

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Baker R406

Chelly Baker

f27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/14/10: rev'd 4/10/18

[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.]

[p 3]

State of Indiana Warrick County: SS

On this Eighth day of October in the year while Lord 1833 Personally appeared before the Honorable Samuel Hall President Judge and John Hart and Zachariah Shelton Associate Judges of the Circuit Court of said County in open Court now sitting at Boonville in said County John Baker Senior a resident of Boon Township in the County of Warrick and State of Indiana aged seventy-one 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 June 7th 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated.

That in the middle of May in the year 1780 this applicant lived in Abbeville County in the State of South Carolina that about the 20th of May in the said year he entered the Militia as a volunteer under Captain John Irvin [John Erwin] of the same County and Colonel Robert Anderson of Pendleton County in said State was marched into & through Pendleton & Edgefield counties besides the County in which he lived most of the time in detached parties to restrain the Tories and protect property until about the first of December 1780 that during this tour he served six months as a private during which said time to wit from the last of May until the first of December in the same year 1780 not less than six months he was not employed in any civil pursuit but was in the service of the United States that after he had served two months of said time or thereabouts the applicant had a slight difference with Captain Irvin and by order of Colonel Anderson was enrolled and served the residue of said six months in a company commanded by Captain William Strain Colonel, afterwards General, Andrew Pickens commanded during said tour. That in the year 1781 I was living in the same County of Abbeville in the same State about the first of March in that year this Declarant again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Joseph Pickens & Colonel Anderson he lived at that time on the waters of long cane [Creek] about ten miles from Ninety Six was marched into the upper part of the County into Pendleton County and into the State of Georgia about the 9th May under the said Captain, Colonel and under General Andrew Pickens who had been absent from them some time was marched to the siege of Ninety Six [May 22-June 19, 1781] where we remained investing said Fort until about the middle of June when General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] retreated. Captain Pickens was killed during the siege, was marched in the rear of the forces under the command of General Greene about twenty miles above Columbia where the Militia under General Pickens was marched into Columbia which had been burned here the Declarant with the

said Militia remained 2 or 3 days then Declarant was sent as a spy to watch the movements of the British at Ninety Six under the command of Colonel Hays [sic, Joseph Hayes] where having got the information that they had left Colonel Hayes with his company of spies returned & gave the information to General Pickens was marched from Columbia to Ninety Six where the men with families were discharged. This Declarant was detained until sometime in September of that year. This applicant served during this tour six months as a private during which period he was not engaged in any civil pursuit but in the military service of the United States, whilst living in said Abbeville County about the first of October in 1781 he volunteered under Joseph Dawson Captain Colonel Anderson and General Pickens the field officers to fight against the Tories under Colonel Crawford who marched to Bulls Swamp where the said Tories had been returned back where we found that about 300 Tories under Colonel Crawford had been within 2 & ½ miles of General Pickens' house burned 16 wagons killed several men in the neighborhood took 16 men and 3 boys with the horses and went into the Indian Nation, [we] were permitted to go home but with orders to rendezvous in a few days for the purpose of going into the Indian Nation and within 10 days joined the Troops under Colonel Anderson General Pickens under the command of Captain John Irvin and marched into the Indian Nation, there was about 600 mounted men of us Colonel Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] with a body of Georgia Troops was along with us, [we] burned the [several indecipherable words, looks like "Pelase Boost Santee"]¹ and several other Indian towns took one man 36 squaws and a number of children (the Indian was shot by someone in cold blood), the 16 prisoners carried into the Indian Country had been put to death as was said by the Indians, [we] had but 2 men wounded during the tour was out 5 weeks against Crawford and his party and was out 5 weeks against the Cherokee Indians during which said 10 weeks this Declarant was in the Military service of the United States as a volunteer and was not engaged during said time in any Civil pursuit was during said service of 10 weeks a private. In the year 1782 whilst living in the same place this applicant entered the service as a volunteer under Robert Maxfield [Robert Mansfield] Captain of some company for 3 months to serve as a Ranger to protect the property and persons of citizens from Tories, joined the company about the first or 10th of February, there was 25 men in Maxfield's company and the same number in Colonel Hayes Company both Companies were under General Pickens but there was no field officer at any time in service with the companies, rendezvoused at a hewed log house on the South side of the Saluda River. Hayes' company rendezvoused on the North East side of the River, we was out night and day part of the time after Colonel Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] and his Tories.² During the night Cunningham with a party came upon Hayes & ¼ of his men about 8 miles from our station and got Hayes to surrender, they killed the 14 men and hung Hayes, we was there next day and pursued after Cunningham's party but they escaped us, served this tour 3 months as a private during which time this applicant was engaged in the actual service of the United States and was not engaged in any civil pursuit. This applicant has no documentary evidence of his services nor does he know of any one or more persons who could testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension of any Agency in any State.

