

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Matthews (Matthis) ¹ W4725 Mary Matthews f56NC+ 22NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 4/18/09: rev'd 7/16/16

[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.]

[p 12 second file]

State of North Carolina Cumberland County:

On this 31st day of October 1845 personally appeared before me John Welborn one of the acting Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for said County & State aforesaid Mrs. Mary Mathews a Resident of the said County & State above named aged 75 years born October 27, 1770 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 7th day of July 1838 entitled an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows that she is the widow of John Mathews Deceased who was a revolutionary Soldier in the Continental Service of the United States as she has often heard him say & he served 3 years in Capt. Alderson's [Simon Alderson's] Company of the 5th Regiment and about 2 years of that time she believes he was a Corporal to the best of her knowledge and information -- from her said husband John Mathews.

She further Declares that she was married to the said John Mathews on the 24th day of December 1787 in Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] by one John McCullers in said State and her maiden name was Mary Williams and their first child Daniel Mathews was born on the 12 day of October 1788 that her said husband died the 15 day of October 1833 that she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the 1 day of January 1794 at the time above stated and that she has remained a widow from the date of the death of her said husband up to the present time she further states the reason she has never made application for a pension before the present she never knew until very lately that she was entitled and had but very little or no chance of finding out or to learn then being in a very retired part of said County and alone and very seldom from home being old and very infirm in body for many years she further states her husband was in his 29th year of his age when she married him as he informed her. She further states her husband John Mathews was the only person of that name she knew or knew of except her son John born 1800 & had ten children. Sworn and subscribed to before me the day and date first above written.

S/ Jno. Welborn, JP

S/ Mary Mathews, X her mark

[p 14 second file: James Williams, 68, brother of Mary Williams Mathews testifies to the marriage of his sister to John Mathews.]

¹ BLWt17885-160-55

[p 18 second file]

State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that John Matthews a private Soldier in Capt. Alderson's company of the 5th Regiment, entered the service on the 25th day of December 1776 for the term of 3 years, that he was a Corporal in March, a private in June again a Corporal 28th of August 1778, and discharged first January 1780.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of April 1846.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary

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State of North Carolina Wake County: This day personally came before me, the undersigned an acting justice of the peace of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County Parker Rand also an acting Justice of the peace for said County of Wake, at this time, and has been for many years past, and being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposed & saith that he was well acquainted with John Matthis [sic] deceased and his wife who was a miss Mary Williams who is now making Application for a pension for her said husband's services in the Revolutionary war and that she the said Mary Matthis is the identical widow of the said John Matthis deceased, and that he the said John Matthis died the year 1833. That he the said witness further states that he has been acquainted with them for more than 40 years up to the death of said John Matthis, that they lived together as man and wife all the time that he knew them and that he never heard their marriage doubted, and had several children, he bore the character of an honest and upright man up to his death. This witness further states he -- witness is now in his 53rd year and was born in the year 1793, and that 3 children of the aforesaid John Matthis deceased viz., Daniel, Aley and Nancy Matthis were playmates when small of his and were all of them older and larger than himself and must have been born previous to the date of 1794.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 19th day of May 1846.

S/ Parker Rand

S/ J. G. Jeffreys, JP

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State of North Carolina Cumberland County

Be it known that on this 28th day of September 1848 before me Daniel Cutts JP the Undersigned Subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Mrs. Mary Mathews aged 77 who having been duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, to February 1848. That she is the Identical Widow of John Mathews deceased who died the 15 day of October 1833 who was a Continental Soldier 3 years, 2 years of which time was a Cpl. the declarant further states that she is the identical widow who drew her pension up to the 4th of March 1848 under the act of Congress 17 June 1844 and that she drew \$88 per annum and that she has remained a widow up to the present date 28 September 1848.

Subscribed & sworn to before me

S/ Danl Cutts, JP

S/ Mary Matthews, X her mark

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State of North Carolina Wake County

This day July 1st 1846 -- Personally appeared before the Undersigned to acting Justice[s] of the Court of Pleas and quarter Session for said County to wit, Shedrick Harris who being first duly sworn according to law deposes as follows that he is 90 years old that he was born in Halifax County North Carolina and lived there some time after the war of the Revolution then moved to the County of Wake in said State where he has lived up to the present time that during the old Revolutionary war this witness says he was drafted twice and was drawn clear each time and that he became very intimately acquainted with John Mathews who was in the Continental Service in said war and saw him in 1777 or 1778 at quankey Bridge [Quankey Bridge] near the town of Halifax in said State and County under Capt. Alderson of the 5 Regiment and saw him no more after he marched South until witness came to Wake County which is the Joining County to Cumberland NC the latter County was where he lived and died, near said Wake line, and that Mrs. Mary Mathews who now claims a pension for her deceased husband's services as above is the identical widow of John Mathews and they lived together as man and wife up to his death and had several children further this witness saith not. Subscribed and sworn to before Drewry King, JP

