

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Martin <sup>1</sup> W4728

Martha Martin

HQ19 & f86NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/17/06 rev'd 8/8/14

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

[p 5]

Stokes County North Carolina October 1832

The Declaration of James Martin Sr. to Substantiate his Claim on the Pension List

In May 1774 I moved from the State of New Jersey to Guilford County on Dan River and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of April 1776 I was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Guilford Regiment of Militia by Samuel Johnson President in Congress then setting & afterwards made Governor of this State & soon after there was an insurrection of the Scotch Tories in the year 1775 in and about Fayetteville I was ordered by my Brother Alexander Martin who was appointed Colonel of Second Regular Regiment to raise the Guilford Militia and march them to Fayette[Fayetteville][then called Cross Creek] as ordered by Congress then Sitting in order to suppress them where I accordingly went and marched to Fayette[ville] there said Colonel A. Martin was placed having been made Colonel of the Second Regiment in the Regular Service of the United States but previous to my having marched there the Scotch Tories had embodied & had started to march to Wilmington but were met by an armed Force of Militia Commanded by Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell] and a Battle ensued at a place called Moore's Bridge [February 27, 1776] & he killed their Commander as he attempted to cross said Bridge & the rest took to flight & said Colonel Martin & myself took most of their Head Men and imprisoned them and then was ordered Home with my Regiment the Time that I spent in raising the Men until I returned Home was about two months as near as I can recollect for I kept no written Journal.

About the middle of June 1776 Soon after the above Campaign I was called upon and Commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] of Rowan to raise as many of the Guilford Militia as I could muster & to march them to join him at Catawba River & to march thence to the Cherokee Towns of the Indians in order to destroy them. Accordingly I marched with about 400 Militia Men and Joined the General as he ordered Lieutenant Colonel John Paisley assisted me to raise the Man and marched with Us and thence we marched to the Turkey Cove at the foot of the blue ridge and thence crossed over it to Swannanoa [River] thence to Pidgeon River [Pigeon River] thence to French Broad River & thence to Tennessee River where we came to Some of their Towns which we burnt and cut down their Corn moving from one Town as we destroyed it and marched to another our Commissary had about 3000 Beeves and about as many Pack Horses loaded with sacks of Flour and where we encamped one night the Beeves and Pack Horses destroyed the whole it to the very stumps and destroyed the grass to the bare ground.

General Rutherford took the pick of the better half of the Army and went to the over hills towns as they were called and left me with the Remainder of the Troops to guard the Provisions until he came back he was gone about two or three weeks before he returned but had no skirmishes with the Indians & I believe saw none and destroyed some of their towns as he reported & while he was gone the

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt13425-160-55

Southern Army of Militia marched through our Camp on the same intention we had and fell into an Ambuscade the Indians had made about a mile and a half from our Camp & had a Smart Get Scrimmage with them I heard their Guns firing very plain & their Commander sent to me for Assistance & in the meantime I sent a Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] with about 150 Man for his assistance but before Cleveland got to them they had routed the Indians and killed about 10 or 12 of them and they lost about as many of their Militia Man. I had sent out Scouts every Day to reconnoiter the Country but they never happened to fall in their Ambuscade & after destroying all their Towns & Corn we took our march for Home by orders from our General & a few of the Indians had [word obliterated by ink blot] about our Camp and a few of our Men when they caught them out single they killed but had no battle with them

And from the time I received the orders to raise the Militia until we returned Home the Orders to raise the Militia came to me about the middle of June 1776 and we did not return until about the last of October or first of November 1776 being about 4 months in Service in all.

After our Return we had some little Relaxation until an express was sent to me from our Court House that Tories in the South End of the County now called Randolph County were in state of insurrection with one William Fields as their Head Colonel and wished to go the British at Wilmington I repaired to the Court House directly & ordered out Daniel Gilaspie [Daniel Gillespie] our Captain of light Horse Company & took Fields their Leader and Brother & three or four more of their Leaders & brought them prisoners to the Court House & our Goal [jail] not being sufficient I sent them in wagons to Hillsborough Goal & previously I had ordered all their Guns to be taken from them and all they could find and the disaffected & bring them to the Court House & I gave them to the honest Whig Party that had none and the Time I spent at the Court House to order the suppression of the Tories in this County could not be less than six weeks off and on and returned Home to Dan River where I then lived this is from recollection as I said before for I kept no written Journal.

