

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Bankston (Bankston) R478

f80 + 16GA¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/16/08 rev'd 8/13/14

[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.]

[file 80/p3]

State of Georgia, County of Butts

On this twenty first day of September Personally appeared in open Court before the Superior Court of said County, now sitting, Elijah Bankston, a resident of said State and County aged, Eighty-one years the twenty sixth day of September Instant who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he volunteered in the Army at the call of Colonel Elijah Clarke, and in the Company of Captain Micajah Williamson in the month of February in the year 1779 in the County of Wilkes and said State, the Regiment was Georgia Volunteers Commanded by Colonel Elijah Clarke, and Captains in said Regiment were Micajah Williamson, John Autry, John Clarke and George Barber and David Madden and Joshua Welch were Lieutenants. The former belonged to the same Company that this declarant did the other officers names had slipped the memory of this declarant. That this declarant resided at the time of his volunteering in the County of Wilkes and State aforesaid.

After volunteering I was stationed at a Fort in Wilkes County called Williamson's Fort to guard it and remained there until we were called upon to go to Augusta to dislodge Colonel Grayson [sic, James Grierson]² a Tory Colonel, who had possession of the Fort in Augusta. Colonel Clarke had command of the Regiment that I was in, in said expedition. This took place in the latter part of the year 1780, as well as I recollect. In a few days I think the second day after Colonel Grayson was dislodged our spies brought in intelligence of the march of a number of British troops towards Augusta under the command of Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown known as "Burntfoot" Brown], in British Officer. Col. Clarke believing himself not able to meet successfully the forces of Colonel Brown, gave orders to leave the Fort and Augusta which we had rescued from Colonel Grayson, which we did and fled to the wilderness. In the course of a few weeks, Colonel Clarke, heard that General Lee [sic, this is probably a reference to then Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] was in South Carolina, and Colonel Clarke sent for him to come and assist him to dislodge Colonel Brown, of the British Army who had taken possession of Augusta and its Fort which General Lee did and we marched against Col. Brown

¹ For some reason, Fold3.com has two listings relating to this applicant. One is an 80-page file listed under "Elijah Bankston" and the other is a 16-page file listed under "Elijah Bankston." Both files are under the number R478. The Clarke certificate quoted herein appears only in the second, 16-page file at page 13. It is not the original but a certified copy made by John T. Smith, Secretary of the Executive Department of the State of Georgia on April 7, 1851.

² The Siege of Augusta at which Fort Grierson was taken by the Whigs occurred on May 23, 1781. Clarke had earlier laid siege to Augusta in mid-September 1780. Clarke was forced to retreat from this earlier siege by the arrival of reinforcements under the command of Col. John Harris Cruger. At the time of the mid-September 1780 siege, Thomas Brown commanded the British/Tory troops at Augusta. James Grierson was taken prisoner by the Whigs in the May 1781 siege, not the mid-September 1780 siege. The applicant seems to have 'scrambled' his facts relating to the two sieges of Augusta in which he claims to have participated.

and besieged the Fort and forced him to surrender with all of his troops which took place in the early part of the year 1781, as well as I now recollect, we remained in Augusta after the surrender of Colonel Brown, but a few days, when Colonel Clarke was requested by General Lee to go with an assist him in this lodging the British and Tories who had possession of Ninety Six in South Carolina. We took up the line of march for the last mentioned place, but before we reached it Colonel Clarke received an express that Shannon's Fort on Savannah River on the South Carolina side was in danger of being attacked by the Indians. Colonel Clarke immediately dispatched 25 men to said Fort for its defense, and I was one of that number and remained there three months during which time I acted as an Indian Spy. I was then marched to Barber's Fort on Long Creek in Wilkes County Georgia, where I remained some four or five weeks. I was then marched to and stationed at, Water's plantation in the fork of Broad and Savannah Rivers where I remained some five or six weeks, from there I was marched to Williamson's Fort in Wilkes County, Georgia, where I remained until I received my discharge as well as I now recollect. Captain Gunnells had the Command of Shannon's Fort on Savannah River during the time I was stationed there: at Barber's Fort on Long Creek I was under the command of Captain Barber and at Water's plantation I was under the command of Captain John Autry and at Williamson's Fort in Wilkes County, I was under the Command of Captain Autry and Captain Micajah Williamson who had the Command of the Fort.

The whole length of time I served in the Army as a Volunteer was two years and four months. I received my discharge, as well as I recollect in June 1781: during the whole time, I was not employed in any civil pursuit. I know of no person now living by whom I can establish my claim as a Revolutionary Pensioner, as the last Soldier that I knew of with whom I served was one David Madden, who was a Lieutenant in one of the Companies in which I had Served and died a few years ago and whose affidavit I obtained, I will think in the year 1837, Setting forth the Services that I rendered as a Revolutionary Soldier. Said affidavit was forwarded to the Pension Office at Washington City and since that time I have not Saw [sic] it and that it is lost or mislaid by someone so that I cannot get hold of it.

