

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Melvin ¹ W4491 Martha Mathews Melvin f34GA
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/8/09: rev'd 4/3/17

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 7: Letter of Administration dated May 21, 1789, appointing Martha Melven [sic] the Administratrix of the estate of George Melven, esquire, deceased. Issued in Chatham County, Georgia.]

[p 4: Letter dated 14th December 1802, from M. Melvin to Genl. James Jackson,² seeking his advice and help as to how to claim land due her deceased husband as an officer of the Army in the Revolution. The letter reads as follows:

Savannah 14th December 1802

Sir

Knowing your goodness will excuse the liberty I now take in addressing you when the claim of the orphans is the object not especially one who's father bore the toils and hardships of the revolutionary War along with yourself, and indeed to your kind interference alone, at this late period, from your perfect knowledge of every circumstance which government can require, and your powerful influence therewith, can I hope to succeed, I have therefor ventured thus to intrude.

My destitute situation after the death of Mr. Melven, left me few or no friends to advise with in regard to his affairs and what steps I have taken has never as yet been productive of one farthings benefit from them—yesterday I by accident took up a newspaper and seeing something about the claims of the officers, I read it, and found that all those who has not received their proportion of lands must apply at the War Office before the first of January, accompanied with certain vouchers, both the nature & form of which I am ignorant of—Thus Sir I am placed in a

¹ BLWt175-300

² JACKSON, James, (father of Jabez Y. Jackson and grandfather of James Jackson [1819-1887]), a Representative and a Senator from Georgia; born in Moreton-Hampstead, Devonshire, England, September 21, 1757; emigrated to Georgia in 1772 and located in Savannah; served in the Revolution with the Georgia State forces; studied law and built a lucrative practice in Savannah; several times elected to the state legislature; elected governor of Georgia in 1788 but declined; planter; elected to the First Congress (March 4, 1789-March 3, 1791); contested the election of Anthony Wayne in the Second Congress and the seat was declared vacant by the House of Representatives March 21, 1792; elected to the United States Senate and served from March 4, 1793, until his resignation in 1795; again a member of the State legislature; Governor of Georgia 1798-1801; was again elected as a Democratic Republican to the United States Senate and served from March 4, 1801, until his death in Washington, D.C., March 19, 1806; interment in the Congressional Cemetery. *Bibliography American National Biography; Dictionary of American Biography; Lamplugh, George R. "Oh The Colossus! The Colossus!: James Jackson and the Jeffersonian Republican Party in Georgia, 1796-1806." Journal of the Early Republic 9 (Fall 1989): 315-34; Foster, William. James Jackson: Duelist and Militant Statesman. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1960. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=J000017> viewed 6/8/09.*

situation, whereby my child must inevitably loose the only reversion of his father, but from your benevolent interception with the government in his behalf.

[a page or more of this letter appears to be missing from this file]

his father's claims never having been as yet received.

I am Sir with much respect & Esteem

S/ M. Melven



[p 21: Letter addressed to Hon. Henry Dearborn, Esqr. Sec. of War from Genl. and Senator James Jackson.

Washington, 31st Dec. 1802

Sir,

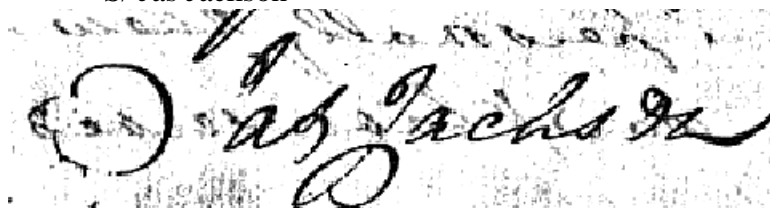
The enclosed letter from a Widow in Savannah -- your advertisement as to claim for Military lands & the few hours remaining of the year, was [?] plead [?] as apology for my troubling you at this moment. She has, as is natural for persons in her station, thought my influence of more consequence by far than it ever was, or ought to be, but for her sake, I wish I had it -- it appears she is at a loss how to proceed, & has sent on no document.

George Melvin, the husband of Mrs. Martha Melvin, was a Captain in the 4th Georgia Continental Regiment, commanded by Colonel John White -- as such personally knew him, during the Revolutionary war, & have served with him -- his widow is in a reduced State, getting old, & has a Daughter nearly in a marriageable state, to whom the right of bounty due Captain Melvin, for I am almost persuaded he never parted with it, would be highly serviceable, as well as to the aged mother.

Her letter has not been in my hands half an hour, or I should have sent it to the War Office, instead of your dwelling. I plead, that the claim may be registered, & leave the widow of an old soldier, as well as her daughter at the mercy of a veteran, who knows what the burden of the day was, and the reward which ought to have followed it.

