

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Martin Armstrong R256 Mary Armstrong f53NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 6/22/16

[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.]

State of Virginia, County of Washington: SS

On this 29th day of March 1855 personally appeared in Open Court, Dr. Alexander McCall a resident of Davidson County, in the State of Tennessee, aged 58 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836, Granting pensions to Widows [of] Officers and Soldiers, who served during the revolutionary War, also the provisions of the Act, passed 3rd of March 1855. That he is the Grand Son, and Administrator, of Mary Armstrong deceased, late of Smith County, Tennessee, the identical Mary Armstrong who was the Widow of Martin Armstrong, deceased, who was, as declarant always understood, from his Father and Mother, and from his Grand Mother, the said Martin Armstrong Entered the Service of the United States, in the revolutionary War from the State of North Carolina, as early as the year 1776 in the militia of said State, that he served in various capacities as an officer, until he reached the Commission of Colonel of Militia, that he served in the Various Capacities until the middle or latter part of the War, the Greater part of said Service, he thinks, he performed as Colonel, but the particulars of said service he cannot give, as it is all from what he has understood from the above named parties and others, he understood that the part of his time was under General Benjamin Cleveland and a part under General Griffith Rutherford, that he was Engaged in the Battle of Gates defeat at or near Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], that towards the latter part of said revolutionary War, he went out to the Frontier with General Rutherford against the Indians and Tories, that he continued in said service for a considerable time, but for the particulars, duration, or all the particulars, grades, he declarant must rely upon the records of the State of North Carolina to which is now refers, Marked No. 1-- that at, or after the close of said War, said Martin Armstrong removed to the West, and some time thereafter, was appointed Surveyor General of the Northwestern territory, that he settled in the State of Tennessee, and died in Nashville on or about the __ day of September 1808, that he left his Widow Mary Armstrong to whom he was married about the years 1776 or 1777 as he always understood, in the County of __ North Carolina, that previous to his Grand Mother's Marriage with said Martin Armstrong, her name was Mary Tate. That after they removed from thence to Tennessee, and after the death of said Martin Armstrong, his widow, the said Mary, survived him and still remained his widow until, on or about the __ day of June 1836 when she died, that at the time of her death, she left declarant's Mother, Mary A. E. McCall, who was as declarant always understood the third Child of said Martin and Mary Armstrong, and who is now about 80 years of age, being Born, as declarant understands from his Mother and her Old record, on the 19th day of April 1775, that he is Mother the said M. A. E. McCall is still living in Smith County State of Tennessee, that she is the Sole, and only Surviving Child and Heir at Law of her Mother the said Mary Armstrong, of whose Estate declarant is Administrator, declarant further states, that he

knows of no documentary or record proof of the services of said Martin Armstrong, beyond that now presented, or of the marriage of said Martin and Mary Armstrong, unless it may be in the family record of his Mother, the said M. A. E. McCall, he has also heard his Mother and relations speak of Colonel Armstrong's Commission, but which Commission he cannot produce, that the reason why his Mother, nor declarant never applied for a pension previous to this date, was that they supposed from the fact, that said Mary Armstrong having died the so short a time prior is passage of the Act of 1836, it was not worth claiming, but believing that the pension under the act of 1832, would commence in the 4th March 1831, and continued to the 4th July 1836 on to the death of said Mary Armstrong (to wit) in May or June 1836, he claims the same as Administrator of the Estate of Mary Armstrong, for the benefit of the said Mary A. E. McCall, her sole & only surviving Child, and Heir at Law, he also claims the benefit of the Act of 3rd March of 1855 making further provision for Officers' Widows &c of the revolutionary War. He refers to paper No. 2, letters of administration.

S/ Alex^r McCall {SEAL}

[p 20]

State of North Carolina Comptrollers Office

I George W. Brooks Comptroller of the Public Accounts in and for the State aforesaid do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office among the payments made by said State to sundry persons for Military Service in the Revolution as follows Viz.:

Colo. Martin Armstrong			
Book E. G. Page 54	£31..4..4	allowed in	April 1776
“ “ 58	£48..1 8	“	Nov. 1776
“ “ 74	£748..19..2	as Commissary in	
		The Cherokee Expedition	
“ “ 78	£143..4..4	allowed in	Nov. 1777
“ “ 36	£2410..0..0	“	Jany. 1779
Book C Entry 5312	£33..6..8	“	Jany 1787
“ A “ 8110	£112..8..		
Kingston page 147	£3528..	currency	Oct. 1779

I further certify that the Rolls show that said Martin Armstrong held the Rank of “Colonel of the Militia” and Contractor of N. Levies, of Salisbury District which agrees with the Books of “Army Accounts.”

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my seal of Office, in the City of Raleigh. This the 18th of February A.D. 1855

S/ Geo. W. Brooks, Comptr. NC

Comptrollers Office Raleigh NC February 1855

Alex. McCall, Esqr.

Sir – yours of the fifth instant came to hand a few days to go with the [illegible word]. Your request for the search has been attended to and a certificate of the results made out, which I enclose to you by tonight's mail. The Books and Rolls do not show under what officers he served nor in what Battles he fought. The Rolls have nearly all been destroyed. The Certificate contains all the information in this office. Secretary Hill has made a search but finds nothing as he has none of the Revolutionary records relating to the Militia. Colonel Armstrong seems to have served entirely in the Militia. I think the certificate will establish your claim so far as the evidence from this office is concerned. Secretary William Hill who is a very old man informs

me that he was personally acquainted with Colonel Martin Armstrong and knows that he served a long time and was Surveyor of the Soldiers' Lands in Tennessee after the war closed. Should you want any other evidence to go before the Department at Washington perhaps he will avail you something.

Very Respectfully &c.
S/ Geo W. Brooks, Comptroller N. C.