In 1781 about the first of January or the last of December 1780 I was ordered and Commanded by General Green [Nathanael Greene] to raise & call upon the Guilford Militia en masse and to equip themselves as the military Laws direct & for me to come & join in his Camp under the regular Service & not depart without Leave but Guns were wanting by a number of the men & had to have recourse had impress & borrow as many as I could get & I could only raise about 200 to go with me to Camp and they hearing that the British were marching towards us in Guilford it struck such a Terror on them & that some of that Number deserted before the Battle at old Martinsville however I marched and Joined General Greene with whom I had and we retreated before the British until we came to Roanoke and Crossed the River at Boyd's ferry and came to Halifax Court in Virginia and encamped two or three weeks the British had followed us in sight of the River and sometimes their Front of our Rears but no Skirmishes took place at that time and they returned again to Guilford County where they harassed and plundered the inhabitants as they pleased & General Greene in Halifax Virginia had encamped perhaps more than three weeks recrossed the Roanoke River and marched back in Caswell County and thence to part of Guilford just maneuvering about until he could collect all the Militia of the different Counties of the State & also from Virginia to meet the Enemy for Battle and I came & marched with General Greene to the high Rock Ford on Haw River and encamped there on the East side of it & the British were maneuvering on the West side of the County & General Greene after halting there about three weeks thought he had collected all the Force from Virginia and lower Counties of the State he resolved to move towards the British to give them Battle as he did He came to Guilford old Court House where he made a halt and hearing that the British was moving towards him he drew up his Men in three Lines about 100 yards behind each other & waited the advance of the British I was posted in the front Line with scarce a complete Captain's Company commanded by Captain Forbes a brave and undaunted Fellow we were posted behind a Fence & I told the Men to sit down until the British who were advancing came near enough to shoot when they came in about 100 yards I saw [a] British officer with a drawn sword driving up his mans [men] I asked Captain Forbes if he could take him down he said

[he] could for [he] had a good Rifle and asked me if he should shoot then I told him let him [come to with]in 50 yards and then take him down which he did it was a Captain of the British Army & at that instant General Greene sent his aid Camp [sic, aide-de-camp] for me to go him & [I] went and asked him his Commands he told me as the Battle begun as I had not a Complete Regiment he wished me to go with Major Hunter to the Court House in case of a Defeat to rally the Men which we did and collected about 500 & was marching them to the Battle Ground when I met General Stephens of Virginia Corps retreating I asked if the Retreat was by General Greene's Orders he told me it was I then retreated with him and ordered the men to repair to troublesome iron works to refit as G. Greene had ordered me which we obeyed the British then took possession at the Court House & after a few Days they moved off towards Wilmington General Greene hearing of their movements started after them but our militia of the County being so disheartened I could not bring any to join him again this was in 1781 the Time I spent then from the Time I received Orders was about two months.

In 1778 or 1779 I forgot which a Party of Tories commanded by one Bryan their Leader on the Yadkin River rose in a body in Surry County and started to join the British at Wilmington & being informed of it by Express I ordered out Captain Gillespie with his light Horse Company and I went with them got on their Track pursued as far as you warry [Uwharrie] Creek and found they had got out of our Reach returned back again the time we spent then until we returned Home was about six weeks that is one month & 15 Days.

