

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Mathews (Mathewes)W21749

Mary Mathews

f27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/17/09: rev'd 7/10/16

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

### Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1836

On this 14th day of December in the year of our Lord 1837 personally appeared before me Mrs. Mary Mathews, widow of Captain Benjamin Mathews, aged Seventy Six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836. That she is the widow of Captain Benjamin Mathews who was a Captain in the service of the State of South Carolina in the War of the Revolution and commanded a Militia Company for the periods herein detailed --

First, He served with his company at the time Provost [sic, Augustine Prevost]<sup>1</sup> the siege to the City of Charleston. The precise period of service she cannot state, that it was not less than six months.

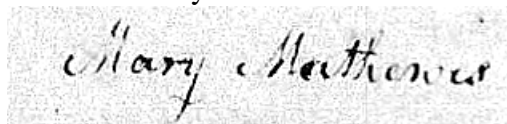
Secondly -- He served with his Company from the latter end of the year 1779 to the month of May 1780 when Charleston fell and surrendered [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780],<sup>2</sup> and from that time he remained a Prisoner of War for thirteen months, and was then exchanged. --

She further declares that her maiden name was Mary Mathews, that she was married to her cousin the said Captain Benjamin Mathews on the 19th day of November A.D. 1778. And that her husband the aforesaid Captain Benjamin Mathews died on the 18th day of February in the year 1801. And that she has ever since remained a widow, as will more fully appear by the annexed Testimony.

Sworn to before me the day & year first above mentioned.

S/ Rob. Elfe, QU

S/ Mary Mathews

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Mathews". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

<sup>1</sup> Prevost marched on Charleston following the Battle of Stono Ferry on June 20, 1779, but he abandoned the march before laying siege to the city.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

State of South Carolina Charleston District

This is to certify that Mrs. Mary Mathews who has this day sworn and subscribed the foregoing Declaration, has at the same time produced to me the family Bible, in which her marriage is recorded, and I do further certify that the following is a true copy of the entries made in it.

"Benjamin Mathews was married to Mary Mathews, daughter of William and Edith Mathews November 19th: 1778" I do certify that diligent search has been made for the Records of the Parish Church of St. John's, and that they are either lost or were destroyed by the British then in possession of the Country.

Given under my hand and seal on the day and in the year first above written.

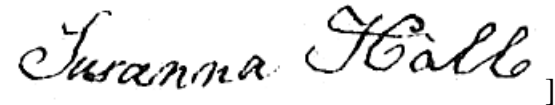
S/ Rob Elfe, QU

[p 5: Mrs. Mary Mathews, widow of George Mathews who was a brother of Captain Benjamin Mathews gave testimony that she was present at the marriage of Mary Mathews to Benjamin Mathews on November 19th 1778; that they were married on John's Island; she also states her understanding of the service performed by Captain Benjamin Mathews during the revolution substantially identical to the statements made by the widow except that she adds that Captain Mathews was then in Fort Moultrie at the time of the surrender of Charleston.



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[p 7: On December 14, 1837 in Charleston South Carolina, Mrs. Susanna Hall gave testimony that she was present at the marriage of Captain Benjamin Mathews with Mary Mathews the affiant's sister; that the marriage took place on John's Island in November 1778.



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State of South Carolina Charleston District

The affidavit of Joseph Righton<sup>3</sup> a Pensioner of the United States and a Citizen of Charleston taken to prove the Revolutionary Services of Captain Benjamin Mathews, whose widow is about to apply for a pension of the Act of Congress granting Pensions to the Widows of officers and Soldiers in certain cases passed the 4th of July 1836.

This affiant being duly sworn according to law testifies and says -- That he was born in the West Indies and came to Charleston with his father prior to the commencement of the Revolution. At an early period after his arrival he became acquainted with Captain Benjamin Mathews, and from that time to the close of his life knew him well. This affiant performed the following services with Captain B. Mathews during the Revolution --

When Charleston was invested in 1777 or 8 by Provost [sic, Augustine Prevost] Captain Mathews and his company were called into service and continued in the same for six months.

