

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of James Masterson W8422

Margaret Masterson f34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/16/09: rev'd 7/8/16

[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 'indcipherable' 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 5]

State of Kentucky Fayette County: SS

On this 4th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Honorable Thomas M. Hickey Judge of the Fayette Circuit Court now sitting James Masterson a resident in said County & State, aged 80 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, for the purpose above named.

He was born on the 7th day of April 1752 in Fairfax County Virginia, between Alexandria and Georgetown; he has a record of his age now in his possession, which his father originally made. That he resided on Pamlico River [sic, Pamlico River] in North Carolina when he entered the US service that in 1779 he removed to Kentucky where he resided during the remainder of the revolution and has continued to reside near the town of Lexington ever since. He first entered the service under Capt. Keys [sic, Captain Nathaniel Keais] at Bath town on the Pamlico River in North Carolina at the commencement of the revolution, and immediately marched to New Bern in said State, where the company remained during six months in which time they built a Fort at Hanging Point three miles below New Bern. After the six months expired, Lieut. Caswell [William Caswell], son of Gov. Richard Caswell, was appointed Capt., and he enlisted or rather volunteered in his company, and served with him three months. The company marched to Wilmington accompanied by the Governor, and encamped just below town on the bluff, where he remained three months and then he returned home. He obtained discharges from both tours but has lost them both. During his service with Capt. Keys, a battle with the Scotch Tories under McDonald was fought at the Long Bridge [the battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775]¹ and Keys' Company was engaged in it, but he was not in it, in consequence of illness. He was encamped at Wilmington when the news was received of the declaration of independence and a great rejoicing took place. His next tour took place in the same year as an Ensign in Capt. Fellows' [William Fellows'] company under the command of General Bryant [probably William Bryan of the New Bern district Brigade of militia] and marched to Wilmington and Brunswick on Cape Fear River, whilst the British were at Fort Johnson. A British vessel, the *Scorpion*, was burnt near Brunswick at the time. He served on that occasion three months. He had a commission from Gov. Caswell, which he has lost, as Ensign on that tour. His next tour was as an Ensign in Capt. Whitley's [John Whitley's] company in Col. William Caswell's Regiment, there under the command of General Ash [John Ashe?] or Nash [Francis Nash?]. He was commissioned an Ensign by the Gov. of North Carolina on the first December or earlier on that occasion which was December 1778, which commission he has

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/751209-great-bridge.html>

also lost. On Christmas day he marched from Kingston [sic, Kinston] to Charleston South Carolina, and thence up the Savannah River to Augusta, Georgia. Col. Armstrong's command of regulars joined at Kinston, and General Bryant on the Savannah River. He served 2 1/2 months on that tour and resigned at Augusta & returned home in February 1779. An original return of Capt. Whitley's company, dated 1 December 1778 is attached hereto, in which it appears that he was an Ensign therein. He has no other written document in his possession or control to prove his services, nor any living witnesses that he knows. -- About the month of May in that year he came to Kentucky, and arrived at Boonesboro, whence he went to Bryant's Station & thence to Lexington, where at that time, there were only one block house & 2 cabins, and only one white woman in the place. He remained there until the fall, when he returned to North Carolina. When returning soon after to Kentucky, he was overtaken by the hard winter in Powels Valley [Powell Valley in Virginia], where he remained encamped until the spring 1780 when he returned to Lexington, where and in its vicinity, he has resided ever since.

Immediately on his arrival in Kentucky he was enrolled and acted as a spy against the Indians in which service he continued until the end of the revolutionary war. On one occasion he marched with a detachment on a tour up the Ohio River with a galley commanded by Capt. George, to build a Fort at the mouth of big Miami [River], but they could go no further than the mouth of Gunpowder Creek. He was on duty from the 2nd of June 1782 to the 24th of July, one month. He is positive that he served fully and indeed more than 6 months in that service. At the siege of Bryant's Station he was one of 16 who forced their way through the Indian lines into the station, and returned the next day to Lexington to inform the inhabitants at the siege was raised. This was in 1782. He has no documentary evidence to show his services in Kentucky; nor are there any living witnesses within his reach, but he refers all the old settlers now remaining here for the general belief of his services, as well as his character for veracity, more particularly Col. James McDowell, General Thomas Bodley, John Parker, Waller Bullock & Daniel Bradford Esquires, all of Fayette County.