S/ A. G. Drake, JP

S/ Shoderick Harris, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Wake County

Be it known that on this the 5th day of 1846 before the undersigned subscriber an acting justice of the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for said County personally appeared Mr. James Gilbert a credible witness who having been first duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God according to law, depose as follows that he is 86 years old and was born the year 1760 as he was informed by his father and mother and was so wrote by his said father in his Bible and that Wake County has been his residence all his life and that when about the age of 16 or 17 he states that he had a great desire to be a soldier with his father in the revolutionary war, but owing to his being an uncommon small boy the court martial would not receive him as unable to bear arms but of sufficient age the witness states that he stayed with his mother at the absence of his father and that himself and mother were very often called on by the captains and soldiers for something to eat which would be provided for them by his said mother and himself and by which means this witness states he got acquainted with a great many officers and privates in the revolutionary war and that he is now requested to give what information he has relative to the services in said war of John Mathews deceased and his Capt. -- this witness states that the said John Mathews, he knew well before the war and also his present widow who has lately made application for a pension whose maiden name was Mary Williams and by her the said deceased husband John Mathews had 8 children and he further states that there was no man in the war of that day that he knew you better than he did the said John Mathews and his Capt. whose name was Alderson and that this witness is informed that the pension department in Washington City is not satisfied that the said widow's husband was in the 5th Regiment, and under said officer. This may certify that the said witness James Gilbert does state on his said oath that he knew well the said John Mathews was an officer himself under the said Capt. Alderson of the 5th Regiment in the Continental service in the revolutionary war and that he saw him a great many times in their passing and read passing his mother's. For 2 or 3 years in the early part of the war and that the

said Mathews was a Cpl. the greater part of the time he further states since the war he has often convened with him the said Mathews and he would speak of his hardships in said war and also of his serving 3 years (and that he died in the year 1833) Subscribed and sworn to before me.

S/A. G. Drake, JP

S/ James Gilbert

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State of North Carolina Cumberland County

On this 17 day of October 1846, before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, personally appeared Mary Matthews, a resident of said County, aged 75 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 June 7th, 1832. That she is the widow of John Matthews, who served about 3 years as a soldier of the Revolution, in the Company of Capt. Alderson of the 5th Regiment of Infantry, about 2 years of which she believes he served as a Cpl., that her said husband died on the 15th day of October 1833; that for the services of her said Husband she, this Declarant was admitted to the pension Roll on the 8th day of October 1846, at the rate of \$8 per annum under the I ask of 1838, 1843, and 1844; and that she now prays that her late husband the aforesaid John Matthews may be admitted to the pension Roll under said Act of June 7th 1832, she having filed in the Pension Office the proof of her said husbands Service and of her marriage to him before the first of January 1794.

In presence of

S/ A. McLeod, JP

S/ Mary Matthews, X her mark

[Facts in file: Alsey Mathews, born June 12, 1790, testified [p 45 et seq.] that the family register of the birth of himself and his siblings was recorded in the Bible by their father in his handwriting except for the last one, Becky Mathews, which he, Alsey wrote; that said Bible was destroyed in a fire; that he has since kept the records of the family; that Reace Morgan was his brother in law; the following appears to be the names of children of John and Mary Matthews: Daniel, Alsey, Nancy, Betsey, Sally, John, William, Lyddy and Beckey Matthews.]

[p 6 of the first file: family record:

Daniel Mathews was born

October 12th 1788

Alsay Mathews was born

June 12th 1790

Nancy Mathews was born

July 27th 1792

Betsy Mathews was

born November 10th 1794

Sally Mathews was born

October 28th [? very faint] 1797

John Mathews was born

[too faint to discern] 7th 1800

William Mathews was

born June 30th 1802

[too faint to discern] Mathews was
born April 2, 1805

[too faint to discern] Mathews was
born November 10th 1807

Beacky Matthews was
Born September 4, 1810

[p 8 of the first file: On May 14, 1855 in Cumberland County North Carolina, Mary Mathews, about 86 years old and the widow of John Mathews filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was posthumously pensioned at the rate of \$88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending October 15, 1833 when he died. The amount of his pension was based upon his service as a corporal for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]