

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Martin S21355

Transcribed by Will Graves

f17VA

rev'd 3/11/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County

William Martin this day personally appeared before me, James Reed, an acting justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, aged Seventy four years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he was born in Albemarle County Virginia & that he has no record of his age he lived in Amherst County Virginia and was sixteen years of age when he enlisted since the Revolution he has lived in Georgia and now lives in Tennessee. I enlisted in the Virginia line some time in the year 1775 or '76 for eighteen months service under Captain Samuel Cavil [probably Samuel J. Cabell] who was shortly afterward Colonel commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia line to which I belonged. Clough Shelton was our Lieutenant & Noah Battle<sup>1</sup> & Thomas Battle & Samuel Scott Scruggs<sup>2</sup> all enlisted at the same time & place with me & under the same officers; who was the Colonel before Cavil I cannot now remember. I was discharged by Col. Cavil after my first term of service had expired & my discharge has been lost or mislaid. I volunteered for three months service in 1778 under Col. Lynch<sup>3</sup> whose given name I do not remember. Thomas Arthur was our Captain & John Smith our Lieutenant Rendezvoused at Petersburg Virginia and were there commanded by General Steuben & at the expiration of our term of service, we were discharged by Colonel Lynch and the discharge has been lost or mislaid. About the middle of May 1780, I volunteered under Captain Jesse Hurd & first Lieutenant Thomas Hurd. We were called rangers & were in actual Service of the Government for three months & marched for Camden South Carolina directly after our volunteering we were greatly delayed on the march & when we got to that place we found that General Gates [Horatio Gates] had been defeated four days before our arrival. About the 16<sup>th</sup> of August when we saw some of Tarlton's [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] light Horse & killed one of them my discharge for this term of service also lost. Col. William [William Choice?] was our commandant Colonel.

I again volunteered under the same officers (to wit) Captain & Lieutenant Hurd & Ensign Stevenson & Col. William Choyce for three months service and marched directly on to King's Mountain this Company raised in Henry County Virginia & rendezvoused at Calloway's Iron Works and marched on by Henry Court House and crossed Dan River at Perkins ferry & Yadkin [River] at the Shallow Ford and the Catawba at Beatties Ford & Broad River at the Island ford within 4 miles of that place when we were met by about 40 Soldiers on their return from that place, who told us that the enemy had fled that the balance of our forces were in pursuit of the enemy, this was as well as I can remember on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1780. We then marched on to Ramsour's Mills N. C. & got there the second day after the battle was fought at that place, we were out 90 days. I again volunteered for three

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<sup>1</sup> Very likely a mistaken reference to [Noel Battles S12960](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Samual Scott Scruggs \(alias, Scott Martin\) S38357](#)

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps Charles Lynch

months service under Captain Jeremiah Early about the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 1781 & was at the Battle of York Town at the surrender of Cornwallis on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1781 [sic, October 19, 1781] where I was also discharged which with the balance of my discharges has been lost. My Colonel's name I do not recollect.

I further state that I have no documentary evidence nor do I know of any person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my service except the subscriber below. I hereby relinquish my claim to any annuity or pension whatever except the present and solemnly declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State of the United States. I also state that my bodily weakness and other bodily infirmities are so great that I am unable to appear in open Court to [illegible word] up to this claim. The distance to our court house being 22 or 23 miles from my place of residence and therefore compelled to prove it in this manner.

Sworn to and subscribed this second day of September 1834, before me.

Attest:

S/ James Reed, JP

S/ William Martin, X his mark {L.S.}

[John Paxton, a clergyman, and G. W. Haywood, Benjamin Cummins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7]

State of Tennessee Marshall County: This day came Benjamin Coplan and Nancy Carrol before me Humphrey N. Cowden of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that Jane Martin daughter of Benjamin Coplan was married to William Martin Deceased on 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1828 and said Jane Martin is now the widow of the said William Martin and the said William Martin is the same man that was entitled to draw a pension and did draw some time before his death.