Answers to Questions propounded by the Court

To the first he answers

He was born in Guilford County North Carolina, in the year of our Lord 1765, on the 26th day of September.

To the Second,

He has the Original Record of his age which is at his residence.

To the third

He answers he was living in Wilkes County, when he was called into Service and has lived since the Revolutionary War in the Counties of Wilkes, Hancock, Clarke, Walker, DeKalb and now resides in the County of Butts, all of the State of Georgia.

To the fourth

He answers he entered into the service as a Volunteer, at the call of Colonel Elijah Clarke in the County of Wilkes and State of Georgia.

To the fifth

He answers: Colonel Elijah Clarke had the command of the Regiment he first entered and Bama Hurd [?] was a Major in the Same Regiment as for the other Officers who he was acquainted with, and who he was under, at various times and places he refers to his Declaration above for answer. The names of many of the Officers who he was with he has forgotten.

To the sixth

He answers he did receive a discharge from the Service from both Captain Micajah Williamson as well as he now recollects which was afterwards Stolen by a band of Robbers who entered his Father's House and carried away a Trunk which contained his Own and his Father's discharge together with a number of other papers none of which was ever obtained afterwards.

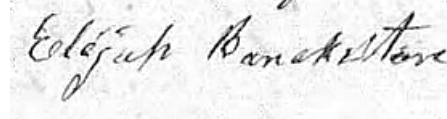
To the seventh

He answers he can refer to all his neighbors and refers particularly to Willis Jarrell and John S. Irby.

I Elijah Bankston do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present and declare that his name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State or Territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ Elijah Banckston



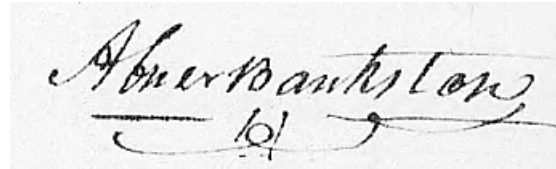
[Willis Jarrell, a clergyman, and John S. Irby gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 27/80]

Georgia State Butts County: Butts Inferior Court May term 1837 personally came into open Court Abner Bankston of said County who being sworn saith on oath the facts stated in the declaration of Elijah Bankston are true as this deponent believes and he knows many of the acts of said Elijah Bankston during the time of the Revolutionary War and this deponent knows that the said Elijah was attached to a company that marched to the siege of Augusta in the year 1781 in Georgia and that he the said Elijah marched off with said Company to said Siege and this deponent heard at that time that the said Elijah was a soldier and that this deponent lived in the neighborhood of the said Elijah and always understood & believed him to be a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed before us in open court this first day of May 1837 in open Court.

S/ Abner Bankston



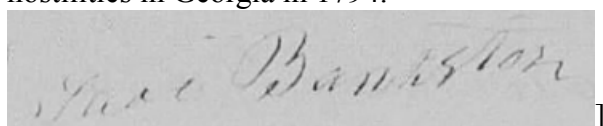
[p 6 of 80-page file: Ga., Butts County, Elizabeth Bankston, widow of Elijah filed for a pension stating; that her husband died February 22, 1849 in Butts County; that they were married February 1, 1787 in Chester District SC; that her name before her marriage was Elizabeth Morris. Filed March 29, 1851. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 10 of 80-page file: On December 17, 1858 in Butts County Georgia, Alfred Bankston, 53, gave testimony that he is the son of Elijah and Elizabeth Bankston; that his father made out and filed in Washington City is it claim for a pension; that his mother Elizabeth has also claimed a pension; that he often heard his father in his lifetime speak of the bounty land granted to him by the state of Georgia for his services in the revolution and that his father told affiant that he let his father, Jacob Bankston take said land and that Jacob lived in Wilkes County Georgia at the time.