We had then some relaxation, till the year 1781 of better than two months when about the first of July I was ordered by General Rutherford of Rowan to raise part of my Regiment and to join him on his way to Wilmington to try to dislodge a British Major Craig stationed there I raised about 200 Militia Men and marched & joined him at Raft Swamp and hearing a number of Tories had taken refuge in it General Rutherford took about one half of Army & myself the other & entered the North End of it and I the South End we made our way with much Difficulty through Bogs & Morasses & some of the Men & Horsemen got my [men?] out got out again but found no Tories or any Body else but saw several Camps which we supposed to have been made by them thence we proceeded towards Wilmington but halted at a small Stockade Fort posted about 20 Miles from Wilmington on the South East Branch of Cape Fear River near Frederick Jones' on the South Side of the River near a Bridge over it & our Army encamped on the North Side and while we contemplated to storm the said Fort we were saved the Trouble and Danger without Fighting by their vacating it which we supposed was ordered by their Major Craig posted at Wilmington at this Time we heard of the Capture of the British General Cornwallis being taken Prisoner by General Washington at York Town [October 19, 1781] near the Mouth of the James River we marched then to the Town Wilmington which we found was vacated by the British Major Craig & supposed it was by the Orders of his British General I think his name was Clinton to leave the State & come to him and we thought it very Lucky by their vacating the Town we were released from the Danger of fighting so we were ordered Home again and the time we spent on this Campaign was from about the 1<sup>st</sup> of July until we got home again was the 2<sup>nd</sup> November same year 1781 was out 4 months.

The whole Time I was in actual Service was 16 Months & 11 Days this from my best recollection of Memory for I kept no written Journal.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the year & day aforesaid.

S/ Thos. Armstrong, Clk

S/ Ja. Martin, Sen<sup>r</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ja. Martin Senr". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the date line.

This 17<sup>th</sup> Day of October 1832

Questions propounded to Col. James Martin of Stokes County in the State of North Carolina

Question: Where and when were you born?

Answer, According to the old records in the Family Bible made by my father, Hugh Martin Esq., I was born in the Township of Lebanon the County of Hunterdon the province now of the State of New Jersey on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May A.D. 1742 old Style; and I am now in the 91<sup>st</sup> year of my age.

Question: Where did you live when called into service, where have you lived since and where do you now live?

Answer: I removed from New Jersey in the year 1774 to Dan River in what was then Guilford County, now Rockingham. I resided there when I rendered service in 1775 as mentioned in my written declaration. I resided at the same place when Commissioned as Colonel by Samuel Johnston President of Congress and continued to reside there until the year 1781 when I removed about 18 miles to Snow Creek, in what was then Surry is now Stokes County where I have resided ever since.

Question: Did you ever receive a Commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer: I received the commission which is annexed to these documents signed by Samuel Johnston, President and dated 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1776, North Carolina in Congress appointing me Colonel of the Guilford Regiment of militia in which character were rendered the various services stated in my declaration after 1776. I have no further Documentary evidence of service except that letter of Griffith Rutherford a Brigadier General of the Militia, signed by him as such and directed to me as Colonel in Camp and dated November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1781, which letter was directed to and received by me when stationed in Wilmington as set forth in my declaration.

I do not now remember, that there was any person living by whom I can prove my services, except General Abraham Phillips, whom I commissioned as a Captain in the last expedition. I have not seen him for many years, but am informed that he is still living in the County of Rockingham and is very old and infirm. I am also informed that some of the soldiers who were attached to the Cherokee expedition in their declarations have named me as Colonel in command.

Answer to the further interrogatory of the Courthouse

I refer to Thomas T. Armstrong Esq., to Absalom Bostick and I could refer to the hundreds of others, who have known me long as to their belief founded upon one Common and Uniform reputation in Stokes County and Rockingham County – as to the Services rendered – that there is no Clergyman living in my neighborhood, and it would be inconvenient to procure the certificate of one. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Thos. T. Armstrong, Clk

S/ Ja. Martin, Sen<sup>r</sup>

[Thomas T. Armstrong and Absalom Bostick gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: On March 15<sup>th</sup> 1853, in Stokes County, Martha Martin, 79, old and infirm, filed application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of James Martin, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$403 per annum; that she married him on March 12, 1800 in Stokes County; that James died on October 31, 1834 at 92 years of age; that she has no record of her marriage other than a leaf from the fact in the Bible of her husband kept by him during his lifetime in which he recorded his family record.