This October 10<sup>th</sup> day 1842

S/ Benjamin Coplan, X his mark

S/ Nancy Carrol, X her mark

[p 9]

**A statement showing the Service of William Martin in the Virginia Line**

Period when the Service was rendered	Duration of the claimed service	Rank	Names and rank of the Field Officers under whom he served	Age at present & place of abode when the entered the service	Proof by which the declaration is supported
1775 or 1776 date of Month not remembered	18 full months	Private	Samuel Cavil [Samuel J. Cabell] Col. Comdt what Col. preceeded Cavil I cannot remember	74 years Amherst Co. VA	Certificates in the accompanying declaration

**A Statement showing the Service of W. Martin's 1<sup>st</sup> Malitia Service**

1778 date of month not remembered	3 Full Months	Private	___Lynch Col. Comd. Christian name not recollected General Steuben	do do	do do
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**A Statement showing the Service of W. Martin's 2<sup>nd</sup> Malitia Service**

1780 15 May	3 Full	Private	William Choyce	do do	do do
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	Months		Col. Comd		
<b>A Statement showing the Service of W. Martin's 3<sup>rd</sup> Malitia Service</b>					
1780 a short time before the battle of Kings Mountain	3 Full months	Private	William Choyce Col. Comd.	do do	do do
<b>A Statement showing the Service of W. Martin's 4<sup>th</sup> Term of Malitia Service</b>					
1781 15 <sup>th</sup> July	3 Full Months	Private	Col. not recollected	do do	do do

State of Tennessee Bedford County: This day personally appeared before James Reed an acting Justice of the said County William Martin and made oath that the above statements are correct to the best of his knowledge & belief.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1834

S/ James Reed, JP

S/ William Martin, X his mark

[p 12]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: William Martin this day personally appeared before me James Reed an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County and State aged 74 years and being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration and amendment to the one heretofore made by me the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 1834 & here unto annexed and attached in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 viz.

Directly after my enlistment as stated in the other declaration in December 1776 we marched on to the North and joined the main Army at Trenton & were in that battle [December 26, 1776] – I was also in the Battles of Princeton January 1777 [January 3, 1777], Brandywine September 1777 [September 11, 1777], Germantown in October [October 4, 1777] of the same year from which place as well as I can now recollect we went into winter quarters at Valley Forge in huts made of logs where many of the soldiers perished on account the extreme cold weather & there almost total nakedness & I wanted shoes. We remained at Valley Forge until spring of 1778 the next battle I was and was at Monmouth Court House Virginia [sic New Jersey] sometime in June of 1778 [June 28, 1778] at which time I was discharged on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1778 I recollect well & distinctly of being in all the above-mentioned battles but have forgotten the particulars concerning them from frailness of memory. I solemnly declare that in consequence of extreme old age & the consequent loss [words obliterated by an ink blot] powers of my mind that this with my previous Declaration hereunto annexed is the best narrative I can make in proof of my services both as a militia man & Regular soldier as well as the names of the officers under whom I served & all other [partial word, paper damaged] I have not been during any of service either militia or regular engaged in any civil pursuit. I do solemnly swear that by reason of old age & other infirmities and the consequent loss of memory that I cannot positively swear to the precise length of my service but to the best of my recollection that I served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades viz. I served 12 months as a militia man, I served as a private Regular for 18 months and for such service I claim a pension mind militia was at 4 different times fully 3 months each tour. Sworn to & subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1834

S/ William Martin, X his mark

State of Tennessee Bedford County: SS

On this day Noah & Shaderick Battle<sup>4</sup> personally appeared before me James Reed and acting Justice in and for said State & County who being duly sworn as the law directs deposed & saith that they were well acquainted with the above-mentioned William Martin and know that he served in the Virginia line

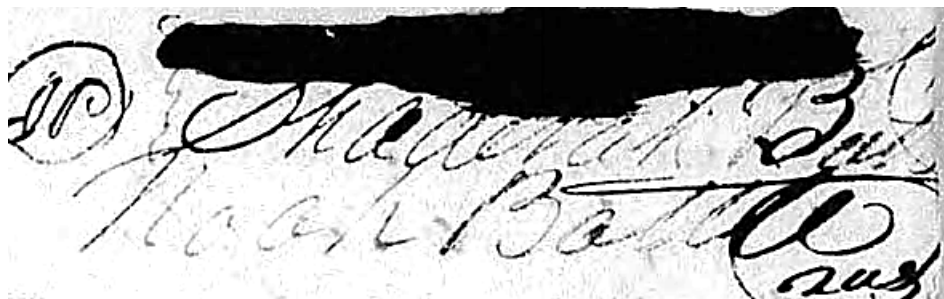
<sup>4</sup> This May be the same man as [Shadrach Battles S37713](#)

18 months and was honorably discharged on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1778 & that he rendered the services above stated & I believe them to be men of good morals & entitled to full faith & credit on their oaths otherwise.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832

S/ James Reed, JP

S/ Shaderick Battle

S/ Noah Battles

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature is written on a piece of paper that has a large black rectangular redaction mark covering the top portion. The signature itself is written in dark ink and appears to read "Noah Battles". There are some additional scribbles and a circled initial "NB" to the left of the main signature.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]