

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Mathews S32391

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/18/13

[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 Alabama Jackson County: SS

On this 4 day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court the Judge of the County Court of said County of Jackson now sitting Benjamin Mathews a resident of said County of Jackson Sixty-eight years of 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832,

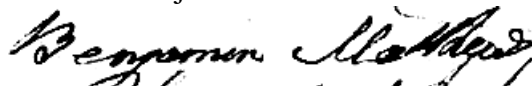
That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That in the year of 1778 or 1779 when affiant was about fifteen years of age then a resident of Caroline County in the State of Virginia having removed there from Spotsylvania County in said State where he was born to the County of Caroline though a boy partaking somewhat of the spirit of the times, volunteered under the command of Anthony New Captain, joined a Regiment at Richmond from thence marched down to Mackey's mill & there was stationed for a considerable time to prevent the British troops ascending the river General Muhlenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] being the commanding officer shortly after the expedition affiant was selected as one of the light infantry under the command of Colonel Mathews accompanied him in several expeditions down the River and at last to Petersburg where he was discharged, he cannot exactly remember the time he was in service during this expedition but believes it to have been at least three months. After this affiant moved into Hanover County Virginia and having arrived to the age at which the law made him liable to be drafted, he was drafted at sixteen years of age was marched to Williamsburg, old Jamestown and other places in the vicinity to prevent the enemy from coming up the River was changed about from place to place so often in this expedition that cannot remember the names of the officers Supposes he was out in service at this time sixty days, but can speak of the time with but little certainty he remembers the draft was so regulated as to give the soldiers time to take care of their crops. Sometime after this affiant's term of service came round again & he went something of the same route to Williamsburg, for the same purpose and was in service about the same time as last stated. After this affiant moved into Caroline County about that time the British made their first appearance on the borders of Virginia and the demand for soldiers began to be very great affiant was again mustered into service a drafted militia man the regiments met at Shoco Hill [probably Shockoe Hill], he believes his Captain was Anthony New but cannot distinctly remember Mathews was the commanding Colonel of the Regiment this affiant belonged to General Lafayette commander in chief the whole Army moved from thence to the 4 mile Creek where it remained until the British entered Manchester and set fire to the town, a retreat was commenced immediately by order of the commander in chief, and the enemy under the command of Lord Cor Wallace [Cornwallis] pushed on the retreating army with all possible speed the American troops

were endeavoring to join General Waine [Anthony Wayne] who was coming to their relief and finally did meet at Raccoon Ford, during this retreat which was through the upper Counties of Virginia the Army to which affiant belonged was hard-pressed by the enemy the rear of which was at one time reached by Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] and some damage done to the rear guard. After the Junction of the two armies the enemy commenced their retreat, affiant's term of service having expired sometime before that would have returned home but was detained by the commander-in-chief as his force was yet very weak. The enemy stopped their retreat at the Bird arning [?]<sup>1</sup> on the three notched road. The Americans were ordered to immediate pursue but when they reached there the British had abandoned the ground having kept up there fires by a few horse troops who fled at the approach of the Army he was then discharged after having been in this campaign in active service at least 3 months but the precise time not recollected. Shortly after his return home he was drafted again as a militiaman and was placed with the troops that were to prevent Lord Cornwallis from escaping the United attack of the French on the South and General Washington who was approaching from the North General Lafayette commanded on one side of the river York & General Weeden [George Weedon] the other affiant remained under Weedon until the end of the siege of Little York on his return home soon after vaulleered [volunteered?] to place on board the French fleet the artillery and magazines taken from the enemy on this expedition he was in very hard an active service sixty or ninety days. This affiant has given a Statement of his services which he is aware is imperfect as to time &c but he has no hesitation in stating that in the various expeditions above described he was actively engaged in the service of the government of the United States in all at least fifteen months. Having thus given an account from the rick [wreck?] of a memory aryeonally [arguably?] very bad, but now much impaired by age he submits what lingers there to the indulgent examination of his country affiant states that he was born in Spotsylvania County in the State of Virginia in the year 1764 – that the record of his age was taken by the parish clerk when he was born but he has no evidence or transcript of it.