*Martha Martin* ]

[p 15: On April 14, 1855 in Stokes County North Carolina, Martha Martin, 81, filed for her bounty

land entitlement as the widow of James Martin; in this document she states that she married her husband in Stokes County North Carolina on March 12, 1800; that they were married by a justice of the peace named Campbell; that her name prior to her marriage was Martha Jones and that her husband died at his residence in Stokes County October 30, 1834.]

[pp 19: family record:

In the State of N Carolina	
James Martin married his Second Wife, <sup>Relict of Neell Jones</sup> Martha Jones the 12 <sup>th</sup> Day of March 1800, she was born 10 <sup>th</sup> Day June 1774 and said Martin was born 1742 in New Jersey, Hunterdon County, Lebanon Township and died 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 1834 Aged 92 years	
1	Henry Martin our first Child was born on Saturday Morning about 6 o'clock, the 20 <sup>th</sup> of February 1802
2	Edmund Loftin Martin our second Child was born on Thursday the 26 <sup>th</sup> April about 5 o'clock in the Morning 1804 Harty D. his wife born 21 <sup>st</sup> Feby A.D. 1814
3	Betsy Eldridge <sup>Martin</sup> our third Child a Daughter was born on Saturday Morning the 24 <sup>th</sup> Day of January 1807 about 2 o'clock in Morning Dead at Madison Rockingham County N.C. November 13 <sup>th</sup> 1845
4	Martha Ann Martin our 4 <sup>th</sup> Child and second Daughter was born on Friday Night the 13 <sup>th</sup> Day of December about midnight 1811
5	John Julius Martin our 5 <sup>th</sup> Child, was born 29 <sup>th</sup> Day of August 1814 on Monday Morning about 4 o'clock

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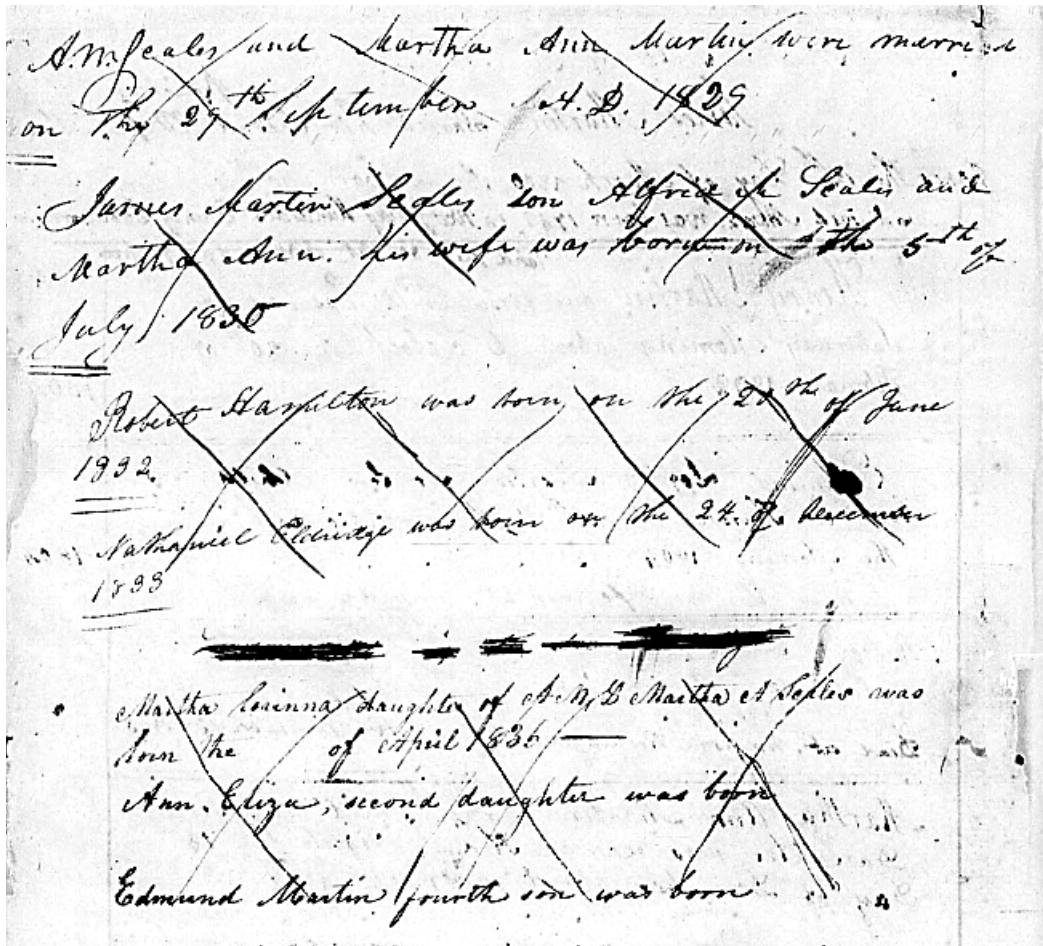
January 1807 about 2 O'Clock in Morning