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<sup>3</sup> [Joseph Righton W22074](#)

In the month of December 1779 we were again called into service expecting an attack from the enemy; and continued in service from that time until the surrender of Charleston in the month of May 1780, during this period Captain Mathews and his company were first stationed on John's Island; but when the British approached he was removed to Fort Moultrie, and there remained until the fall of Charleston, when he and all his Company was made prisoners of War. This affiant was also surrendered a Prisoner of War, and knows that Captain Mathews and his company were detained as such for Thirteen months from the surrender of Charleston, and were with this affiant then exchanged. I know that Captain Benjamin Mathews was at the time he performed the above mentioned service a married man, and I know that his widow now applying for a Pension is the same person that he was married to at the period above mentioned -- and this affiant also knows that she is now and has at all times since his death been a widow. This affiant speaks with certainty as to all these facts having lived from his earliest recollection close neighbors to Mrs. Mathews, and on intimate and friendly terms with her.

S/ Jos. Righton

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jos. Righton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. Below the main signature, there is a smaller, less distinct scribble or second signature.

[Attested by Robert Elfe, QU]

[p 18]

Comptroller's Office  
Charleston July 15<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir

In this office there are no other Evidences of Service during the Revolutionary War than such as are furnished by the Check Books of the Indents issued to satisfy the claims against the State both for Military Services or supplies. There are two Indent Books, one in this Office the other in the Office at Columbia which contain the names of the persons to whom the Indents were issued and referring to the book & number of the Indent. The Check books from which the Indents were cut out contain a Margin shewing for what the Indent was issued sometimes referring to the accounts of claim settled. These Check books and a portion of the Accounts are in the Office at Columbia. All the Indents issued are presumed to have been settled or paid only the original of those taken up at the Treasury for dues to the State &c are sorted and can be found, the remainder were funded by the State in Six and Three percent Stocks and have never been placed in order so as to be found when wanted. An indent not having been issued to a person is not conclusive evidence that he has not rendered Services during the Revolutionary War, for he may have otherwise received payment for his Claims as the whole of Sumter's Brigade was paid in Negroes taken from the Tories and confiscated, or he may never have preferred any claims. In the Indent Book above mentioned in the handwriting of the late Judge Lee formerly Comptroller General is the following viz.

"The Numbers and Letters refer to certain Vouchers in the Comptroller General's Office Columbia with corresponding Numbers and Letters. Many of the Vouchers wanting they were left by Major Theus Commissioner on the part of this State for settling the Accounts with the United States and were never redelivered Vide Act

or Resolution of first of May 1794 respecting these Vouchers"  
extract of said Resolution.

That the Senators of this State in the Congress of the United States be instructed  
and the representatives requested to use their best efforts to procure an Act of  
Congress for the purpose of returning the original Vouchers exhibited by Simeon  
Theus to substantiate the Claims of this State against the United States whenever  
such Vouchers shall be no longer necessary finally to adjust such Claims.

I give this information that you may know the extent and kind of Evidence which may be  
obtained from this Office. I have examined the Indent Book and find that to Indents were issued  
to Benj. Matthewes

Book A No. 243 for 128.4.1

" D No. 131 for 26.16.8

My Deputy at Columbia writes me that he has examined and ascertained that each of them was  
for supplies furnished the Army.

The Honorable C C Clay has requested me to furnish you with such proof of the service of  
Michael McCartney as this office may afford. I find that and Indent was issued to him Book Y  
No. 144 for £44 and upon referring to the Original Indent which has been taken up and is in the  
Treasury Office I ascertained that it was for "Military duty done as a private in Colonel Hopkins  
Regiment as Per Account passed by the Commissioner." I shall write to Columbia for a copy of  
said Account and will inform you of the result.

Very Respectfully,  
Your Mo. ob. Serv.t.  
Wm Ed: Hayne  
Comp. Genl.

J. L. Edwards Esqr.  
Pension Office  
Washington

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for  
service as a Captain for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]