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Masterson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Masterson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[CW Cloud, a clergyman, and Thomas Bodley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 16]

State of Kentucky City of Lexington

On this 4th day of March 1835, personally appeared before James E. Davis Esquire Mayor of said City, in open Court sitting James Masterson of [sic, a] resident of said city, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration to obtain in addition to his pension, obtained under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

He states in addition to his former declaration which is now on file in the Pension office in Washington City, under which he obtained a pension, the certificate of which is recorded in book D., Vol. 9 page 511 -- he served from the time that he arrived in Kentucky, to the end of the revolutionary war, a period of more than three years as a minute man, that is to say he was enrolled in a company under command of Capt. Robert Patterson, and commanded part of the time by Col. John Todd who was killed at the battle of the Blue Licks [August 19, 1782], and that during that whole time we was continually liable to be called out at a moment's warning,

whenever an alarm of enemy took place; and that in fact he was very seldom permitted to remain at home many weeks at a time without such a call. Being thus under the necessity of going out at all times he considers himself as justly entitled to credit under said act of Congress for service during that whole period and therefore asks that his pension may be increased accordingly; He always served as a spy, whilst in Kentucky. He refers to the evidence on file and to the deposition of William Martin annexed hereto.

S/ James Masterson

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[p 17]

State of Kentucky, Fayette County

The deposition of William Martin² a resident of Woodford County, taken in the City of Lexington before James E. Davis Esquire Mayor of said City to be used in an application about to be made by James Masterson for an increase of pension from the United States. Said Deponent who is a man of high standing for veracity, and fully entitled to credit, states upon oath he being first duly sworn, that he emigrated to Kentucky in the year 1779, and that in the spring following he became acquainted with James Masterson who is now present in person, and that he knew said Masterson well during the remainder of the War of the revolution, and he served as a spy whenever called on during the whole time, and for many years afterwards. He and said Masterson were enrolled in same company, commanded by Capt. Robert Patterson, and Col. John Todd; and that both of them were frequently called into the field. They were during that time always enrolled and acting as minute men -- frequently being compelled to arm and march at an hour's warning. He served one tour with said Masterson in 1782 at the Ohio where River with a party from the falls of Ohio, in a row galley, which lasted thirty-six days. They were however many times when said Masterson was absent on service to the knowledge of the deponent. He states that the men who were enrolled as he and said Masterson were, were considered as being always in service, and were continually harassed by calls for service, whenever an alarm from the Indians was made and that was done very often. The deponent is within 4 days of being seventy-three years of age.

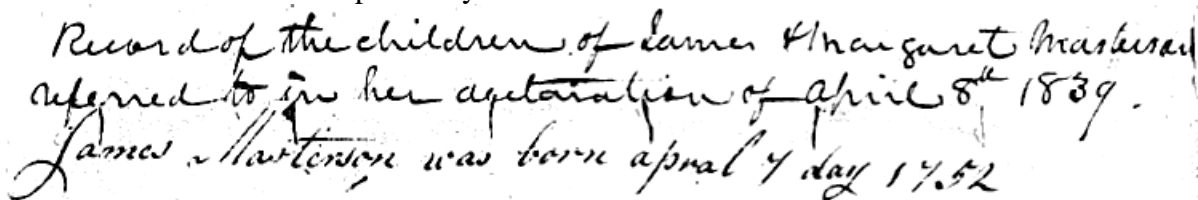
S/ William Martin



[p10]