Died Madison Rockingham County, NC November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1843

Martha Ann Martin our 4<sup>th</sup> Child and second Daughter was born on Friday Night the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of December about midnight 1811

John Julius Martin our 5<sup>th</sup> Child was born 29<sup>th</sup> Day of August 1814 on Monday Morning about 4 O'Clock.

[p 20: records of marriage of Martha Ann Martin to A. M. Scales and their children are included on p. 20 of the footnote.com digital image but have been lined out by someone.]



A. M. Scales and Martha Ann Martin were married on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September A.D. 1829

James Martin Scales Some of Alfred M scales and Martha Ann his wife was born the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1830

Robert Hamilton was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1832

Nathaniel Eldridge was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1833

Martha Coainna daughter of A. M. & Martha A. Scales was born the \_\_\_ of April 1836

Ann Eliza, second daughter was born

Edmund Martin, 4<sup>th</sup> son was born

[p. 31 of Fold3.com image is a letter in which the author states that the application for a pension is in the handwriting of the James Martin himself. The letter is dated Oct. 20, 1832, from A. H. Shepherd to J. L. Edwards (the commissioner of pensions)]

[p 43]

“North Carolina's

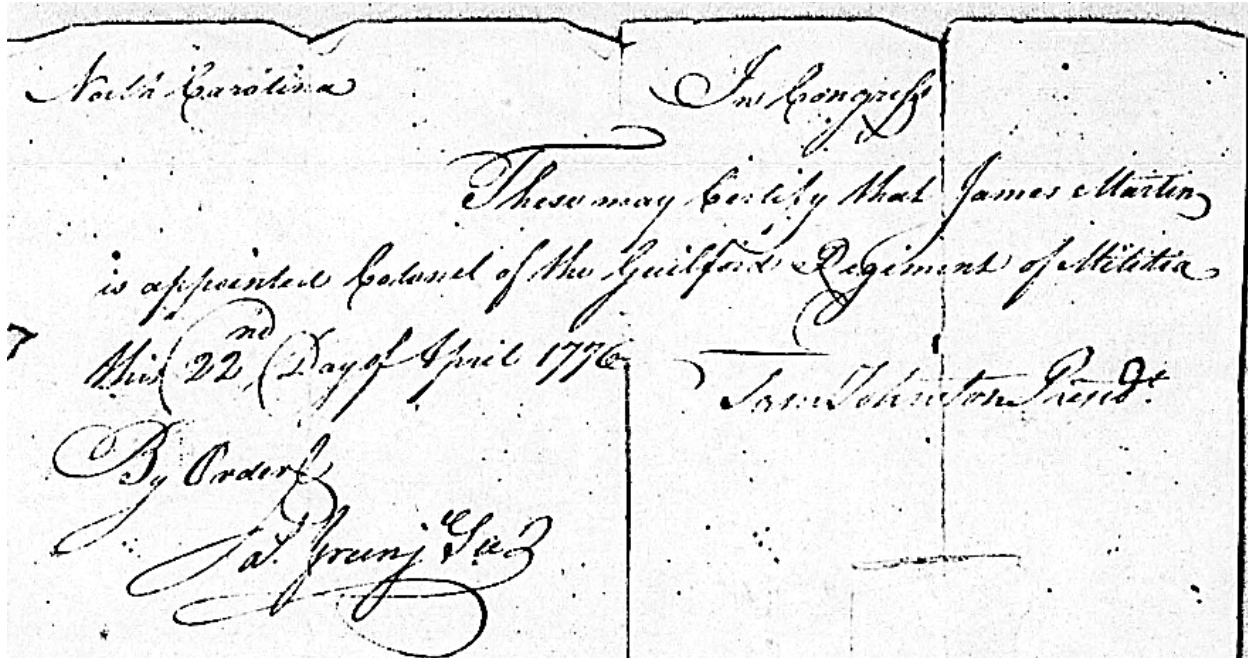
In Congress

These may Certify that James Martin is appointed Colonel of the Guilford Regiment of Militia  
this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of April 1776.

S/ Sam. Johnston, Presidt.

By Order

S/ Jas. Green, Jr., Sec.”



“Novr. 15<sup>th</sup> 1781

Dr. Sir/ As Numbers of the Men in my Brigade Will be urjent [sic, urging?] for a Discharge, & as I am [sic, am] well Informed that the Enemy [sic, enemy] is gon [sic, gone] you are by these Improwered [sic, empowered] to give orders to the Diferant [sic, different] Colos. [sic, Colonels] to Discharge such men as are wanting to goe [sic, go] home, all but the Counties of Macklingburgh [sic, Mecklenburg] & Rowan I Request that you in my name Give such men as are Discharged my harty [sic, hardy] thanks for thire [sic, their] sarvis [sic, service], & assure them that the Detaining them in the situation they ware [sic, were] in for want of Clothing, has given me grate [sic, great] uneasness [sic, uneasiness], that the Nesety [sic, necessity?] my Country was in, was the only cause, I Remane [sic, Remain] sir youre [sic, your]

Humble sert.

S/ Griffith Rutherford

Nov: 15<sup>th</sup> 1781

Dr. Sir as Numbers of the Men in my Brigade  
Will be urgent for a Discharge, & as I am well  
Informed that the Enemy is gone you are by this  
Impowered to Give orders to the Different Colo:  
to Discharge such men as are wanting to go home,  
all but the Counties of Mecklingburgh & Rowen  
I Request that you in my name Give such  
men as are Discharged my hearty thanks for  
their service, & assure them that the Detaining  
them in the situation they were in for want  
of Clothing, has given me great uneasiness,  
that the Misery my Country was in, was the  
only cause, I remaine sir yours

Thumble sent

~~Griffith Rutherford~~

N.B you are to Detain that man that stole the Riffel [sic, Rifle] Gune [sic, Gun] if he dos [sic, does] not  
make known the Regt. of the men that were with him.

S/ Griffith Rutherford  
B.G.M.

N.B you are to Detain that man that stole  
the Riffel Gune if he doo not make known  
the Regt. of the men that were with him

Griffith Rutherford  
B.G.M.

N. B As you are Purposing to [go to]town tomorro [sic, tomorrow] you will be so good as [to] bring a



solder [sic, soldier] & a horse for Mrs. Ward that is at Mr. Swan's, to carey [sic, carry or convey] that  
Lardly [sic, Lady] to town. S/ G. R."

*N.B. as you are purpo-<sup>ing</sup> to town to morrow  
you will be so good as bring a soldier & a horse  
for Mrs. Ward that is at Mr. Swans, to convey  
that Lady to town G. R.*

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$403.30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a Colonel in the North Carolina militia for 16 months and 11 days. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]