

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Solomon Baker R438

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State Of Virginia } SS on this 27 day of october 1833
Lewis County }

personally appeared before me the subscriber [David W. Sleeth] a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Lewis and state Sollomon Baker aged 70 years who being first duly sworn Accodin to Law doth on his oath make the following decleration in order to obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1833 That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated That in the year 1781 in the month of march in the terrytory of Tennissee [sic: Tennessee] in the town of nox name of the County not recollected [probably Knoxville in present Knox County] declarant volunteered his servises in defense of the settlements then deforming on Clinch River bever Creek [sic: Beaver Creek] Holstin River [sic: Holston River] on the eighth day of march 1781 was plased under the command of Capt Bairds who commanded a company of indian spys declarant was marched from the town of nox in the turytory of Tennessee to a place called south west point [near present Kingston; see endnote] at the mouth of Clinch River in the terrytory of Tennissee about 50 miles distant from the town of nox declarant was ingaged as soon as he arrived at the mouth of Clinch which was about the twentyeth of march last aforesaid in building a block house for the security of Capt Bairds company about 40 in number declarant remained here untill sometime in the month of december 1781 and was then marched Back to the town of nox and was discharged about the twentyeth day of december 1781 at which time declarant was discharged by his said Capt Baird having served nine months as an indian spy as a private soldier declarant remained at his residence in the town of nox in the terrytory of tennissee again in the month of march about the twentyeth day 1782 in the town of nox and Terrytory of Tennissee declarant volunteered his servises for the defence of the settlements as mentioned in his first tower and was plased under the Command of Capt Baird who Commanded a Company of indians spys a man by the name of MClillan [McClelland?] was the Lieutenant. Ensigns name not recollected declarant was marched from the town of nox aforesaid to Cammels Station [Campbell's Station?] about twenty miles distant from the town of nox. Cammels station was our place of rendezvous from which we spyed the country to wit on the waters of Bever Creek Clinch River Foggy bottom and the Cumberlin [sic: Cumberland] mountain declarant was engaged as aforesaid untill some time in the month of december 1782 and was discharged about the 23 day of november 1782 having served nine months as an indian spy - as a private soldier again in the spring of 1783 in the month of march declarant was drafted for a tower of three months in the town of nox and terrytory of tennissee and was plased under the Command of Capt Evans Levi Devaul Lieutenant Ensign John Roe declarant was then marched from the town of nox and terrytory aforesaid to southwest poin at the mouth of Clinch River at the Block house which affiant aided in building during his first tower declarant remained here engaged in defending said blockhouse and sometime in the month of may 1782 the indians attacted the fort and killed five of our men but they were expelled and driven from the station two indians was killed how many was wounded declarant never knew declarant remained at said Blockhouse untill the time for which he was drafted had expired he was then discharged by his said Capt Evans and returned home having served three months as a private soldier declarant cannot undertake to recount the various occurances which took place during his several towers of service his service was that of an indian spy in a wilderness country when declarants marches were short and but few except when on spying towers he has no documentary evidence of his service no knows of no one by whome he can prove his services having moved far from the country in which his services was rendered and far from those with whome he served

He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to a pension or anuity except the presant and declares that his name is not on the pention roll of the Agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] Solomon Baker

to the several interrogatories presented by the war department declarant answers as follows

1 I was Borned in the County of Berkly [sic: Berkeley, formed from Frederick County in 1772] state of Virginia in the year 1763

2 I have no record of my age I have the recollection of my parents who told me the year I was Borned in

3 When called into service I was living in the town of nox terry tory of Tennessee since the Revolution I have lived in the County of Greenbrier & Nicholas and I now live in Lewis County state of Virginia

4 my first and second tower I was a volunteer my third I was drafted

5 in consequence of the sircumscribed rainge of my service I became acquainted with but vary few officers of any kind except those under whome I served whether I was attached to any Redgement or not I do not know

6 I was regularly discharged by the officers under whome I served to wit Captns Baird and Evans

7 I am known to James Posey and Peter Bonnett [pension application S5293] who can testify to my character my age and there belief of my having been a soldier of the revolution

[signed] Solomon Baker

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners and applicants from present West Virginia. David W. Sleeth (pension application S6111), the Justice of the Peace who prepared Bakers's application, was a particular target of Singleton's investigation. Sleeth tricked many men into swearing to false declarations. For details see the appendix in Sleeth's pension application. Singleton wrote "not entitled" on his report on Baker.]

Solomon Baker Applicant.

Spencer Hill aged 73 yrs. says he has known Solomon Baker for twenty yrs and that he is not exceeding fifty five yrs. old - Joseph W Nutter says Baker is between fifty & sixty yrs old. - Col Alexander Donley [probably Alexander Donnally] says Baker is not exceeding sixty yrs. old - George Rader says he has known Baker for 30 yrs and that he is between fifty & sixty yrs old.

All the forgoing Gentlemen who have given statements of Bakers age are men of veracity.

W. G Singleton Jan 12, 1835

NOTE:

According to a Wikipedia article, Col. Arthur Campbell suggested to Gov. Thomas Jefferson in 1779 that a fort be erected at the confluence of the Clinch and Tennessee rivers, but no fort was built until Fort Southwest Point Blockhouse was constructed in 1792.

Federal censuses of Nicholas County list Solomon Baker as 45 or over in 1820 and between 60 and 70 in 1830. These ages, reported long before the pension act was passed, are consistent with Baker's claim to have been born in 1763 and with his having been old enough to enter service in 1781.