

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Martin S2727

f28SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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

State of Tennessee, Cocke County: 1832

On this tenth day of October personally appeared before me Wm Robinson one of the Justices of the peace for the County of Cocke and State aforesaid, Samuel Martin, a resident of Said County and State, aged eighty-six-seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on this oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That the deponent, Samuel Martin, was born in the year Seventeen hundred and forty five, month not recollected—having lost the certificate of his birth which he brought with him to America. He was born in the County of Anthrem [sic, Antrim] Ireland. He emigrated to South Carolina and landed at Charleston at the age of twenty two years—lived in Lancaster District until the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, when he was called into Service under Captain William Nesbitt—James Montgomery [sic, James Montgomery] Lieutenant. The deponent in December 1778 was marched under Captain Nesbitt from Lancaster Town, the muster ground to the hanging Rock thence to the Eutaw Springs—then to Charleston—then to Perinsburgh [sic, Purrysburg] within seven miles of Savannah. In this tour he was under the command of Genl. Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]—There were several companies in the tour. There were no continental troops. The deponent continued in Service (with the exception of about three weeks, comprising two periods of absence from his company during which he returned to his family) under Captain Nesbitt—in a brigade of Cavalry commanded by General Sumter—until the summer of 1779—a service of twenty months. He was in service four months of this time near Stono. During this time General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] attacked Colonel Maitland ] [Lieutenant Colonel John Maitland] of the British Army, who was posted at Stono, with a considerable body of men but was successfully repulsed. This deponent was not in the attack on Stono<sup>1</sup>—being engaged at that time in endeavoring to prevent any reinforcements from coming to the relief of Col. Maitland. After the attack upon Stono—This deponent was engaged in service—and was marched in various directions and through those parts of South Carolina, which lie between Charleston and Savannah and Augusta—in the brigade or body of Cavalry under General Thomas Sumter until the attack upon Genl. Sumter in August 1780.<sup>2</sup> Genl. Sumter had at that time under his command ten companies and was lying near the Catawba fords, when about one O'clock in the day he was attacked by a troop of Cavalry—General Sumter was lying under one of the Wagons and his horse was tyed [sic, tied] by a rope near at hand. The men were

<sup>1</sup> June 20, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/stonoferry.htm>. Battle of Stono

<sup>2</sup> August 18, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fishingcreek.htm>. Battle of Fishing Creek

engaged in drinking—having just taken two hogsheads of Rum from some Tories who were conveying it to the British. As soon as the alarm of the attack reached Genl. Sumter—he sprang to his horse and cut loose with his knife the rope, by which he was tied, mounted him, and made great exertions to prevent his men from giving way—But the attack was so sudden and many of the men being drunk, he could not succeed in making a successful resistance—and a total defeat ensued—in which some men were lost and made prisoners. After this, this Deponent took refuge in North Carolina, at Charlotte on account of the Country S. C. being in possession of the British and himself being sick of the fever and ague, from which he did not recover for four or five months—after which he returned to his family in Lancaster District and joined Captain James Craig's company of Militia, under whom in 1781 he was marched toward Charleston to prevent the British from foraging the adjoining country—This deponent was engaged two months in this Service. This Deponent was engaged in active Service in Capt. Nesbitt's company of Cavalry twenty months—under General Thomas Sumter and in the fall of 1781 he was engaged in service under Capt. Craig two months. He lived in South Carolina forty two years in Lancaster district; he then removed to Cocke County, East Tennessee, where he now lives. The Deponent has no documentary evidence as to his Service, nor does he know of any person from whom he could procure the testimony as to his Service. After General Sumter's defeat at the Catawba fords—he never joined his old company under Nesbitt—being too sickly to under go the fatigue, which General Sumter's men had to encounter. This deponent therefore never got a discharge from his Captain nor did he get one from Capt. Craig—not being drafted for any particular time—but going out under Craig as a volunteer doing such time as the Services of the company might be needed. The deponent Samuel Martin 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.

S/ Samuel Martin, X his mark

Sworn to before (Witnesses) S/ Dudley Talley

S/ James Mason

S/ Wm Robinson, J. P.

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the year 1745 in the County of Antrim Ireland

Question 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have none. I brought with me to America, a certificate, from the Parish Clerk, of my Birth, which I have lost.

Question 3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Lancaster district near Lancaster town, South Carolina, when called into service. Since the war -- I have lived in South Carolina and now live in Cocke County Tennessee

Question 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I volunteered under Captain William Nesbitt, who joined General Sumpter's Brigade or Command -- I volunteered under Captain James Craig under the first Captain I was 20 months in service -- under the last 2 months.

Question 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. There were no Continental officers on service with the body of men under the Command of General Sumpter. Before the attack on Stono by General Lincoln, our men were sometimes with the men under General Lincoln. This Deponent recollects Major Davie [William Richardson Davie] who was a cavalry officer, who was frequently with General Sumpter. The militia Officers he does not recollect -- his memory having very much failed him within the last 12 months, during which time he has been bed-ridden. The general circumstances of my service I have set forth in my declaration to which I refer -- though I would wish to state, that my old age and long sickness have left me a very feeble memory to recall all the particular of my service, and I am unable to do so. I never received a discharge. General Sumpter's men were [indecipherable word] in August 1780 and this Deponent with others retired into North Carolina -- never joining the old company again, this Deponent never got a discharge from Captain Nesbitt.

Question 6<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I would refer to the Reverend Thomas Smith, Mr. Dudley Talley, Mr. James Mason who can be examined touching my character for veracity and their belief of my services in the Revolution.

(Witnesses)

S/ Samuel Martin, X his mark

S/ James Mason

S/ Dudley Talley

Sworn to & subscribed before me on this 10th of October 1832

S/ Wm Robinson, JP

[Thomas Smith, a clergyman, Dudley Talley & James Mason Dave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$81.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the South Carolina Cavalry and 2 months in the South Carolina Infantry.]