

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Martin W24132

Alsey Martin

f43SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 6/14/09: rev'd 6/9/16 & 11/8/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

South Carolina Edgefield District

On this 17th day of October in the year of our Lord 1838 personally appeared before me John B. O'Neill a Justice of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the State aforesaid Alsey Martin, a resident in the District and State aforesaid aged eighty two 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 made by the Act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836: That she is the widow of George Martin deceased who was a Captain in the war of the Revolution of a volunteer company of South Carolina Militia which company was attached to Colonel Leroy Hammond's Regiment of South Carolina Militia. This deponent further states that the aforesaid George Martin entered the service of the State aforesaid in the capacity of Captain as aforesaid at an early period of the war of the Revolution, and rendered many services of the particulars of which she is uninformed. She is constrained therefore to confine herself to such of his services as are proven by the prefixed depositions of William Dawson¹ and Joshua Hammond.² In the early part of autumn in the year 1775 the said George Martin as Captain as aforesaid was engaged in an expedition against a body of Tories under the command of Colonel Fletchal [sic, Thomas Fletchall] [Snow Campaign, December 23-30, 1775]³ & others which were assembled North of the Saluda River in that portion of South Carolina now included in Laurens District. The Tories were over awed and signed a convention by which they agreed to remain neutral during the war. This first tour of Captain George Martin service comprised a period of at least five weeks. In the month of October or November of the same year 1775 the said Captain Martin was engaged in another expedition against the Tories, who were again in arms and embodied in Laurens District that now is under the command of Patrick Cunningham and a man commonly known by the name of "Mad Wilson." The Tories were surrounded by the Whigs, and compelled to lay down their arms and some of their neighbors were sent prisoners to Charleston. This second term of Captain George Martin service comprised a period of at least two months. In the Spring of 1778 the said George Martin was engaged in the expedition against certain British post in East Florida,⁴ in this third term of his service comprised a period of at least four

¹ [William Dawson S17920](#)

² [Joshua Hammond S21803](#)

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html

⁴ This appears to be a reference to the so-called 3rd Florida Expedition in the spring of 1778.

<http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution12.html>

months. Early in January 1779, the said George was stationed at the Longs Camp [ink blot obscures text] point in Edgefield District [fold in paper obscures text for several words] a large body of forces under the command of Genl. Williamson [Andrew Williamson], where he continued until the spring of the same year when he was marched with the troops under Genl. Williamson to protect the low country & City of Charleston against the invasion of General Provost [sic, Augustine Prevost], and was engaged in the battle of Stono Ferry on the 20th of June 1779.⁵ This fourth tour of the said Captain Martin's service comprised a period of at least seven months. In the spring of 1781 he was engaged in the attack upon & capture of the two British forts in Augusta Georgia [appears to be a reference to the Siege of Augusta, May 22-June 6, 1781].⁶ A few days after the surrender of those forts, he joined the General Green [Nathanael Greene] near the site of the present town of Columbia, & in a short time afterwards was engaged in the battle of the Eutaw Springs on the 8th September 1781.⁷ This fifth term of said Captain Martin service comprised a period of at least four months. From the affair at the Eutaw until the end of the war the said Captain Martin was engaged in scouting expeditions against the Tories with whom he had various skirmishes & among them one with a party of Tories commanded by Hezekiah Williams, at Key's Ford over Stephens Creek in Edgefield District aforesaid that now is. This sixth tour of the said Captain Martin's service must have comprised a period of at least two months. This deponent therefore swears that the aforesaid George Martin served as Captain as above stated, continuously a period altogether of at least twenty months. For a more minute account of the particulars of the service of the said Captain Martin (of which & of his rank as Captain aforesaid she possesses no documentary evidence) the said Alsey refers to the prefixed Depositions of William Dawson & Captain Joshua Hammond the statements of which she believes without doubt to be correct & true & which she prays may be regarded as part of her Declaration, the said Alsey preferring that the said witnesses should narrate their own testimony, & that she should refer to their Depositions rather than they to her declaration. This Deponent further swears that the said George Martin resided in Edgefield District, that now is when he first entered the service as a soldier, that she was married to the said George several years before the expiration of his last term of service, but through decay of memory she is unable to fix the precise date, that the said George died in the year 1821, and that since his death she has continued to reside in Edgefield District and has ever since remained unmarried and a widow. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written, the words "South Carolina" and the 21st line and the word "he" in the 63rd line having been first crossed before me.