Record of the children of James & Margaret Masterson referred to in her declaration of April 8 1839

James Masterson was born April 7 day 1752



Record of the children of James & Margaret Masterson referred to in her declaration of April 8th 1839. James Masterson was born April 7 day 1752

Elisabeth Masterson was born June the 11th day 1782 died July 20 1794

William Masterson was born December 14th day 1783 he died July 17th 1794

² PROBABLY [William Martin W5327](#)

Sarah Masterson was born August 20th day 1785 died July 29th 1794
 John Masterson was born January 21st day 1787
 James Masterson was born October 30th day 1788
 Maray Masterson was born March 15th day 1790 died July 16 1833
 Robart the Masterson was born November 28th day 1791 died January 13 1813
 Richard Masterson was born July 25th day 1793
 Caleb Masterson was born January 18th day 1796
 Lovet Masterson was born June 20th day 1797 died January 20 1822
 Edward Masterson was born October 26th day 1798
 Peggy Masterson was born July 1st day 1802
 Joseph Masterson was born April 23rd day 1807

- ① Elisabeth Masterson was born June ^{the} 11 day 1782 died July 20 1794
- ② William Masterson was born December ^{the} 11 day 1783 died July 17 1794
- ③ Sarah Masterson was born August ^{the} 20 day 1785 died July 29 1794
- ④ John Masterson was born January ^{the} 21 day 1787
- ⑤ James Masterson was born October ^{the} 30 day 1788
- ⑥ Maray Masterson was born March ^{the} 15 day 1790 died July 16 1833
- ⑦ Robert Masterson was born November ^{the} 28 day 1791 died January 13 1813
- ⑧ Richard Masterson was born July ^{the} 25 day 1793
- ⑨ Caleb Masterson was born January ^{the} 18 day 1796
- ⑩ Lovet Masterson was born June ^{the} 20 day 1797 died January 20 1822
- ⑪ Edward Masterson was born October ^{the} 26 day 1798
- ⑫ Peggy Masterson was born July ^{the} 1 day 1802
- ⑬ Joseph Masterson was born April ^{the} 23 day 1807

Richard James Masterson was born January 8th day 1821
 Lovet Ann Masterson was born May the 25th day 1822

- ① Richard James Masterson was born January 8th day 1821
- ② Lovet Ann Masterson was born May the 25th day 1822

