

MARY MARTIN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 321.]

JUNE 14, 1850.

Mr. WALDO, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Mary Martin, respectfully report:*

The petitioner claims to be the widow of Salathiel Martin; and she also claims that he was a captain of the militia in the State of North Carolina during the revolutionary war, and that he served in that rank in said war.

It is satisfactorily proved that the petitioner and Salathiel Martin were married on the 23d day of April, 1782, and that the said Salathiel deceased May 6, 1827. To prove the service of the said Salathiel, she has offered the following evidence: The deposition of Providence Critchfield, who testifies that she knew Salathiel Martin seventy-five years ago; that she recollects that he was then a captain of militia in the State of North Carolina, and served as such in the army of the Revolution two tours, and she thinks one was for a period of six, and the other for nearly twelve months; that he was in the battle at Guilford Court-house, and went South under General Green. Also the deposition of Joseph Collins, who testifies, from his personal knowledge, that said Martin, in the year 1780, took a party of tories who were lodged in a block-house on New river. Also the depositions of sundry persons, who testify that they knew the said Martin many years, and that he was reputed and believed to have been a captain in the revolutionary service. She has also offered a certificate from the Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of North Carolina, of which the following is a true copy, to wit:

“ COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

“I, William F. Collins, Comptroller of Public Accounts, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office that Salathiel Martin had the following certificates issued in his favor, purporting to be for military service, viz: one for six hundred and twenty-four pounds (£624,) found on book No. 2, page 45, and another for four pounds seventeen shillings and six-pence (£4 17s. 6d.) found on book No. 24, page 100, specie certificates. They appear, as all others do on the military books of this office, to have been for military service. Given under my hand and seal this 31st day of March, 1845.

“WM. F. COLLINS,  
“Comptroller.”

From this evidence it is apparent that the said Salathiel Martin was in the service during the Revolution; but the length of that service and the grade in which he served are not so definitely shown. One witness testifies to two tours of duty, which she thinks were of six and nearly twelve months; but when it is recollected that this is the testimony of a woman nearly eighty years of age, of transactions long since gone by, and that there is no record evidence of any military service of the North Carolina militia for any one period exceeding three months, it must be conceded that this witness is mistaken as to the length of this service. Neither does the certificate of the comptroller aid us in ascertaining the length of service. The sum received by him would have been nearly five years' pay for a captain—a period much longer than it is claimed that he served. This amount must, therefore, have been received for other purposes than his own service, and leaves that matter uncertain. The testimony as to the grade of the service is also very indefinite, and consists almost exclusively of hearsay evidence. But from the whole case the committee are satisfied that the said Salathiel Martin was captain in the North Carolina militia during the revolutionary war, and that he rendered service in the army of the Revolution in that rank, which they believe may in the whole have amounted to six months. They are therefore of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to a pension for six months' service of the grade of a captain, and therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.