S/ John B. O'Neill, a Justice of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas in the District & state aforesaid who do hereby certify that the aforesaid Alice he is unable to appear in open court by reason of bodily infirmity and that the said Alice he is a person of credibility & worthy of belief, as I am informed and as I believe.

S/ John Belton O'Neill, Presiding Judge

S/ Alsey Martin, X her mark

[Both the Fold3.com and Ancestry.com versions of the contents of this file do not contain the first part of the deposition given by Joshua Hammond. Also, both omitted altogether the deposition of William Dawson. My guess it these documents are missing from the original file and consequently were not available for microfilming when the digital images were made. That

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

⁶ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

said, there are two images of the widow's application and the partial affidavit of Hammond, so it is possible that those images were included by mistake in lieu of images of the missing depositions. If anyone has obtained images of those portions of this file documentation, we would welcome the opportunity to include them in this database. See Note below for what MAY be a transcript of the missing affidavits.]

[p 6—partial deposition of Joshua Hammond]

... South Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel LeRoy Hammond. This deponent further states that he first knew the said George Martin to be in actual service in the early part of autumn in the year 1775 when a portion of the militia of that part of Ninety Six District now known as Edgefield were collected for the purpose of suppressing a body of Tories assembled North of the Saluda River in that portion of the State now included in Laurens District. A part of Colonel LeRoy Hammond's Regiment including Captain George Martin aforesaid and his company were first assembled at Colonel Hammond's plantation then marched to Martin town in Edgefield that now he has, and from thence marched to Ninety Six Courthouse where they were United to a larger body of forces. They were encamped at a point some 3 or 4 miles North of Ninety Six, where the leaders of the Tour, Colonel Fletchall and others rode into the camp and signed an agreement by which they bound themselves and party to remain neutral during the war. The Whig militia were then marched home and dismissed. This first tour of Captain Martin's service was at least 5 weeks. About the month of October or November in the same year, 1775, Captain George Martin & his company were again called into service, with a body of militia from Edgefield District that is now, under the command of the same officers above mentioned, to march against the Tories who were again in arms and embodied yon the Saluda River in Laurens District that now he is under the command as this deponent believes of Patrick Cunningham and a man known commonly by the name of Mad Wilson: Upon the approach of the Whig troops to Ninety Six, the Tories retreated towards the Indian country, and being pursued were overtaken by the Whigs, by means of a forced march at a place called the "Big Canebrake" in the Indian territory near Rocky River, about daybreak, and being taken completely by surprise were surrounded and made prisoners and several of them ringleaders were sent prisoners to Charleston. This second term of Captain George Martin service was at least 2 months. This deponent was at that time attached to his father Captain John Hammond's volunteer company, and was in both the above related expeditions, the [indecipherable word] of which was commonly known as the Snow Campaign. This deponent further swears that the service of Captain George Martin from January 1779 to the close of the war are truly and correctly set forth in the foregoing deposition of the above named William Dawson and that it comes within his own knowledge that those services were rendered by the said George Martin. This deponent therefore swears that George Martin aforesaid served as Captain aforesaid continuously and uninterruptedly a period altogether of at least sixteen months. And this deponent further swears that the aforesaid George Martin was married to the applicant Alsey Martin before the expiration of the last period of his service. And that since the death of the said George which occurred in 1820 or 1821, the said Alsey has remained unmarried and a widow. This deponent further swears that the above mentioned deponent William Dawson was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and had opportunities of knowing the facts to which he has deposed, and that this deponent himself was a Lieutenant in a South Carolina militia company commanded by John Carter in the war of the Revolution, and now received a Pension from the General Government for his services in that capacity.

Sworn to before me this 24th of September A.D. 1838.

S/ Joshua Hammond



S/ W. Brunson, QU

[p 13: On January 9, 1852 in Edgefield District South Carolina, George Martin describing himself as an heir at law of "Eley Martin, widow of George Martin" filed a power of attorney authorizing his attorney to pursue her claim. His relationship, if any, other than as an heir, is not stated.



[p 14: On Feb. 7, 1852, Washington Wade, 77, gave testimony in Edgefield County, SC, among other things, that Captain George Martin and wife Alsey had five children, namely, John, Anne, Matthew, Elizabeth & George; that John and Mathew are dead; that Anne intermarried with Edward Finch and is now a widow; Elizabeth intermarried with Matthew Mays and is now a widow; that if their son John Martin is alive, he would be 75 years old.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$340 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending with her death on May 11, 1839. The pension was based upon her husband service as a Captain in the South Carolina militia for 17 months.]

