

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Pleasant Martin S2729

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/9/13

[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 Tennessee Wilson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Wilson
September Term A.D. 1832

On this 26 day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Benjamin H Billings, David C Hibbitts and James M Martin Esquires presiding Justices of the Peaceful Wilson County Court at it September 1832 non-sitting Pleasant Martin a resident of the County of Wilson and said state of Tennessee aged seventy-six years the 21st day of December next having been born on the 21st day of December 1775 as he learns from family tradition having no record of his age 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 7th 1832. That in the fall of 1779 about the first of September he entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer for four months in the Militia raised in Albemarle County in the State of Virginia, he received the Commission of first Lieutenant from Thomas Jefferson then Governor of Virginia in Captain Blains Company and was transferred to the company of Captain Mark Leak who was mustered into service by senior arty in the place of said Blains, the rendezvoused at Richmond Virginia where a Regiment was formed (the number of which he does not now remember) commanded by Colonel Holt Richardson and Major James Quarles from Richmond he marched to a place called Cabin Point on James River where he remained near three months – the object of which was to prevent the landing of General Phillips [William Phillips] a British Commander who was expected to make and incursion into Virginia from Cabin Point he marched to Petersburg Virginia under the command of General Muhlenberg where he remained until he was discharged making a tour of four months service. In the summer of 1781 he was drafted and again entered the service of the United States in the militia of Virginia in the said County of Albemarle. They rendezvoused at Williamsburg he was attached to the Company of Captain Benjamin Harris and acted as his Lieutenant having been commissioned as such here he remained; from Williamsburg they marched to little York to the siege Cornwallis at that place and remained at that place until he was discharged making a service of three months in addition to the above service he volunteered in the year 1778 to guard the British prisoners at Albemarle barracks and was detained in this service for three weeks making in all seven months and three weeks service he has long since lost his discharges – there is no living witnesses by whom he can prove any part of his service that he has any knowledge of except Colonel Samuel Murrell¹ now of Barren County Kentucky who served with him and by whom he can prove six months of his service as Lieutenant as will appear by his annexed affidavit he was born in Albemarle County Virginia and lived there when he entered the service of the United States – he lived there thirty-

¹ FPA W3031

five years moved from there to Amherst County in said State where he lived about twenty years from there he moved to Bedford County where he lived about fifteen years from there to Wilson County Tennessee where he has resided about six years.

Sworn to in open Court
25th of September 1832
S/ J. J. McClain, Clerk

S/ Pleasant Martin



[William Algood, a clergyman, and Thomas Jopling gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7: On June 17, 1833 in Sumner County Tennessee, Abram Martin Senior, about 59 years old, gave testimony in support of his brother's application for a pension stating that he remembers hearing his father, brothers and neighbors talking about the service rendered by his brother Pleasant Martin during the revolutionary war



[p 25: affidavit of Samuel Murrell—first page is very faint]
State of Kentucky Barren County SS

On this [illegibly faint] day of June 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned [illegibly faint name] a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Colonel Samuel Murrell [illegibly faint text] made oath that he was and still is well acquainted with Captain Pleasant Martin and that the said Pleasant Martin was commissioned Lieutenant in the Virginia Militia Albemarle County [illegibly faint text] the deponent further saith that he the said Lieutenant Martin marched on to several expeditions on both of which the deponent saw and was with him and knows that he said Martin served in the capacity of a Commissioned Lieutenant [illegibly faint text] first expedition marched from Albemarle County to the City of Richmond [no attempt was made to transcribe the balance of this page is most of the text is illegibly faint] [p 26] General Nelson's brigade and was from thence marched to the siege of the British Army commanded by Colonel Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia, after the capture of the British Army at that place the company was discharged this expedition was in the fall of the year 1781 this deponent has no documents to rely on but believes the 2 several tours of which Lieutenant Martin served a mounted to fully 6 months and further this deponent saith not and has affixed his signature there to the day & year first written.

S/ Saml Murrell Senr.



