

# **Patriot Profile:**

## **Lieutenant Hudson Martin**

### **(1752-1830)**

#### **Revolutionary War Officer and Virginia Patriot**

Lieutenant Hudson Martin was born July 3, 1752, and became an active participant in Virginia's military and civil affairs during the American Revolution. His military career began early in the struggle for independence and continued in various capacities throughout the war.

#### **Revolutionary War Service**

Martin entered military service on March 11, 1776, when he enlisted as an ensign under Captain James Alexander. His abilities and leadership were quickly recognized, and within a few weeks he was promoted to lieutenant, receiving his commission on March 26, 1776.

As the war progressed, Martin served in several important military and administrative positions. In 1778, he was serving as a wagon master at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a position responsible for the transportation and movement of military supplies and equipment. Later that year, he resigned from the position and returned to Virginia.

Martin subsequently received an appointment from Governor Patrick Henry as paymaster for the Regiment of Guards, commanded by Colonel Francis Taylor. He served in that capacity from January 1779 through August 1781.

The Regiment of Guards was stationed in Albemarle County, Virginia, where its responsibilities included guarding prisoners of war captured following the American victory at Saratoga in 1777. The surrender of British General John Burgoyne's army at Saratoga was one of the most important American victories of the Revolution and resulted in thousands of British and German prisoners being taken into American custody.

Martin's assignment as paymaster placed him in a position of considerable responsibility. He was responsible for handling military funds and ensuring that soldiers received their proper compensation during a period when the Continental and state governments faced significant financial and logistical difficulties.

In 1781, Martin again answered the call to military service when he served as a militia substitute for his brother, William. William had been drafted in Fluvanna County, Virginia, and Hudson served in his place, a

practice that was permitted under the military system of the period.

Through his various assignments—as an officer, wagon master, paymaster, and militia substitute—Martin contributed to the American cause in several different capacities.

#### **Marriage and Family**

On December 2, 1778, Hudson Martin married Jane Walker Lewis, the daughter of Colonel Nicholas Lewis and Mary Walker. The marriage connected Martin to a prominent Virginia family with deep roots in the colony and strong ties to the Revolutionary cause.

Hudson and Jane established their home in central Virginia, living in Albemarle and Nelson Counties near Rockfish Gap. They became the parents of nine children.

The family's location near Rockfish Gap placed them in an area of Virginia that was important for travel and communication between the eastern portions of the Commonwealth and the developing western frontier. The region would remain closely associated with the Lewis, Walker, and Martin families for generations.

#### **A Man of Means and Standing**

Following the Revolution, Martin remained an established member of his Virginia community. By the time of his death, he had accumulated considerable property and financial resources.

Martin's will, dated June 23, 1828, was recorded in Nelson County, Virginia. A copy was also preserved in the Pension Office in Washington, D.C., reflecting the documentation associated with his Revolutionary War service.

His estate included land, enslaved people, and financial assets, indicating that Martin had achieved substantial economic standing during his lifetime. The size of the bonds posted by the executors of his estate—totaling 20,000 pounds—further illustrates the considerable value associated with his property and affairs.

Martin died on November 28, 1830, at the age of 78.

His wife, Jane, survived him by nearly eight years. She died on August 15, 1838, in Albemarle County, Virginia, at the age of 81.

#### **A Virginia Revolutionary**

Lieutenant Hudson Martin's Revolutionary War career illustrates the many forms of service required to achieve American independence. His contribution was not limited to combat. He served as a commissioned officer, helped transport military supplies, managed

military payrolls, and ultimately served as a militia substitute for his brother.

His appointment by Governor Patrick Henry and his service with the Regiment of Guards demonstrate the trust placed in him during a critical period of the Revolution. His later life as a landowner and community leader reflected the opportunities—and responsibilities—of those who helped establish the new American nation.

For members of the Sons of the American Revolution, Hudson Martin's story is a reminder that the Revolutionary War depended upon thousands of men who served in a wide variety of roles. Their administrative, logistical, and military efforts were essential to sustaining the American cause and securing independence.

*Hudson Martin*