

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Mathias Swing S7669

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Transcribed by Will Graves

3/27/11

[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 North Carolina Guilford County: November 1832

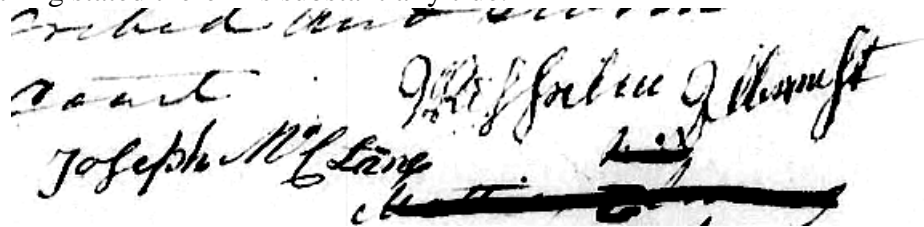
On this 1st November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of our County Court the same being a Court of Record Mathias Swing aged 84 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he served under the following named Officers and as is herein after stated, to wit,

That he was born in Union County Pennsylvania in the year 1749 has no record of his age but has often been told so by his father. That when a child he moved with his father to North Carolina and settled in that part of it now called Guilford County where he has lived ever since. That at the commencement of the Revolutionary war in the spring of 1775 or 1776 he was called out on the Cherokee expedition (drafted) under the command of Captain Whitsell [Henry or John Whitsell or Wetzell] Lieutenant Jacob Clapp Colonel Paisley and Colonel Martin – that he was marched westward to the head waters of the Catawba [River] near to a small stream making into the Catawba River – that he there [word written through and obliterated, presumably "joined"] the troops under General Rutherford and marched thence to head quarters 12 miles East of the ridge that he was marched over the bridge over the French Broad River, the Pigeon River and destroyed the Watauga Towns and destroyed many other Indian towns in the Eastern part of the Western Territory now the State of Tennessee that he was then marched back to a place called Hickory Ridge where the troops that were separated again collected – that thence he was marched [word written over and obliterated] returned home and separated from General Rutherford near the Catawba River – that he was dismissed by word. That he arrived at home in the Fall after being from home four months – that from this time '75 until 1780 he was always ready at the call of his Captain Whitsell Captain Forbis – Colonel Paisley and Colonel Gillespie and consumed in short tours after the Tories the half of the time (from '75 to '80) – that owing to his advanced age he is unable to give any correct or satisfactory account of them that he was frequently marched down to the Caraway mountains or high hills of Randolph and to the Raft

Swamps near Fayetteville in both of which places the Tories under one Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] were in the habit of taking refuge after their ravages on the Whigs – that he recollects of one trip to Fayetteville rather longer than usual and he thinks it was in the summer of 1777 in which he consumed 5 or 6 weeks – that he was frequently called out to quell the insurrections of Tories commanded by one Colonel Brian, living up on the Yadkin [River], that was marched another time and consumed several weeks from home which deep Creek South of Fayette will now called Drowning Creek, so called from the circumstances of many Tories being drowned therein: that he has no documentary evidence of his services – that he is known to George Neese,<sup>1</sup> Joseph McLean<sup>2</sup> & William Albright<sup>3</sup> who can and are willing to testify from their personal knowledge to his services that all his neighbors can from report do the same – that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension whatever and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.  
Subscribed and sworn to in Open Court

S/ Mathias Swing, X his mark

We Joseph McLean & William Albright hereby certify that we have long known Matthias Swain who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and knows from my own personal knowledge that everything stated therein is substantially true.



Handwritten signatures of Joseph McLean and William Albright. The signature of Joseph McLean is on the left, and the signature of William Albright is on the right. There is a large, dark scribble or signature below them.

I George Neese hereby certify that I have known Matthias Swing for near sixty years that I have heard the foregoing declaration read and know that what he says is true.

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court

S/ George Neese, X his mark

[fn p. 8: George Neese gave a much more detailed affidavit dated January 23, 1833 in which he largely restates what the applicant set forth in his original application. Consequently, I have not transcribed his additional affidavit.]

[fn p. 12]

North Carolina Guilford County

Be it known that on this 23rd day of January A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me an acting Justice in and for the County Guilford Matthias Swing who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit by way of amendment to the preceding declaration (to wit) that his declaration has been forwarded to his representative in Congress the Honorable Augustus H Shepperd who has returned it suggesting the propriety of having it amended as to the precise time he served etc. That he was a private volunteer in the minute company commanded by Captain Whitsell and Lieutenant Clapp – that the most of his services were performed and in fact all except his Cherokee expedition in short and frequent tours after the Tories – sometimes a few days & sometimes many, and again weeks at a time –

<sup>1</sup> [George Nease \(Neese\) R7570](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Joseph McLain \(McLane\) S8805](#)

<sup>3</sup> [William Albright S6492](#)

down into Randolph County among the High Hills called the Caraway mountains – down towards Wilmington and Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) up on the Yadkin [River], and often out into the immediate neighborhood – that the Inhabitants South of him and as far down the Country as Wilmington were pretty generally Tories – that he lived as it were near the dividing line between a great body of Tories and some Whigs – that the Whigs were either compelled to submit to the insults, ravages and murders of the infamous, cowardly and crude Tories – join their party, or bear arms constantly and fight in defense of themselves and the cause which they had espoused – that he was out as aforesaid one half his time from the commencement of the termination to the war and that he was compelled to go armed even when at home or at church – that he recollects of plowing with two guns with him in the field, one at one end of the field and the other at the other – that there was one Colonel Fanning who stayed mostly in and about the Raft Swamps down the country as a place of refuge that he (Fanning) was influential among the royalists and would sometimes in person lead and often cause bands of Tories to be marched into is the Whig settlements to murder and pillage – that to act with efficacy against these frequent & severe attacks the Whigs early saw the propriety of forming themselves into companies and there were accordingly formed two companies in his section of Guilford one commanded by Captain Forbis and the other by Captain Whitsell – the former an Irish or English company – the latter a German or Dutch company – that these companies stood always ready to march with a minutes warning at the call of Colonel Paisley his commanding Colonel, which was frequent – very frequent – that these companies were generally successful in dispersing, taking prisoners, and killing the many companies – mobs and bands of Tories that would rise and were sent against them – that the prisoners were sometimes released on a promise and charge to do better – and some who were thought to be the worst and most dangerous were conveyed and imprisoned at Martinsville Guilford Court House – that he might be said with some propriety to have been a soldier throughout the War and must have done service regularly called out not less than 2 years – that there lives no preacher in his neighborhood who knows anything either about him or his services – that their lives within a few miles of him the Reverend Mr. Crawford but that he has not been long in the County and consequently knows nothing about him

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ R. Mayben, JP

S/ Mathias Swing, X his mark

[fn p. 16: William Albright, referred to as "Captain William Albright" gave an additional supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]