With sincere respect York Obedient Servant

S/ Jas Jackson



Honble Henry Dearborn

[p 9]

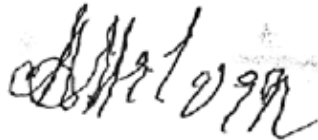
State of Georgia City of Savannah

On this 30th day of April 1838 personally appeared before me a Magistrate for the City & State above written Mrs. Martha Matthews Melvin a resident of the City of Savannah aged 74 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 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Captain George Melvin who was a Captain in the 4th Regiment of Continental troops raised by the State of Georgia in the War of the Revolution. That Captain

Melvin she has every right to believe entered the Army at an early period of the war and served to its close. She was married to Captain George Melvin in the City of Charleston in the fall of the year 1779. The precise period she is unable to state, but she well recollects that she was married at the same time that Captain Thomas Gadsden was married and by the Reverend Mr. Mereau, her maiden name was Martha Mathews Loyd. She remained with her husband in Charleston during the Siege he being on duty and when the place was surrendered her husband was made a prisoner of war [Charleston South Carolina fell with the British on May 12, 1780], and sent with others in a vessel to Philadelphia where she was allowed to accompany him. He was finally exchanged and returned to Savannah where he continued to serve to the close of the war. That her husband Captain George Melvin died about the year 1787. She is unable to state the precise period having lost all her papers in the fire which took place here many years since -- and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

S/ M. Melven



[p 13]

State of Georgia City of Savannah:

The affidavit of Sheftall Sheftall³ Esquire a Pensioner of the United States and a citizen of Savannah taken to prove the Revolutionary services of Captain George Melvin of the Georgia Line -- and to identify Mrs. Martha M. Melvin as his widow. This affiant being first duly sworn according to law testifies and says that he first knew Captain George Melvin in the latter end of 1777 or the early part of 1778 -- he then came to Savannah with the 4th Regiment of Georgia Continental troops under the command of Colonel John White. Captain Melvin was in the expedition sent from this place to Florida and this affiant did not see him again until the beginning of the month of April 1781. This affiant was at that time sent on board of the *Caroline* Sloop as Flag master and carried to Charleston clothes, flour and money to the American Troops at that place prisoners of war -- on the return of the flag with the sloop to Philadelphia among the persons who took passage for Philadelphia was Captain Melvin with his wife whom this affiant understood he married at Charleston and that her maiden name was Martha M. Lloyd. After parting with Captain Melvin and his wife at Philadelphia this affiant did not see him again until the month of December 1782 when Captain Melvin returned to Savannah with his wife and continued to reside in this City until his death which took place a few years after the close of the War. On the return of Captain Melvin in 1782 to this place he was still in service.

This affiant has known Mrs. Martha Melvin ever since he first saw her at Charleston when she came on board the sloop with her husband. From the death of Captain Melvin to the present time Mrs. Melvin has resided in the City of Savannah -- and this affiant cannot therefore speak positively that the lady now about to apply for a pension is the identical person known to this affiant at Charleston in 1781 as the wife of Captain Melvin and that she has never married since the death of Captain Melvin.

S/ Sheftall Sheftall

³ [Sheftall Sheftall S31959](#)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Hagner", with the year "1838" written below it. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Treasury Department 3rd Auditor's Office
21st May 1838

Sir,

The letter of Mr. R. H. Mosley, and the Power of Attorney, to him from the Widow of Captain George Melvin of the Georgia line, which you left with me, this morning, are herewith returned – and in respect to the inquiries made by Mr. Mosley in regard to the Revolutionary services of Captain Melvin, I have to state, that it appears from the records of this Office, that Captain George Melvin was Paymaster to the 4th Georgia Regiment; or Battalion (and which appears to have been commanded by Colonel John White) – and that in the settlement of the accounts of the Georgia line he had final settlement certificates issued to him for his pay to the 15th of November 1783 (end of the War) and also for his commutation, as Captain, except the sum of \$2000, which appears to have been “retained from him until he settles his accounts.” It appears that Captain Melvin, in his capacity of Paymaster, stands charged with a balance of \$11,363.37 – and as far as the records in this Office furnish information, Captain Melvin has had no settlement of his accounts, as Paymaster since the \$2000 above-mentioned was retained. The records enable me to state that Captain Melvin was in the service from the first of June 1779, and I should infer from the entries, on the books, that he was in service previous to that time.

With great Respect
S/ Robert Hagner, Aud.

[p 32: Supporting affidavit given by Mrs. Susannah Hall of Charleston, SC and widow of David Hall, in which Mrs. Hall states that she knew Martha Matthews Loyd prior to her marriage to Captain George Melvin; that Martha was 'born and raised in the City of Charleston and was nearly related to the family of Genl. Moultrie'.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband service as a Captain in the service of Georgia.]