

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of **Pension Application of Josiah (Josias) Martin Mary Martin W1047**

Transcribed by Susan K. Zimmerman and R. Neil Vance

3/30/07 rev'd 6/14/16 by

Will Graves in italics

[p 6]

State of Tennessee

Rutherford County

Circuit Court

October term, 1832

On this day the 1st of October 1832, before James C. Mitchell one of the judges of the Circuit courts in & for the State of Tennessee now sitting for Said county of Rutherford, at Murfreesborough, personally appeared in open court Josiah Martin a resident in the county aforesaid, aged about seventy five 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 7th, 1832.

Applicant's father lived in Pennsylvania, Cumberland county, which being on the frontier & exposed to the depredations & murders of the indians, caused him to move his family for security to an adjoining county where applicant was born in February 1757, as he has been informed by an older sister. He never had an exact record of his age. In the mean time his father was taken by the Indians, & on being released again settled with his family in Cumberland County, applicant being then about two years old. He lived there till about the year 1765 when he moved to Lincoln County North Carolina. Applicant lived in Lincoln County North Carolina until the year 1803 when he moved to his present residence in Rutherford (Ten) where he has ever since continued to reside. He entered the service of the United States in Lincoln county North Carolina, as a volunteer, early in the spring of 1780, he can not state the precise time, but knows it was soon after the first alarm of disturbances from the Tories in his section of country after the British had taken Charleston [*Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780*],¹ or after they were about to take it. He belonged to a company of volunteers, about 15 or 20 in number generally, & commanded by Capt. Barber [Capt. John Barber was the husband of applicant's sister, Sarah Martin]. There was no inferior officers who commanded in the company. Its movements was directed against the Tories of Lincoln & the adjoining county of Rutherford. One of its first expeditions was in early corn planting time 1780, to the house of one Ambrose Mills in Rutherford County on White oak creek of Broad river, who was supposed to be raising a regiment of Tories. Barber's company stayed at Mills' a week or more, lived upon his meat & corn, & ranged in the neighbourhood. Mills promised to be neutral, & the company returned home. They learned that Mills, not regarding his promise raised a regiment of Tories, received the commission of Colonel from the British, & was taken by the Whiggs in the battle of King's mountain [*October 7, 1780*]² & hung.

The next remarkable excursion applicant remembers to have made under Capt. Barber was with the intention of surprising the Tories collecting at Ramsours on the South fork of Catawba river above 20 miles from their homes. The company started one evening & went 9 or 10 miles & camped a little distance from the road in a very secluded place, leaving one man to watch if any one passed along the road. Sometime in the night, two men passed in a direction from Ramsours. Our watch hailed them, but they put spurs & rode on. They returned before day, & in attempting to avoid our watch, passed directly to the camp & were taken. Both these prisoners were Tories, one of them by name Moore was brother to the Moore [*Lt. Col. John Moore*] who was then collecting the Tories at Ramsours. Learning from them that the Tories at Ramsours were too strong for us, we changed our march eastward in a direction across Catawba river at Tucksiegy [Tuckaseege] ford to Gen. Rutherford's [*Griffith Rutherford's*] camp near Charlotte in Mecklenburgh [*Mecklenburg*] county. We then recrossed at same ford with Rutherford's army, there in direction to Ramsours. We did not get there till a few hours after Col. Locke [*Francis Locke*] had arrived & defeated the Tories there under Moore [*Battle of Ramseur's Mill, June 20, 1780*].³ We found the bodies of men & horses that had been slain in the skirmish still lying on the ground. Our company then