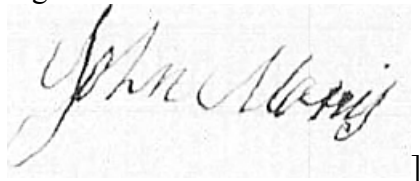


[p 14/80: On June 8, 1859 in Butts County John, Isaac Bankston a resident of said County gave testimony that he was born in Salisbury North Carolina; that he has no record of his age but believes he is about 93 years old; that the affiant's father was named Daniel Bankston and was the brother of Jacob Bankston who was the father of Elijah Bankston the deceased husband of Elizabeth Bankston; that

affiant's father Daniel and his brother Jacob moved from North Carolina and settled in Wilkes County Georgia about the commencement of the revolutionary war; that at the time of the commencement of the war the affiant was a boy large enough to go to the mill and do milling on horseback for his folks at Heards Mill in Wilkes County; that 2 of 3 years after the war commenced, the affiants father, Daniel, moved back with his family to North Carolina and his father's brother Jacob remained with his family in Wilkes County Georgia; that 2 or 3 years after the war ended, the affiants father Daniel moved back to Wilkes County Georgia where Jacob's son Elijah was then living; that Elijah was older than affiant and was old enough to have perform military service during the war; that Andrew Bankston was the affiants father's brother; that Andrew moved from North Carolina and settled about Bench Island in South Carolina before the revolution; that Andrew had 2 sons, one named James and the other Daniel and did not have a son named Elijah; that Peter Bankston, another brother of the affiants father moved from North Carolina after the Revolution and settled in Wilkes County Georgia; that Peter had 4 sons, Lang, Andrew, John and William and did not have a son named Elijah; that affiant is the identical person who obtained a bounty land warrant for his service under Captain Carson in the Indian hostilities in Georgia in 1794.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Andrew Bankston". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 19/80: On February 2, 1854 in Butts County Georgia, John Morris gave testimony that he was born in 1784 in South Carolina; that Elizabeth Langston, the widow of Elijah Bankston is his sister; that she has been married to Elijah Bankston as far back as the affiant can remember and that they lived together as husband and wife and raised a large family of children.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John Morris". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

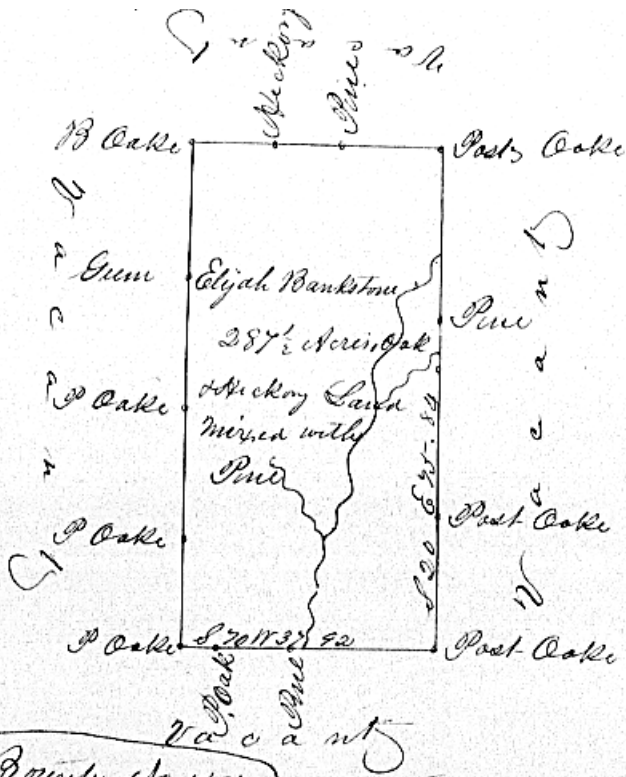
[p 3/of the 16-page file: On April 3rd, 1855 in Butts County Georgia, Elizabeth Bankston, 87, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Elijah Clarke, a revolutionary war veteran; that she married him the first day of February in the year 1787 or 1788; that they were married by James Knox, a justice of the peace; that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Morris; that her husband died in Butts County Georgia February 22, 1848; she signed this document with her mark.]

[file16/p 13]

"State of Georgia, This is to certify, that Elijah Bankston hath steadfastly done his duty, from the time of passing an Act at Augusta, to wit. on the 20th of August, 1781 until the total Expulsion of the British from this State; and the said Elijah Bankston cannot, to my knowledge or belief, be convicted of plundering or distressing the Country; and is therefore, under the said act entitled to a Bounty of two hundred and Fifty acres of good Land, free from Taxes for ten years.

Given under my hand, at Savannah the 2nd day of July 1784

S/ Elijah Clarke, Col."



On Bounty No 151

GEORGIA.

Wilkes

COUNTY.

WARRANT dated on the
and Surveyed on the
Advertised on the

Scale of 20 Chains to an Inch.

10 day of September 1784
16 day of November 1784
day of 1

BY *John McGarland* Dy S.

Certified by C. S.

} c. c.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Milledgeville, Ga.

27 day of January 1859

I certify the above is a true copy from the Record Book

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Given under my hand and private Seal, there being no Seal of Office.