The amended declaration of Pleasant Martin in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832

State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 25th day of June A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the

worshipful court Burchatt Douglass, James M Martin & David C. Hibbits presiding Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Wilson in the said State of Tennessee now sitting at their June term A.D. 1833 – (the same being a Court of record) Pleasant Martin a resident of the said County of Wilson aged 77 years on the 21st of December next – who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832 – That he entered upon his 2nd tour of duty in the Revolutionary War in the year 1781 he was drafted in the Militia raised in Albemarle County in the State of Virginia he was attached to the company of Captain Benjamin Harris and acted as his first Lieutenant having been commissioned as such by the Governor of Virginia, Samuel Murrell whose affidavit is annexed acted as Ensign to said company and is now a citizen of the State of Kentucky they rendezvoused at Williamsburg in Virginia and was there attached to the Regiment (the number of which he does not recollect) under the command of Colonel Holt Richardson and __ Boice [Boyce] (being the only officers of his Regiment that from the failure of his memory he now remembers) at Williamsburg he was attached to the Brigade commanded by General Nelson – from there they marched to the Siege of the British Army at York town under the command of Lord Cornwallis there he remained until the British Army surrendered and his term of service expired having in this tour served three months – in addition to this tour of duty and another of four months as first Lieutenant as mentioned in his original Declaration – he volunteered in the year 1778 in Albemarle County Virginia and acted as first Lieutenant commissioned as aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain John Miller they marched to Albemarle barracks – situated in Albemarle County Virginia and there placed under the command of Colonel Taylor the other officers he does not now remember in this service he was detained in guarding the prisoners taken from General Burgoyne the British commander at Saratoga for three weeks and was there discharged – making in his whole service seven months and three weeks as Lieutenant as stated aforesaid – his Commission as Lieutenant has long since been lost or mislaid – Declarant is poor, old and infirm – he is 600 miles from the place where he was raised and where his service in the Revolutionary War were performed these disadvantages place it out of his power to procure any other proof than that now forwarded for the consideration of the Department – he has at considerable trouble and expense procure the deposition of Samuel Murrell the Ensign in his company and who was afterwards Colonel Murrell in the Militia of Virginia after the war and now a highly respectable Citizen of Barren County in the State of Kentucky and who is now as he is informed a pensioner of the General Government. Declarant has procured at considerable trouble the deposition of his brother John Martin a Citizen of Clark County Kentucky – he has likewise procured the affidavit of his brother Abraham Martin of Sumner County Tennessee, he is advised that their certificates are not in exact conformity with the requisitions [sic] of the War Department – but they afford the best and the only testimony that he can procure in his destitute condition their affidavits were taken at a considerable distance from him without the aid of forms or any instruction from the department of War – being the best testimony in his power to procure the whole is submitted to the Consideration of the department his the General character of his brother Abraham Martin is well known in the State of Tennessee as a man entitled to full credit – his brother John Martin is not known to any person that he can procure as witness to his General character for truth in Tennessee – he is however well known in Kentucky as a man of good character for truth – he was at the siege of York and acted as Major among others who are acquainted with the general character of Abraham Martin he would mention Norrell Douglass, John S Topp, Robert Burton and James Brittain – Declarant's character for truth if necessary can be established by the above

named persons as well as a number of others – Declarant was born, resided & as stated in his original Declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in the United States of America.

S/ Pleasant Martin

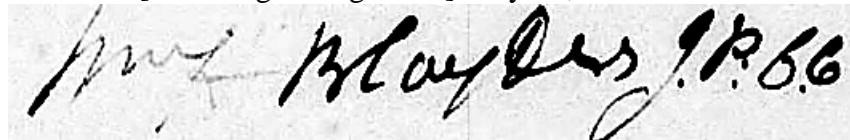
[Robert M Burton and John S Topp gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 38]

State of Kentucky Clark County

On this 6th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me the undersigned [indecipherable first name] Blaydes, a Justice of the peace for said County John Martin² aged in his 84th year and made oath I believe that Pleasant Martin of Wilson County & State of Tennessee as Lieutenant performed 2 tours of duty in the Revolutionary war against the British forces the first Tour to Cabin Point this 2nd at the siege of York I cannot say correctly the time that he was in service this deponent reserves to himself all manner of exception to era as what he has stated is entirely from memory this Deponent is now in his 84th year and very much debilitated so much so that he cannot come to Court to be qualified Sworn to before me and given under my hand the date and year before written.

S/ [unintelligible signature] Blaydes, JPCC

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "J. P. Blaydes, JPCC". To the right of the signature, the year "1832" is written in a similar cursive hand.

[The veteran died October 16, 1836; in 1837, George Martin is referred to as being one of 4 heirs of the veteran but his relationship is not stated; there is also reference in the file to there being 2 sets of grandchildren who survived the veteran but neither their names nor the names of their parents are set forth in the documents in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$95.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 30 days and as a Lieutenant for 7 months in the Virginia service.]

² This MAY be the same man as [John Martin S36074](#)