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

left Rutherford's army in search of Tories in our neighbourhood. We afterwards joined Col. McDowell [*Charles McDowell*] who was encamped on Broad river to act in defensive against Ferguson [*Patrick Ferguson*]. After staying there a few weeks, Col. Graham [William Graham] took our company, Capt. Thomas, & one or two more companies, & went in a direction towards Ferguson. One night news came that Ferguson's army would be around us before day. We immediately departed & afterwards learned they did surround our camps the same night. A company of horse from Ferguson's army pursued & overtook us the next day about 12 o'clock near Buffington's iron works. We repulsed them & drove them back to the main army. We then returned to McDowell's head quarter. This skirmish was about the time of Gates' defeat [*Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780*].⁴ A few were killed on both sides. In returning to head quarters, applicant received an accidental injury from a spear in the hands of a fellow soldier, in consequence of which he went home & remained there several weeks. He was not in the Battle of Kings Mountain though not far from his residence. Barber's company or most of them had become suspicious that Col. Graham was not true to their cause, & therefore refused to follow him, when he marched to join the other colonels. He & one Esq. Wilson then attempted to join a new company just raised as they had heard under Capt. Thompson who were aiming to surprise the foraging parties of the enemy about Charlotte. But the company was not there as said and we returned & attempted to overtake some of our neighbours that had gone on to meet the forces against Ferguson, but were prevented through danger of being taken by the Tories. Afterwards Barber being advanced to the rank of Major raised a company which applicant joined & marched with it to Morgan's [*Daniel Morgan's*] Camps on Pacolet river near Grendal's shoals [*Grendel shoals*] where we elected Thos. White [*Thomas White*] our captain. We remained in Camps with Morgan until the rains raised the waters when the militia were allowed to cross the Packalet for the purpose of procuring provisions. Two days afterwards Col. Thomas [prob. Col. John Thomas, Jr. of South Carolina] came along by our fires & asked where Major Barber was. We asked what was the matter. He said nothing much; but brother Ben was coming. We immediately recrossed the Packalet to Morgan's camp. Early in the morning the regulars commenced march, the militia being on horseback started about 12 o'clock & overtook the regulars the evening before the battle of the Cowpens. Col. Washington [*William Washington*] was there with his company of Cavalry which amounted to 72 as counted by applicant the day before the battle. The other officers who commanded in that battle besides those already named, he recollects Col. Pickens [*Andrew Pickens*] of Militia, & Maj. McDowell [*Joseph McDowell*].

The battle [*Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781*]⁵ was fought early in the morning in the open woods. At the termination of the battle our Capt. Thos White was missing, but was there the next day when we returned from the pursuit. We then followed after Morgan who had gone on with the prisoners. After overtaking them Morgan & regulars left us, & we with Col. Washington conducted the prisoners to Burk town where we were relieved by newly raised militia, & permitted to return home about the last of January 1781. From this time to fall of same year he was in no service except in scouting parties under Capt. Isaac White a brave man. During the spring & summer he was pretty constantly out ranging after the Tories but nothing [? obscured by ink spot] important occurred. In the fall of 1781 applicant entered service in Company commanded by Capt. Isaac White & in which he served as Lieutenant. The company was formed of White's old Scouting company & some drafted men. The draft was for three months. We were attached to the command of Col Smith [prob. Col. Robert L. Smith]. Joseph Graham a fine brave soldier was our Major. He had been Capt & his place had been filled by Capt. Charles Polk. We crossed Yadkin leaving Fayetteville to our left, ranging on the waters of drowning creek which we crossed by swimming our horses chiefly by side of Canoe [?]; while the army under Rutherford marched more directly towards Wilmington [*Wilmington*]. We camped one night on or near the ground where Butler [?] [*John Butler*] had been defeated. We rode all the next day & night in pursuit of the Tories that had defeated him; & in the morning came in sight of a brick house [*the Brick House, November 15, 1781*]⁶ in which the enemy had a sergeants' guard at a ferry on the Cape Fear river near Wilmington. We there took four prisoners, 2 British & 2 Tories. The Tories had a Camp nearly a mile off at the mouth of a creek. Maj. Graham with our company, Capt. Kenedy's & two others not now remembered, attempted to surprise them. We left our horses with Col. Smith & went on foot accompanied by Capt. Polk's company of Cavalry. When we came in view of the sentinel he cried very often 'who are you'; & some of our men

