

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Martin S31236

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Sct

City of Lexington }

On this 14th day of March 1833 personally appeared before me Mayor of the said city, James Martin, to me well known who is a resident in Jessamine county on the line of Fayette & Jessamine the county line passing through his farm, aged 74 years last August who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 with Robin Right [Robin Wright?], James Montgomery & Capt. Payton [Peyton?] – Capt Payton made up his company & left me in Virginia doing garrison duty at Williamsburg & Norfolk. The next year I was ordered out under Col. Rose to the South & commanded by Gen'l [Horatio] Gates in Col Abram Buford's regt. in Capt T. Ewels company until Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] succeeded Genl Gates [3 Dec 1780] – I remained in Buford's Regt till the battle at Guilford C. H. [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] then under Majr Hill & [Thomas] Ridley. After the said battle the army retreated nine miles to P. Perkins iron works [Speedwell Iron Works on Troublesome Creek] then the British retreated & Genl Green followed them to Ramsays mill on deep river – Lord Cornwallis retreated towards cross creek until he came to the Stage road Virginia & took that as was supposed [see endnote] – then [sic] Genl. Green discharged the militia at Ramsays mill and marched on to Camden S.C. & laid siege to the fort & laid some days cannonading, & the British then attacked Genl Green at a surprise in consequence of some deserters as we thought – after a severe attack [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden, 25 Apr 1781] we had to retreat towards 96 [see endnote] – Then I fell in Col Samuel Hawes regt – Capt Frank Cowards [sic: Francis Cowherd's] company I remained with him till we got to 96 [see endnote] – Col Hawes resiged at 96 in consequence of bad health – then I was under Col Snead [Maj. Smith Snead?] I remained at 96 till the battle of the Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] when Genl Green gave orders for Capt. Coward to march all the troops when their times were out from the round O in S. Carolina to Virginia & there discharge them – On the way Capt Coward discharged me supposing my time was out; I then stated to some of the officers that I had enlisted for three years or during the war, I did not actually know which as I was in frolic at the time & they told me my time was not out & that I had better go & join the army again, which I did & staid there till the fall 1783 when I was in Col. Sneads regt & Capt Williams Company & I was discharged by Capt. Williams I believe. I have no recollection of ever drawing any thing from government for my services but once & I have but a faint impression of drawing at all – I left my fathers house in 1784 & never lived there since. This affiant left with his father in Albemarle County Va, where he then lived & where I first enlisted – all my papers including my discharge, a due bill or bills I think showing there was due me from the government about £130 – I have been living in Kentucky about 47 years – I was in all the Indian Campaigns almost & never rec'd but two flesh wounds – I was in Harners[?] Wilkins and St Clairs [Arthur St.Clair's, 1791] & Waynes [Anthony Wayne's, 1794] Campaigns ag't the Indians – When I returned to my fathers house last April – I could find nothing – He was dead – his property scattered & I could find nothing of his affairs or my papers.

[The following paragraph marked "Omit."]

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & if I am entitled to land or mony in lieu of it, I want it under this proof which I presume will be sufficient – And I declare my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

James Martin X

## NOTES:

After the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Greene pursued Cornwallis as far as Ramsey's Mill, then on 7 Apr led his army back into South Carolina. On the same day Cornwallis arrived at Wilmington NC after passing through Cross Creek, now Fayetteville. After recovering there from his costly victory at Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis started northward to Virginia on 23 Apr.

Contrary to the claims of Martin and many other pension applicants, Greene did not lay siege to the British at Camden. Instead he formed his lines defensively on Hobkirk Hill and hoped to draw the British out of their fortifications, which indeed occurred, but at an unexpected time. After the Battle of Hobkirk Hill Greene did not immediately retreat to Ninety-Six SC. He retreated to Rugeley's Mill 12 miles to the north for two days, then lurked about Camden until and for some time after the British abandoned the town on 9 May.

Greene and part of his army arrived at Ninety-Six just before he commenced the Siege of Ninety-Six on 22 May. Green was forced to lift the siege on 19 June, and it is unlikely that any American troops remained there afterward.

On 10 Mar 1853, John Wallace, the executor of James Martin, appointed an attorney to obtain additional benefits, stating that Martin had died in Jessamine County on 11 May 1848 leaving no widow but the following children: Letitia Metcalf, Richard Martin, Amanda Arthurs, and Lewis Y. Martin. Wallace also stated that he had heard Martin say that he had been promoted while in the service, perhaps to Captain for a period of 12 months or more. (The rank of Captain was by commission, and there would have been a record of it.)