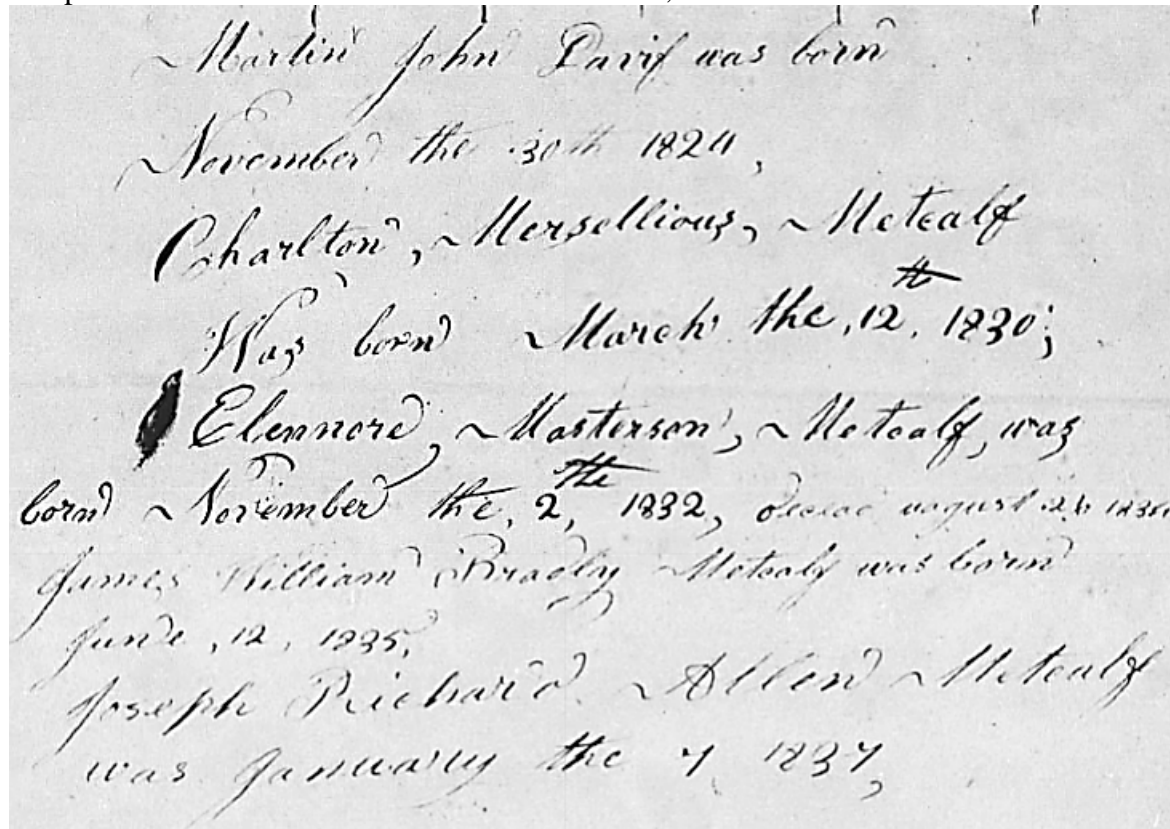
Martin John Davis was born November the 30th 1824

Charlton Mersellious Metcalf was born Marched the 12th 1830

Elenore Masterson Metcalf was born November the 2nd 1832, deceased August 26th 1834[^{last digit unclear}]

James William Bradley Metcalf was born June 12, 1835

Joseph Richard Allen and Metcalf was born the 7th, 1837



Martin John Davis was born
November the 30th 1824,
Charlton, Mersellious, Metcalf
was born March the 12, 1830;
Elenore Masterson, Metcalf, was
born November the 2, 1832, deceased August 26, 1834
James William Bradley Metcalf was born
June, 12, 1835,
Joseph Richard Allen Metcalf
was January the 7, 1837,

[p 12: On April 8, 1839 in Fayette County Kentucky, Margaret Masterson, 73, filed for a widows pension as the widow of James Masterson; she states she married him in 1781 in the month of June; that her first child was born about one year after her marriage but she has no documentary evidence of her marriage; that she was married by the Rev. John Todd; that the office in which records of her marriage appeared burned in 1803; that her husband died December 15th 1838 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 22]

"The return of Capt. John Whitley Company of Militia in Col. William Caswell Redgt.

December 1st 1778

John Whitley Capt.

Nat McCullers, L:

James Masterson, E.

[unfortunately all that is given of this document is the heading the names of the actual members of the company on not given -- the following numbers appear under each column entry
commanding officers 3; Sgt. 1; Cpl. 1; Drummer 1; Fifer 1; Privates 36; Sick 1; Guns 37; Shot
Bags 33; Tomahawks 22; Axes 4; [illegible] 4; Potts 7; Horses 4; Clark 2; Total 39

*A Return of Capt John Whitley Company of Militia in C
Colonel William Caswell Regt. December 1st 1770*

<i>John Whitley Capt Nat. McArthur James Masterson</i>	<i>Cannon, Officer</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>Quartermaster</i>	<i>Fifer</i>	<i>Drum Major</i>	<i>Sick</i>	<i>Garus</i>	<i>Shot Boys</i>	<i>Tomketches</i>	<i>Arms</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Porter</i>	<i>Stevens</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>Total</i>
	3	1	1	1	1	36	1	37	33	22	4	4	1	4	2	39

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$88.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private and Ensign for 15 ½ months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]