

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham Marlatt (Murlat) W21771  
Transcribed by J Richards

Ann Marlatt f91VA  
3/16/11 rev'd 7/15/14

Punctuation, grammar and spelling have been maintained from the original; no modifications have been made.

District of Virginia, Berkeley County, ss.

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1818, before me the subscriber, [?] of the Judge of the Superior Court of Law for the said county, personally appeared Abraham Marlatt aged 57 years, resident in Berkeley County in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled, "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said Abraham Marlatt enlisted in Winchester in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Labart [sic, a likely reference to Captain Claudius de Bert] of the Troop of Dragoons belonging to Col. Armong's [sic, Armand's] Legion in the service of the United States, that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the service of the United States, until the end of the war, when he was discharged from service in the Little York, in the state of Pennsylvania, and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his county for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except for the annexed certificate of John Martin and John Bodine that states that these men served in Col. Armong's [sic, Armand's] Regiment with the above applicant.... Signed by Robt White, judge.

I, Robert White, Judge, &c. as aforesaid, do certify, that it appears to my satisfaction, that the said Abraham Marlatt did serve in the revolutionary war, as stated in the preceding declaration, against the common enemy, for the term of nine months, on the continental establishment: and I now transmit the proceedings and testimony had and taken before me, to the Secretary for the Department of War, pursuant to the directions of the aforementioned act of Congress.  
Signed, Robt White

Virginia to Wit

At a court continued and held for Berkeley County the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820  
On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820 personally appeared in open court, being a court of Records, Abraham Morlatt [sic, Marlatt] aged fifty nine years resident in the said county who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows to wit as a private dragoon in Captain Labart's [sic, a likely reference to Captain de Bert's] Company of the independent Corps commanded by Col. Armong [sic, Armand] that he made his original declaration on the 28th day of April 1818 and obtained a pension certificate number 2188 and the said Morlatt [sic, Marlatt] doth moreover Solemnly swear that he was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not Since that time by Gift Sale or any manner deposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval services of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or Securities contracts or debts due him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule here unto annexed and by him subscribed. The said Morlatt [sic, Marlatt]--- declares he is a farmer and day laborer but has not had bodily strength sufficient to pursue either for as support. His family consists of a wife Ann aged about fifty years, one daughter aged 7 years neither of whom are able to do more than the necessary

work of the family. Sworn to and declared to be true the 11th day of July 1820, before the court aforesaid.

Schedule:

1 grey mare 18 years old

one hog

one pair horse gears

one old table a chest

Six chairs two pots two ovens and some other little articles of Kitchen furniture

Abraham (his X mark) Morlatt [sic, Marlatt]

[Certified by David Hunter, Clerk of Berkeley County, Virginia – legal text omitted for sake of brevity]

[fn12] Extract from the marriage records of the County of Berkeley Virginia in the words and figures following to wit: “Abraham Molatt [sic, Marlatt] to Ann Linder on the second day of August one thousand seven hundred and eighty five by the Rev. Hugh Vance”  
Virginia Berkeley, County...I Jacob Van Doren, clerk of the County court in the County and state aforesaid do hereby certify that the above is a true extract from the marriage records filed in my office with the exception that the dates are expressed on the original records in fair legible figures which are here above expressed in words. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal at Martinsburg this 7th day of October 1847 and in the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of our foundation.

John Van Doren, clerk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing on 28 April 1818 for service of 15 months [fn65] in the Continental Line as a dragoon in Colonel Armand’s Legion. Abraham Marlatt died on 23 July 1828 near Crull’s Mill, Wayne County, Indiana [fn65]. His widow, Ann Marlatt received a pension of \$62.50 per year commencing 4 March 1848 [fn27].]

## **Proof of Service**

*Virginia Soldiers of 1776* compiled from documents on file in the Virginia Land Office together with material found in the Archives Dept of the Virginia State Library, and other sources, compiled by Louis Burgess, Volume III, 1929, reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994, provided confirmation of information in pension application of Abraham Marlatt. Page 1252 states “In Congress, 18 Feb 1779. Resolved that all the men, inhabitants of the United States, show shall be recruited in the corps of Colonel Armand in any of the United States, shall be credited to the quota of the state in which they shall be enlisted, they not being inhabitants of any other of the U.S. War Office. Pursuant to the foregoing resolution, the following return was mad to Va., to wit: A return of the men belonging to the State of Virginia, who served in the first partisan legion commanded by Brig Gen Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie, discharged 15 Nov 1783. Note: All the men whose names are in the list are entitled to 200 acres from Virginia:

**Morlat, Abraham** [Marlatt, Abraham]

**Bourdine, John** [Bordine, John, who provided affidavit in pension application file that he served with his brother-in-law Abraham Marlatt]”

## **Overview of Armand’s Legion**

Abraham Marlatt enlisted in the Continental Army about March 1782 in Armand’s Legion whose history is outlined in *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787* by E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, 1978, reprint, Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007. Pages 93-95 state:

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“Armand’s Legion, 1777-1783 (also designated at various times: Armand’s Partizan Corps, 1st Partizan Corps, Free and Independent Chasseurs)

Field Officers

Colonel Charles Armand Tuffin, Marquis de la Rouerie, May 10, 1777-November 25, 1783; promoted to brigadier general.

