Attested by the clerk of the Accomack County court January 13th, 1851]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the Virginia service.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Hillary Mears, aged 72 years, of the County of Accomack, in the State of Virginia, being first duly sworn, deposeth and saith that he served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war in the Ninth Virginia Regiment; that he was well acquainted with the following named men, was present at the time of their enlistment and well knows that they served faithfully to the end of the war, being upwards of three years from the time of their enlistment viz.: Levin White Sergeant, John Bradford, Sergeant, John Burton, private, Noah Belote [Beloat], private, Major Budd, private, Babel Budd, private, Zorobabel Hornsby, Sergeant, William Ironmonger, private, Thomas Salsbury, private, Thomas Taylor, private, William Richards, private, John Richards, private, John Taylor, private, William Taylor, private, George Twiford, private, William Twiford, private, George Wright, private, & Abel Bradford, private, all of whom served until the end of the war and then received their discharge.

S/ Hillary Mears, X his mark

This day appeared before me Hillary Mears and swore to the facts stated in the above deposition are true, given under my hand & seal this 25th day of January 1832

S/ Tully R. Wise