

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

Pension Application of Joseph Baugh R21837

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Missouri } SS

County of St Charles } On this twenty first day of December in the year eighteen hundred and forty three, in open court before the County Court of the county aforesaid now sitting, personally appeared Joseph Baugh a resident of Callaway Township in St Charles county in the state of Missouri aged eighty four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following statement and declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

I Joseph Baugh am a native of the State of Virginia, I was born in Powhatan County which at that time was a part of the County of Cumberland, according to my best information I was born in the year 1758. There was a record of my age kept at Rocky Oak church in Powhatan County in Virginia, and my father had the age of myself and the rest of our family kept in a bible, but I do not know what became of that bible when my father died, which was more than forty years ago. More than forty years ago I copied from my fathers bible the record of my age, into a bible of my own which is still in my possession. I always continued to live in Powhatan county in Virginia till the beginning of the Revolutionary war, I well recollect to have heard of the battles of Lexington and Bunkers hill, and of the Declaration of independence, and to have witnessed the excitement produced by the political and military events of that period; but it was not till the year 1777 that we had much active service in Virginia. In the month of September of that year I was called out into the militia service, our men in the militia service were numbered, and we were called into service according to our numbers, I then went in to active service in a company of about fifty men, commanded by Captain Thomas Harris, and our call was for three months, we marched to Little York, staid there a short time, then marched to Williamsburg and marched about the Chesapeak bay [sic: Chesapeake Bay]. We were under the command of General [Thomas] Nelson whilst we were on the Chesapeak bay, and whilst we were there the British fleet was in the bay, and passed up the bay towards Elk river [landing at present Elkton MD on 25 Aug 1777], I recollect to have seen one of the British ships as it was going up the bay, I saw General Nelson looking at it through a spy glass, and heard him say he could see the men walking on deck and could distinguish the button on their uniforms. After the ships passed up the bay we were marched back to Powhatan and were discharged, after being in actual service a little more than two months. We had no fighting on this tour. I received a written discharge which is lost.

In the summer of the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight I was again called out into the militia service under Captain Mumford [sic: Edward Munford], we were called out as we were numbered in the company, & were kept in service for three months. We were marched to Williamsburg at which place we were stationed, and there joined other militia and we were commanded by General [Robert] Lawson, we were sometimes marching about the coast of the bay, but nothing very remarkable occurred on this tour of duty. It was in the fall when I was discharged and marched back to Powhatan.

In the year 1779 I was again called into the militia service, by the numbers of our company, we were commanded by Capt Poag [sic: Poage], we crossed at Richmond and were stationed principally at Little York on York River, and in conjunction with other militia, to watch the enemy in the Chesapeak bay, and to guard against any attempt they might make to effect a landing. For this purpose marched about the coast of the bay, and continued in service for three months but had no battle. This tour was in the fall of the year. I was again marched to Powhatan county and discharged.

Again about the time of Christmas in the year 1779 [sic] an alarm was created by the news that the British forces under [Gen. Benedict] Arnold had burned the Foundry at Westham [5 - 7 Jan 1781], and the public stores at Richmond and almost the whole population of the county in which I lived volunteered