I found posted on the web⁸ the following which purports to be a transcriptions of William Dawson's and Joshua Hammond's affidavits in support of the widow's application. The notes in brackets are mine:

The statement was made by William Dawson, of Edgefield District, as follows:

George Martin was a captain of a South Carolina company of volunteer militia, in the regiment of Col. Le Roy Hammond [LeRoy Hammond]. He first knew him in the service in the spring of 1778, when the company marched against a certain British post in East Florida, by the way of Savannah and Ogeecheo [Ogeechee] Rivers: they crossed the Altamahe [Altamaha River] near Fort Barrontine [Fort Barrington]⁹ marching through the wilderness, crossing Big and Little Satilla [Rivers] and St. Mary's, and soon returned home by the same route, having been absent about four months.

His next knowledge of Martin's being in the service was in 1779, at Long Camp, nearly opposite Augusta Georgia, under General Andrew Williamson. They remained here until the latter part of spring of 1779, when they marched to the low country, protecting it from the sudden invasion of the British troops, under General Provost [Augustine Prevost], who was also

Henry J. Martin. Notices: *Genealogical and Historical, of the Martin Family, of New England, Who Settled at Weymouth and Hingham in 1685, and Were Among the First Planters of Rehoboth (in 1644), and Swansea (in 1667); With Some Account of Their Descendants.* Boston: Lee and Shepard Publishers. 1880 found at the

⁸ [Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library](https://digital.cincinnati.org)

<https://digital.cincinnati.org> > api > download PDF pp 245-246 [viewed 11/9/23]

⁹ https://georgiahistory.com/ghmi_marker_updated/fort-barrington/

threatening Charleston, South Carolina. He was in the battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779. This service lasted seven months.

The next service of Captain Martin, which he witnessed, was in the spring of 1781, when a force assembled under General Pickens [Andrew Pickens], Col. Hammond, and others, before the British post at Augusta and Silver Bluffs. Capt. Martin and his company were present, and attached to the regiment of Col. Hammond. At Augusta, Col. Gurson [James Grierson] and Col. Brown [Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown] capsulated to the American troops, June 5, 1781.¹⁰ The troops marched for Ninety Six, South Carolina, to join General Greene (who had retreated from Ninety Six with the advance of Lord Rawdon), which however, took place near what is now Columbia, S.C. and in a short time after followed the battle of Eutaw Springs (Sept 8, 1781), after which the company of Capt. Martin returned home, having been absent four months. They were thereafter engaged until the close of the war (1783) in scouting expeditions against the Tories, in what is now Edgefield District. After a severe struggle he was defeated by the Tories, Under Hezekiah Williams, at King's Ford, over Stephens Creek [Steven's Creek].¹¹

A Capt. Barthy Martin [Barkley Martin] also had command in these scouting expeditions and the two companies at a time acted together. Capt. George Martin resided in this district, near Martinstown, until his death in 1820 or 1821.

Joshua Hammond states that he knew Capt. George Martin in the service with his company, in the early part of the autumn of 1775, when the militia of Ninety Six, assembled to suppress a body of Tories north of Saluda River, under Col. Fletcher, [Thomas Fletchall]. After uniting with a large force at Ninety Six and while in camp, Col. Fletcher and others rode into camp and signed an agreement of neutrality during the war; the Whig militia dispersed to their homes. In October or November 1775, Capt. Martin with his company were called out to march against the Tories who had risen beyond the Saluda River, in Lauren's River, under the command of Patrick Cunningham, and a man called Mad Wilson. On the approach of the Whigs the Tories retreated to the Indian Country, but by forced marches were overtaken at Big Cane Brake, near Reedy River, about daybreak, surrounded, surprised, and made prisoners, and the ringleaders were sent to Charleston.

George Martin married Alsey (or Elsey), before the termination of his last military service, and had children, John, Ann, married Edward Finch (and was a widow residing in Tenn. in 1852) Mathew, Elizabeth, married Mathew Mays, (and a widow in 1852.) A George A. Mays was administrator on the widow Alsey's estate., and George. John and Matthew were dead in 1852. Washington Wade, of Edgefield District, 75 years old in 1852, was a nephew of George Martin. (Widow's File No. 24,132)

[Note: None of the South Carolina Audited Accounts appear to me to match the services attributed to this veteran, so I have transcribed them separately. One or more of those claims MAY relate to this veteran.]

¹⁰ Siege of Augusta (second/Clarke) [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

¹¹ Sic, Steven's Creek, September 5, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stevens_creek.html