Charles Armand Tuffin, Marquis de la Rouerie, was one of the more colorful characters of the Revolution. Born in Brittany in 1756, Armand came to America as a volunteer in 1777. Commissioned as a colonel at the age of 21, he was permitted by Washington to raise a partisan, or guerrilla, force of 200 men. On June 11 he was given command of 3 companies from Ottendorff’s Independent Corps. Major Nicholas Dietrich, Baron von Ottendorff, had inherited the command of an independent Pennsylvania company raised by John Paul Schott in Sep 1776. Ottendorff’s freikorps was a failure, and Ottendorff himself resigned, ultimately to desert to the British and join Benedict Arnold in 1780.

By June 1777 Armand’s corps numbered about 80. On the 26th of that month, his men were defending a gun emplacement at Short Hills, NJ, against great odds. Thirty-two enlisted men were killed or wounded, and by November, Armand’s force consisted of only 42 privates. The small size of the unit prompted Congress to consider scrapping the partisan corps and “to throw the Men into some Regiment.” In an effort to save his unit Armand recruited prisoners, deserters, and other undesirables to swell his ranks. With Washington’s personal support Armand got Congress to countermand its resolve, and on June 25, 1778, he was authorized to raise three companies of infantry (Free and Independent Chasseurs) with 14 officers and 438 men. Later in the year a company of mounted troops was joined to the corps. Slightly over half the quota was actually raised, enough to satisfy Congress.

In 1780 the partizan corps was attached to Gate’s army in the Southern Department. Both Armand’s and Lee’s legions were engaged at Camden on August 15, 1780, when Gate’s army was roundly defeated by Cornwallis. Lighthorse Harry Lee blamed Armand for much of the confusion and panic but admitted that the poor quality of his recruits was more responsible than any want of bravery on the part of the officers.

By 1781 [This is when Abraham Marlatt’s service started] Armand’s corps was again down to forty light dragoons (soldier trained to fight on foot but who transports himself on horseback). In May the remnant was attached to Lafayette’s light infantry on the James River station. Under Lafayette the partizan legion served at Jamestown and Yorktown from July to October. After the surrender of Cornwallis’ army at Yorktown, Armand remained in Virginia where he conducted a vigorous recruiting effort. The Continental War Office on December 11 authorized him to enlist “free men between the ages of 16 and 40 (but)...no deserters...or Seaman.” George Washington allowed him to recover any and all horses “that become public property by the Capitulation of the 19th...”

Armand took his instructions so seriously that complaints of civilian oppression flooded Governor Benjamin Harrison’s office from late 1782 to 1783. Horses and forage were impressed on suspicion of having once been British property. After being transferred from Yorktown to the James River station to Staunton, Armand’s force, now grown to 300, was ordered disbanded in October 1783. Toward the end, it was feared that Armand and his private army of foreigners might attempt a coup d’état against Congress. To placate him, Congress appointed Armand a brigadier general on March 26, 1783.

Companies, 1777-1783

[Eleven companies are listed, but the following is the most likely unit to which Abraham Marlatt was assigned:]

Captain Claudius de Bert, 1778-1783”

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Amended 8/17/12

**Discharge papers of Abraham Marlatt (W21771) record him as Abraham Murlat;**

This is to certify that Abraham Murlat a Private dragoon in the First Partizan Legion, under my Command, has served Faithfully and Bravely to this Day, is hereby discharged from the Service of the *United States*, in Pursuance of Orders received from the Commander in Chief, bearing Date the third instant.

I further certify that Murlat a private dragoon, having been enlisted in the State of Virginia is intituled by the Resolution of Congress, of the 13<sup>th</sup> *February*, 1779, to the Benefits that have been, or hereafter shall be, granted by the said State to the Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the said line.

Given under my Hand and Seal at York Town, this fifteenth Day of November, 1783.

(signed) C. Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie Brigadier General

Entered in the Book of the Legion.

Attest

(signed) Godfried Swartz

Adjutant of the Legion

(signed) The above soldier was enlisted for the war I believe. Henry Bedinger, Capt., 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regt

