

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

Pension Application of John Baker R421

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Wilson County }

On this 20th day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty three personally appeared before me James B Taylor one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Wilson in the State of Tennessee John Baker a resident of Wilson in the State of Tennessee aged ninety six 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 act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated –

He entered the service in Stafford County Virginia as a voluntier under Captain John Vant – he does not now recollect the names of any of the subaltern officers of the Company nor the non commissioned officers except the first Sargeant he recollects that the name of that officer was Ford he cannot now recollect the date that he entered the Service but states that it was some time previous to the Declaration of Independence he was first mustered into service at an old Field about eight or nine miles from the River Potomac Vants Company in which he belonged then marched to the potomac and there was joined to the Regiment called the regement of minutte men commanded by Colonel William Philips [William Phillips] the regement of Philips marched down the river potomac several miles they were encamped near the river for several days then dismissed and returned home with orders to repare to the river when ever notified to do so that said Regement was kept organised as a Regement of minuette me to prevent the British vessells from coming up the river and plundering the Inhabitances and procuring fresh water &c he was often called out and encamped upon the river generally from ten to twenty days at a time and sometimes longer – sometimes would be dismissed and in the course of one or two days would be called out and incamped and marched up and down the river and continued so from the time he first entered the Service untill the close of the War or untill news reached the Regement that Cornwallis had surrendered [19 Oct 1781] he was then dismissed from Service he would sometime be at home for some weeks then in Service as above stated and states that while the regement was thus organised before his term of service expired that Capt Vant resined and the Company was then commanded dureing the remainder of the time by Captain William Hardin he states that the Regement was part of the time commanded by Col Thomas Magoy and also by Col James Garnett [sic: James Garrard] who was afterwards as he understood Governor of Kentucky the Regement frequently marched by and encamped about the farm of Col Burr Harrison near the river and also the farm of Robert Brunt he recollects that a Brittish vessel called the Robuck [sic: *Roebuck*] came up the river potomac and the British troops burned a large extensive fine building the property of one Squire Wilbrunt the regiment repared to the place and a very heavy cannodading commenced from the vessel against the American troops which caused them to retire behind a hill to avoid the shots of the enemy he recollects that Captain Washington who he thinks commanded a company on that occasion had on a red coat which he well recollects as some of the americans came very near firing at him mistakeing him by his coat to belong to the enemy this Declarant from old age cannot recollect the pricise length of time that he was actually in service at the many and different times but is well satisfied that putting all the time together which he was in actual Service was more than twelve months he served in no capacity except a private soldier he has no Documentary evidence and that he knows of no person who can testify to his Service he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State

John hisXmark Baker

personally appeared before me James B Taylor a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Wilson in the State of Tennessee John Baker who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served in actual service over one year putting it all together but so as to be certain not to exceed the time he actually served he puts it at one year as a private soldier as herein before stated by him for which he claims a pension

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 20th day of April 1843 John hisXmark Baker

Where and in what year were you born

Answer – I was born in Stafford County Virginia in the month of Janury 1747

have you any record of your age and if so where is it

A, my age was recorded in a Bible before I removed from the State of Virginia which I left there and I have had no record of my age since that time

Where were you living when called into service where have you lived sense Revolutionary War and where do you now live

A, I lived in Stafford County Virginia when I was called into Service I removed from there about eighteen months after the war I went to South Carolina on Braud [sic: Broad] River about 60 or 70 miles from Charleston remained there about three years I then removed to Red River Logan County Kentucky resided there about 14 years was in a campaign of 16 days against the Indians under Colonel Whitley I removed from there to pon river [sic: Pond River] in Kentucky resided there about 3 years then removed to Bedford County Tennessee remained there about 9 years I then removed to Wilson County Tennessee where I now reside

how were you called into service were you Draughted did you volunteer were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

A, entered the service as a volenteer under Captain John Vant I served all the time as a volunteer State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and malitia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service
A, I do not now recollect that there was any Regular troops with the Regement in which I served if there was any Regular or Continental and malitia troops with us I cannot now recollect the officers there might sometime have been other malitia with us besides the regement to which I belonged but if so I cannot now state by who they were commanded I recollect no other officers being with us in particular except them herein before named

Did you ever Receive a Discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it –

A I received nothing but a verbal Discharged I believe the whole of the company to which I belonged were all verbally Discharged when the news of peace reached us –

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can tistify as to your present charecter for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

A, I am well known to my general neighbourhood and expect all who knows me would give me a good character for veracity and also believe that I served as a soldier of the Revolution I will here state the names of William Vantrease a Clergyman and Benjamin Prichette who both live near me and who have both been acquainted with me for many years