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁶ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brick_house.html

firing at him alarmed the enemy & they fled into a swamp. Before we had time to secure the materials the Tories left, Col. Smith sent an express for us. On returning we found nothing the matter, & were very much displeased with the Col. who was indeed unfit to command. We then returned homewards, but continued scouting & in camps on the Cape Fear river till Cornwallis was taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. It is impossible for applicant to give an account of all the scouting or ranging expeditions in which he was engaged. He never remained long out of service from the time he first entered it to the time he returned from Wilmington, except the ballance of the winter after he returned from the tour in which the battle at the Cowpens was fought. He believes he served at least 18 months in the revolutionary war. He was sometimes out only a few days, sometimes at home a few days, at other times he would call at his home merely to get clean cloths & biscuit. His home was then at his father's house. He always served as a volunteer. He never received a written discharge.

He can not prove his service by any living witness without great trouble and expense. There is no clergyman residing in his neighbourhood. As to his character for veracity & the general belief that he served as a soldier of the revolution he refers to the following gentlemen his neighbours, Esq. Henry Ridley, Col. Moses Ridley, Esq. Wm. H. Davis, Berryman Ferguson, Esq. Thos. Cannon, Robert L. Weakley, & William Robb, Esq.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed
the day & year aforesaid

(signed) Josias Martin



(signed) Wm. Ledbetter
Clerk.

[Robert L Weakley and Berryman Furgason gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11]

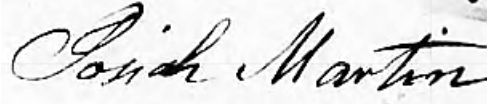
Amended declaration of Josiah Martin for a pension

This 9th day of April, 1833, in open court before me James C. Mitchell one of the judges of the circuits courts in & for the state of Tennessee now sitting for the county of Rutherford, personally appeared Josiah Martin, who made his original declaration for a pension on the 1st of October last, & who being now duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that, by reason of old age, & the consequent loss of memory, he can not swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served no less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades; for one month I served as a private under Capt Barber in a small company of volunteers on the expedition to the house of the tory, Ambrose Mills, on white oak creek; For four months I served as a private under Capt Barber in the campaign in which the skirmish took place at Buffington's iron works with a detachment from Ferguson's army, being the same campaign in which the battle at Ramsours was fought, spoken of in my original declaration; For three months I served as a private under Capt Thomas White in the campaign in which was fought the battle at the Cowpens; For three months I served as a private under Capt Isaac White in scouting after the Tories, chiefly in Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, N. Carolina, during the spring & summer of 1781; and for three months I served as Lieutenant in the company commanded by Capt Isaac White in the expedition to Wilmington, and for such service, amounting in all to fourteen months, I claim a pension. I believe that [? previous 3 words obscured] fourteen months are not so long by several months as my actual service in the revolution, but I can not make out greater service in consequence of being bound to fix the time of each campaign. I am apprehensive I will not be allowed for the three months under Capt Isaac White in scouting after the Tories. I can not however specify the various little expeditions of this character in which I was engaged under him in the spring & summer of 1781; but during this period I am confident I was out on actual service at least three months.

I have no documentary evidence & know of no person whose testimony I can procure, by which to prove my service. There is no clergyman residing in my neighbourhood as stated in my original declaration, & I know of no [? Obscured] clergyman who is sufficiently acquainted with me to certify for me. Herewith is annexed the corroborating certificates of Esq. Henry Ridley & Esq. Wm. H. Davis who are my neighbours. Sworn to & subscribed this

day & year first aforesaid

(signed) Josiah Martin



(signed) Wm Ledbetter Clk

[p 14]

