

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Martin W4722

Nancy Martin

f74NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/11/09: rev'd 6/13/16

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

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State of North Carolina County of Stokes:

On the 24th day of November 1840 personally appeared before me Charles Banner on a Justice of the peace of the County Court of Stokes aforesaid Nancy Martin a resident of said County aged Seventy Seven years at her own place of residence sixteen miles from the Court house of said County she being very unable to travel to Court from bodily infirmities, 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 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows," that she is the widow of John Martin deceased that her husband in his lifetime often related to her the many services that he performed as a Militia Soldier and officer in War of the Revolution in the Service of the United States the whole statements of which he made, she from old age and loss of memory she is unable to repeat; But recollects that he said he served the most part of whole War that he was in several skirmishes or Battles one was the Chestnut Ridges in Surry County North Carolina, another at a place called Coleson's fields or Mills [sic, Colson's Mill, July 21, 1780]¹ on Rocky River, she cannot tell the County, and one on the Alamance River and one towards Kings Mountain when he said he got wounded by the Tories. The dates of all these Expeditions she cannot tell nor what officers he was commanded by only Major Winston [Joseph Winston] of then Surry County & Col. Jo. Williams [Joseph Williams], a Capt. Jo. Cloud [Joseph Cloud] & Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], & Shepherd & Col. Miner Smith all these of Surry County she knew & heard him speak of being under them that he served most of the time as a Lieut. as proof of his services & length of service, she begs leave to refer the pension officers to the Depositions which will accompany this paper, She states that she has delayed making application prior to this, hoping to get able to attend the Court of said County for that purpose, but finding it out of her power without very much danger of impairing her health have sent for the Subscribing Magistrate to draw this my declaration at my place of Residence. She further States and declares that she was married to the said John Martin in the month of June 1784 in Surry County North Carolina by a certain Micajah Clarke who was a Magistrate of said County after they having been first published by a minister John W. Stephens of the Baptist church according to the custom & laws in those days, that her husband the aforesaid John Martin died on the 5th day of April 1823, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_colsons_mill.html

place previous to the first day of January 1794 (viz.) at the time above stated, She further declares that the annexed leaf cut out of the family Bible contains the names and ages of all the children Born of her body whilst she and her husband the aforesaid John Martin lived in Union together as man & wife which was written by his own hand, and that she has remained unmarried and his widow ever since the date of his death above stated. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written.

Before me

S/ Nancy Martin, X her mark

S/ C. Banner, JP

Mary coalmon Martin daughter of John & Nancey wife born April the 23 day at 12 o'clock & in the year 1785

Elizabeth Martin daughter of John & Nancey his wife was Born February 5th day at 12 o'clock at night & year 1787

James Martin Son of John & Nancey his wife was Born Marched to the 20th day at 2 o'clock in the morning 1789

Joseph Martin son of John & Nancey his wife was Born February the 4th day at 5 o'clock in the morning & year [illegible]

Ginney Martin daughter of John & Nancey his wife was Born August the 10th day at 6 o'clock in the afternoon in the year 1794 Decrast [deceased] June 26 day 1797

John Martin Son of John & Nancey his wife was born Made the 5th & in the year 1797 at 8 o'clock in the afternoon

Samuell Martin Son of John & Nancey his wife was Born 29 of Jany [?] [illegible] 4 o'clock in the afternoon & year 1800

George Martin Son of John & Nancey his wife was born October 30, 1802 & at 11 o'clock at night

Thomas Martin Son of John & Nancey his wife was Born the 18th [?] of January 1805 at 7 o'clock in the afternoon

William Gilliamson Martin son of John & Nancey his wife was born August 26 about 8 o'clock at night 1809

John Martin died the 5th Apl. 1823

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State of North Carolina County of Stokes: Thomas Shipp's Deposition in favor of Nancy Martin widow of John Martin deceased

Be it known that on this 28th day of August 1840 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for County personally appeared Capt. Thomas Shipp² a resident of the County aforesaid & pensioner of the United States who is a person of veracity for probity & truth in the County aforesaid where his character is well-known, who being duly sworn according to law declares on his oath, that he served in the Militia of the United States with the above named John Martin in time of the Revolutionary war in a Company commanded by Capt. Joseph Cloud & Major Jo. Winston marched from old Richmond ranging after Tories where ever we could hear of them in certain settlements embodying together in the Tory settlements on the waters of New River, Yadkin & Dan Rivers in one route we tracted [sic] a parcel of Tories took them on surprise at their camp on the Chestnut ridges in Surry County North Carolina where we had a skirmish. We killed 3 or 4 of them the remainder fled to the mountains, said Martin wounded one Horten