He 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. He states that he can prove by Charles L Roach and many others in his neighborhood his character for veracity and that they doubt was never entertained but he rendered the above services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to in open court October 1832

S/ Benjamin Mathews



[Charles L Roach, a clergyman, and Francis Renshaw gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 22]

Alabama In the Circuit Court of Jackson County held at the Court house in Belleforte on the first day of October 1833, the Honorable William J Adair Judge presiding

Benjamin Mathews of the said County whose Declaration for a Pension was made before the County Court of said County on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832, since which date the times of holding the County & the Circuit Court of this County have been changed by the General

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<sup>1</sup> Bird arning

Assembly) which declaration has been returned from the War Department for correction & is now shown in Court and thereupon the said Benjamin Mathews, being again duly sworn doth on his oath declare that he is the same person who signed & verified the said Declaration: that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods following & in the grades namely, –

1. For three months as a volunteer private in Captain Anthony New's Company under General Muhlenberg as stated in the annexed declaration: & he thinks Colonel Mathews was his Colonel

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2. Then for sixty days, or two months as secondly stated in said declaration as a drafted militia man – officers not remembered.

3. Then a light tour of sixty days, or two months, as thirdly therein mentioned as a drafted man – Offices still not remembered.

4. A tour of certainly sixty days, or two months, & he thinks longer, but claims only for two months, which tour was by accident as he supposes omitted & not set forth in his declaration: It occurred after the expiration of the third tour above named. The whole of the men enrolled for militia duty in Hanover County Virginia were required to take the field: they rendezvoused at Colonel Dandridge's old field & proceeded to Holt's forge, where those of the men, who had been in Continental service were designated to form a Corps of regulars. Affiant's brother was one of them, but being sick (his name Berry Mathews) affiant took his place & was put under a regular field Officers – his Lieutenant was Robert Dandridge – his Captain forgotten – that Major Campbell & Colonel Thomas Armistead commanded: they were marched to the shore of Hampton Roads in which was a fleet of the enemy.

5. Next three months as stated in said declaration as a drafted man – his Captain the same Anthony New in Colonel Mathews Regiment & the Marquis Lafayette's division.

6. Then two months, or sixty days – & at its expiration detained a like period of two months as stated in his declaration under a Captain whose name has escaped his memory – his Colonel he thinks was John Taylor – & he was in General Weedon's brigade & in Lafayette's division during this double tour, which included the capture of rural Cornwallis' Army at Yorktown.

7. Finally the three months or ninety days tour lastly mentioned in said declaration as a volunteer. This not being a regular field service, but in reality exceedingly severe military labor, affiant thinks that those employed in this service were under the direction of an officer who ranked as a Major, but whose name he cannot now recall.

In all these seven tours he served as above, as he is confident, nineteen months. He thinks he never got a written discharge; or if he did it is lost or destroyed –

Affiant further states that there is no one living & known to him by whom he can prove the above Services or any part thereof: and that he still resides in the County of Jackson aforesaid. When he was about 23 years old he removed from Virginia to North Carolina – from thence at about his 30<sup>th</sup> year he removed to Kentucky where & in Tennessee he resided until 1818 when he came to the State where he has since resided.

S/ Benjamin Mathews

[p 8: Mary Mathews gave an affidavit in Jackson County Alabama December 18, 1841 that she is the widow of Benjamin Mathews, a pensioner under the 1832 act at the rate of \$46.66 per annum. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 9: affidavit given by Joshua Wann in Jackson County Alabama that the he celebrated the rites of matrimony between Benjamin Mathews and Mary Mathews on August 29, 1838 in Jackson County Alabama

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for one year and 2 months in the Virginia militia.]