Pelase Boost Santee

¹ ² The engagement at Hayes Station is thought to have occurred on or about November 19, 1781, but this veteran's testimony would place it in February or March 1782. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hayes.htm>

S/ John Baker



Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid
S/ John A. Graham, Clerk

And the said Court now here propounded to the said John Baker the several Interrogatories³ required by the Regulations of the War Department which said Interrogatories with the answers thereto of the said John Baker under his Corporal oath duly & legally administered in open Court are by the Court order to be herein embodied as follows

"Where and in what year were you born?" Answer. I was born in North Carolina in the year 1762. "Have you any record of your age?" And if so, where is it." I have none. "Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?" In Abbeville County where I was raised from a child & was living when I entered the service each time from said County in South Carolina removed to Ross County Ohio from thence moved to Giles County Tennessee before it became a County was there 7 or 8 years & removed in 1814 to Warrick County Indiana where I yet live. "How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for home?" I volunteered each time that I entered the service.

"State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?" I recollect General Greene and that Colonel Lee came down from Augusta I do not recollect any militia colonels except Colonel Hayes who was under Pickens at said siege I do not recollect any regiments in particular was out and served as have stated to wit 6 months under Irvin & Anderson and Captain Strain the last [?] of time 6 months Captain Pickens & Anderson commanding 5 weeks under J. Dawson Anderson & Pickens 5 weeks under Irvin Anderson & Pickens 3 months under Captain Maxfield all the services were done in the States of South Carolina & Georgia and as stated in my declaration took place. Did you ever receive a discharge and if so what has become of it and by whom was it signed? I did receive a discharge in writing. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. I am acquainted with the Reverend Joseph Pearson the Reverend Thomas, Thomas Fuller, Benjamin Luce and many others who can testify thereto.

S/ John Baker

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this the day and year aforesaid

S/ John A. Graham, Clerk

[Joseph Pearson, a clergyman, Thomas Fuller and Benjamin Luce gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12: On May 12, 1857 in Hopkins County Texas, Chelly Baker, 74, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Baker, a revolutionary pensioner who died in the year 1835; that she married him in Warrick County Indiana on March 16th, 1815; that they were married by Joseph Arnold, a clergyman; that her name prior to her marriage was Chelly Esom; that her husband died in Warrick County Indiana on October 7, 1835; that she is still his widow. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$57.77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 17 months & 10 days service in the South Carolina militia. His widow's claim was rejected.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁴ relating to John Baker AA13
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 248

[Note: This file appears to have records relating to this veteran. Unfortunately, those records as copied on microfilm are largely illegible. I think the 2 pages of this 13-page file which relate to this veteran indicate that he was given an Indent for £36 Sterling based on service shown on Capt. John Erwin's Pay Bill and Col. Robert Anderson's return. The 2 pages in question are pages 9 and 10 of this 13-page file. There is a nice signature of the veteran's as follows:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with some ink bleed-through or smudging.

and probably dates from around 1784.]

⁴ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.