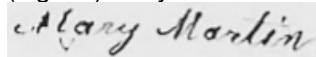
State of Tennessee

Rutherford County

On this third day of April 1845, before me R. H. Mason a justice of the peace in and for the County of Rutherford aforesaid, personally appeared Mary Martin aged eighty years, who after being duly sworn makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision of the act of Congress approved July of 1838, that she is the widow of Josiah Martin late deceased, who was a private in the army of the revolution, and who drew a pension from the United States under the act of 7 June 1832 of forty six 66/100 dollars per annum up to the time of his death, that she was married to the said Josiah Martin in May seventeen hundred and eighty three (1783) she thinks on the twenty eighth day of that month. She has no record of her said marriage, but a record of her children's births she has, and the same is hereto annexed -- eight in all, the first born 28 March 1784, the last 15 Feb 1808, the whole of which record is in the handwriting of her late husband the said Josiah Martin, and which she has had in her possession for a number of years -- that her husband the said Josiah died on the seventeenth day of September (1835) eighteen hundred and thirty five -- she has not intermarried since his death but still continues his widow -- she further states that she was married at the house of her father Robert McClary in Mecklenburg County North Carolina at the time above stated, by publication of banns as was then the custom, she further states that she was not married to said Josiah until after the last period of his service, but previous to the 1st of January 1794, that is at the time above stated. She further states that she would have made an application for a pension under the above act much earlier, but did not know of the law, or of any such provision for her benefit, until within the last month. Her husband's pension certificate was left at Nashville when when drew the balance of the pension due him at the time of his death.

Subscribed & sworn
before me this the day

(signed) Mary Martin



& year above written, &
I certify that declarant
by reason of old age and
infirmity is unable to
appear in court
(signed) R.H. Mason
Justice of the Peace

State of Tennessee

Rutherford County

Also appeared before me William D. Hicks justice as aforesaid William Martin, who being first duly sworn says he is a son of Josiah Martin & Mary Martin, that he was present at the death of his father, which occurred on the seventeenth day of September eighteen hundred and thirty five (1835) - That the record annexed to the declaration of his mother, he has known, at least twenty years, it was in the family bible, and contains the times of the births of the children of said Josiah & Mary Martin (deponent being one) Deponent is satisfied that it is a true record & has not been altered or erased to his knowledge. It is in the handwriting of the said Josiah Martin.

Subscribed & sworn
before me this 7th day
of April 1845, and I
certify that deponent is
a respectable person &
worthy of credit.

(signed) Wm. Martin

(signed) Wm. D. Hicks
Justice of the peace

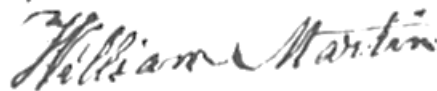
[p 16]

State of Tennessee, Marshall County;

Before me Hugh A. Hall Justice of the peace in and for said County this day personally appeared Wm. Martin (whom I certify is a reputable person & worthy of credit) who after being duly sworn, states that he is seventy six years of age, that he is a nephew of Josiah Martin late of Rutherford County Tennessee and who was a soldier of the revolution, that he was also acquainted with Mary Martin now the widow of said Josiah Martin, that he was present at the marriage of the said Josiah & Mary which occurred in Mecklenburg County North Carolina at the house of Robt. McClary her father he was invited, together with some seven or eight others, to the wedding which was about twenty miles from the sd Josiah Martins fathers; and believes that the marriage was solemnized by the Rev. Jas. McGee DD about sixty one or two years ago, in the month of May, an incident that makes him recollect it, is, when he returned home from the wedding his Fathers home was burned.

Sworn to and subscribed
before me the 26th day of

(signed) William Martin



March 1845

(signed) Hugh A. Hall
Justice of the peace

[p 2: what appears to be a family record:

Abigail, born March 28, 1784

William December 8, 1786

Robert November __, 1793

Clarissa Aug. __ 1796

Hannah 20 October 1790

Marilla September 29 1799

Polly McDowell November 16, 1806

Matilda February 15, 1808

Abigail, born March 28 - 1784
William Decem 8 1786
Robert Novemr - - - 1793
Clarissa aug' - - - 1796

Hannah 20 october 1790
Marilla septem²⁹ 1799
Polly McDowel Novem 16
1806
Matilda Feb' 15 - 1808

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in the amount of \$40 per annum.]