² [Thomas Shipp S7487](#)

[sic, Horton?] & took him prisoner who died shortly afterwards & then we marched to Col. Martin Armstrong's in Surry old Court house (called Richmond) and from thence marched to New River and to the lead mines & brought lead on pack horses for the use of the Army & deposited it at Richmond aforesaid, next he marched under Capt. Philips back to New River to a Capt. Nolls then to Reddy River in pursuit of a band of Tories in Wilkes County & to the Mulberry fields on the Yadkin Col. William Sheperd then commanded, then to the Brushy mountains & back to old Richmond, Stationed there a short time then marched to Salisbury in Rowan County, and rendezvoused there some time then marched various routes to Rocky River in Anson County North Carolina and at a place called Colson's old fields we had a skirmish with (this was in July) the Tories where we killed a part, & took the balance prisoners, & returned to Salisbury & lodged them in Joal [sic, Goal or Jail], (I believe all of these was in the spring & summer of 1779 or 1780 I cannot recollect which), then we marched to Salem & then to Richmond in Surry County, the said John Martin & myself were Volunteer minute men in all the foregoing Services he acted as Ensign or Lieut. I don't recollect which, but in all we served 6 months and was discharged for that length of service at Richmond and the next was a call for Soldiers in August before the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] when said John Martin & this deponent both turned out as Volunteers under Capt. Cloud and joined the Army under the Command of Col. Cleveland and Major Jo Winston and marched from old Richmond in September 1780 across the Yadkin into the forks of the River then southwardly crossing the Catawba River to Broad River near which the said John Martin & Thomas Lankford being out from head quarters ranging for to make discovery of Tories, said Martin was wounded in the head by Tories who lay in ambush. Lankford made his escape & left Martin the Tories took their horses & Martin's gun & left him lying for dead but he came to himself & returned to camp where John Deatherage [sic] picked the shot out of his head where they had penetrated through his hat & skin in his temples from thence he was carried with attendance as a guard the said Martin was on this Service 9 weeks when he returned home I have just reason to believe; But our Army proceeded on pursuit of an Army of British & Tories and in a few days after we overhauled them killed & took them all at Kings Mountain & then marched the prisoners to old Moravian Town then in Surry County North Carolina -- all our troops was on horseback. The next Service the said John Martin & myself turned out as Volunteers he served as Lieut. under Capt. Robert Hill in the light horse company commanded by Col. James Martin and joined head quarters at Guilford Court house North Carolina in September 1781 and marched from thence to Wilmington North Carolina where we got official good news that Lord Cornwallis had surrendered to General Washington, our Army then returned home and we were discharged for a three months Tour, I was informed that the first of said John Martin's Service was a Tour of 3 months against the Scotch Tories though this Deponent did not serve with him -- further this Deponent declares that the aforesaid John Martin intermarried to his, this deponent's own sister Nancy, sometime in the month of June 1784, and that they were legally published by a Mr. Stephens Minister of the Baptist Church before they were married & were married at this Deponent's mansion house, by a Justice of the peace named Micajah Clark in Surry County North Carolina, and that his said Sister Nancy had 7 sons & 3 daughters born of her body whilst she and her husband John Martin aforesaid lived in union together as man and wife, the record of these Births appears in the said John Martin's own handwriting in their Bible at the end of the Apocrypha, the said John Martin died in Stokes County on the 5th day of April 1823, that Nancy Martin the identical person above mentioned has remained a widow ever since his death.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Thos. Shipp



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On this 29th day of August 1840 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in & for the County of Stokes State of North Carolina, personally appeared George Kreger³ a pensioner of the United States a resident of said County of Stokes, and a good character for probity & truth in the neighborhood & County, and he being duly sworn according to law declares on his oath that the foregoing Statement made by Capt. Thomas Shipp so far as relates to the services of the aforesaid John Martin as a soldier & Ensign or Lieut. in the Army of the Revolution marching from old Richmond Surry Courthouse to the lead mines and back to Richmond, then over to Capt. Nalls on New River & to Reddy's River the Mulberry Fields to the Brushy Mountains & to said old Richmond, & from thence to Salisbury & the Battle at Colson's old fields & home to Richmond and afterwards the route towards the Battle at Kings Mountain to the place where said John Martin received the wound is all correct & true to the best of his recollection as he this deponent marched in the same Regiment the same route with said Martin with whom he was well acquainted and that he was a brave useful officer, Sworn to and subscribed before me, the date above written.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ George Kregar, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Stokes:

On the 8 day of September 1840 before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County personally appeared William Merritt⁴ a person of probity & truth & pensioner of the United States being duly sworn declares on his oath, that he was well acquainted with Col. John Martin named in the foregoing Depositions that he saw said Martin under the command of Major Jo Winston in a light horse Cavalry Company with John Winston in Anson County North Carolina on Rocky River & thinks it was in July 1780, which light horse Company had a Skirmish or battle with a parcel of Tories & British at a place called Colson's old fields the Deponent was in the foot company in General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Brigade within 3 miles of the Battle & heard the firing & said Martin with the light horse Company returned to our Army with prisoners they had taken. General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was wounded, and he further declares that said Martin was a neighbor of his & served as a Volunteer 2 tours in succession before and after that time in the light horse as he has just reason to believe and was shot in the head in a subsequent Tour, and before was in a Battle or skirmish on the Alamance in Guilford or Orange [Counties] as he understood under Maj. Winston. Sworn to and subscribed the date above written.

Before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ William Meritt

³ [George Kreger \(Kregor, Krieger\) W3696](#)

⁴ [William Merritt S2821](#)

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State of North Carolina County of Stokes: Deposition in behalf of Nancy Martin

Be it known that on this 29th day of August 1840 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Lewis Wolff⁵ a pensioner of the United States and a respectable Citizen of said County for veracity & truth, and being duly sworn according to law, declares on his oath that he served a Tour of duty as a musician fifer in the same company of Militia of the United States under Capt. Henry Smith with John Martin (who married Nancy Shipp) in Tour of three months. Joseph Williams was Col. Commandant & Joseph Winston Major, from Surry County North Carolina met at Dobson's Cross roads in said County (now in Stokes County) and there rendezvoused and recruited some time, made necessary preparations and in February or March 1776, took up the line of march and went to Fayetteville North Carolina against the Scotch Rebels or Tories (as they were termed) But when we landed there we got information & glad we were, that the Rebels had just been defeated on the Little River by another Whig Army, I disremember the Commander of said Army But our troops after a few weeks spent in plundering the Tories dens or shops, returned home & said John Martin with his other fellow soldiers received discharges for a 3 months trip; and in the summer of the same year 1776 a call was made for an Army to go against the Indians when said John Martin volunteered himself in the aforesaid Smith's Company & marched to Wilkes County & then was ordered back to Surry, We were gone 2 weeks & then rendezvoused near Richmond some weeks then took up the line of march towards the Cherokee Nation. That said John Martin & myself got substitutes and did not go.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above mentioned before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Lewis Wolff, W his mark

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North Carolina Stokes County:

On this 29th day of August 1840 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace for said County at Lewis Wolff's residence in said County, Abraham Stow [sic, Stowe?]⁶ of Surry County North Carolina a respectable wealthy citizen & a person of high standing for probity & truth, who declares on his oath that he was well acquainted with the late Col. John Martin deceased and served a three months Tour with him as a Dragoon light horse men under Capt. Robert Hill and marched from Surry County North Carolina to Guilford Court house North Carolina there joined headquarters under the command of Col. James Martin and from thence took up the line of march & went to Wilmington North Carolina where we received news of the Surrender of Cornwallis, then we returned & marched home to Surry County & was discharged by our officers for a 3 months Tour, that he was at the wedding [spelled 'widing'] when said John Martin married Nancy Shipp who was the sister of Capt. Thomas Shipp that said John Martin died some upwards 16 years past and Nancy Martin his widow has remained unmarried ever since his death and is not well able from pains & weakness to travel but little of

⁵ [Lewis Wolf \(Wolff\)\[a/k/a Johann Ludwig Wolff\] W4403](#)

⁶ There is no application for a federal pension filed by anyone of this or any similar name. This may be the only record of this man's service in the Revolution. Since the justice of the peace who took his deposition goes out of his way to describe the affiant as 'wealthy' perhaps this veteran did not need the pension or felt he should not burden his government by asking for one. Also, it is possible that if this 3 month tour was his sole service in the Revolution, he would not have qualified for a pension under the 1832 Act.

late days as she stated to me a few weeks ago.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above mentioned before me.

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Abm Stow, A his mark

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband service as a Lieutenant for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]