and marched to Petersburg, and I among the rest, when we arrived at Petersburg most of the volunteers were sent home, but I and about one hundred others volunteered to serve as infantry under Captain Saunders. At that time Arnold had dropped down James River to City Point [in Hopewell], and whilst there a company of about five hundred British soldiers had landed and came marching through the pines near City Point, and came to where our company was stationed in the Pines. We waited till they approached very near to us and then gave them one well directed fire and retreated rapidly for safety. None of our company were injured, but we had reason to believe that our fire was fatal to some of the enemy. Next day we rejoined the army of militia under Major Duvall, and under his command we marched and were stationed during the winter of the year 1780 near Portsmouth. We were generally encamped at the edge of the Dismal Swamp about fifteen miles from Portsmouth. Gen'l. Arnold had retired to Portsmouth [19 Jan 1781] and was fortified at that place. We were engaged in reconnoitering his position, and sometimes marched along the bay, and as far as the long-bridge [sic: Great Bridge] across Elizabeth River. At one time we made an attack on a band of the British soldiers who had ventured a short distance from Portsmouth, and their sentinel was shot dead by Tom Turk [Thomas Turk] of Augusta County, and the rest retreated but we pursued them and took seven prisoners & marched off with them. In the latter part of that trip we were under the command of Colonel Alexander Dick. I remained in this service near Portsmouth till the eleventh of April 1780 and was then discharged. Whilst near Portsmouth I saw the Marquis Lafayette and Baron Steuben who passed by our militia forces. And whilst there the British occasionally fired upon us with their cannon from the fort but with very little effect. During this campaign I suffered much from cold & from wading through wet & swampy lands. I was about the first of January when I went out & I continued in service till the 11<sup>th</sup> of April following. In this tour the forces were commanded by General Muelenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. In the Spring of the year 1781 I was again called into the service under Lieutenant Thomas Moseley, and with 8 or ten others was detailed to go to Amelia County to guard and take care of some public horses for the use of the militia service, and we were continued in that service till we were required to take sixty two horses to Staunton, we crossed James River with them at Cabells Ferry in Buckingham, and crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap & at Staunton delivered the horses to Major Bellfield [sic: John Belfield]. We then returned to Amelia county & were again employed in keeping & guarding some public horses, and had upwards of seventy horses in our possession; and we remained there until we were informed that General Tarlton was approaching with his troop of horse [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, June 1781] & we then hastily fled, crossed at Jutes ferry [sic: Jude's Ferry] in Powhatan and joined the American army at the falls of James River a short distance above Richmond, where we delivered up the horses and were discharged. I was engaged in this service under Lieutenant Moseley upwards of two months.

In the summer of seventeen hundred and eighty one I was again called into service by the numbers of the company, in order to join the army which was operating against Lord Cornwallis; it was in the latter part of the summer. We were marched to Williamsburg, and when we arrived at that place I and seven or eight others were detailed as a guard, to drive in beef cattle for the use of the French army and were placed under the command of Captain Reid who was engaged in supplying the French army with provisions. Our head quarters were at Williamsburg and we continued to be thus occupied during the time of the siege of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and up to the time of the surrender of Cornwallis. When Cornwallis surrendered a part of his forces were marched to Williamsburg where I saw them, and on the next day I was discharged and returned to Powhatan. Gen'l. Washington was in command, and I saw him at Williamsburg, just before the commencement of the siege of Yorktown. The three months for which I was called out were not expired when I was discharged at Williamsburg but I had then been in service at that time upwards of two months.

After this time I lived seven or eight years in Powhatan County, I then removed to and resided in Richmond City four or five years and I then removed across the river and lived in the Town of Manchester two or three years, and I then removed to Madison County in the state of Kentucky, and there I resided

till the year eighteen hundred and seventeen, at which time I removed to and have ever since resided in St Charles County in the State of Missouri, and where I now reside.

I state that owing to the great lapse of time, and the remoteness of my residence from the place where I was raised and in which I served in the militia, I cannot obtain any witness who has personal knowledge of the services above enumerated, and I believe that all my companions of the revolution are dead, or if any of them are alive I do not know where to find them. I also state that I have made the foregoing statement from my memory, and owing to my age, and the defect of memory it may be possible that the dates and events are not all correctly stated or that there may be some confusion or mistakes in relation to names and events, but I believe the above statement to be substantially correct. I obtained a written discharge at the end of each of the above named tours of service, and I retained them so long as I lived in Virginia, when I removed to Kentucky more than forty years ago my written discharges were left with some other old papers at my brothers house in Powhatan County in Virginia, my brothers name was Abraham, and he asked me what I was going to do with those old papers, I told him they would never be of any use to me and I would leave them, and I did so, and I suppose that they have been destroyed as useless papers, my brother has been dead for many years. During all the above named tours of service I never received any pay or compensation except eight dollars which I received for my first tour of service under Captain Harris. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Joseph Baugh

NOTE: Baugh's application was supported by several dozen citizens of St. Charles County who signed their names to a statement that Baugh had raised a family in the county and was reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution. The claim for a pension was denied because proof of the service was not considered sufficient.