

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Beckam (Beckman) May R7049

f21GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 4]

State of Georgia Columbia County:

Personally came before me, Stephen Drane, a Judge of the Inferior Court, for and in said County and State on the Twentieth day of October, 1855, Beckam May, aged one hundred years past who being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and on his oath says, that he desires to obtain, and, for, that, purpose makes this declaration, the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. He declares and says, that, he was a soldier of the Revolutionary war against Great Britain in 1776, that, he entered the service as a private under Captain Samuel Beckam [Samuel Beckham] of the Georgia Militia in 1776, and, was out in many Indian & Tory skirmishes on Little River, Ogeechee, and other places, and he further declares and says that, he was with General Elijah Clarke at the Siege of Augusta¹, and, was subsequently with him in his retreat to Kentucky, and previously in his retreat to North Carolina, which was opposed by John Jones, Richard Jones & others, And, he further deposes and says, he was at the battle of Kettle Creek in 1779,² at which Pickens [Andrew Pickens] and Clarke were present and the Tory Colonel Boyd [James Boyd] was killed. After this, he says, he went and camped near where were Washington [Wilkes County, Georgia] now stands and, subsequently, he entered a company under Colonel Leonard Marbury³ and crossed the Savannah, and, were joined by Colonel Andrew Williamson, and, after which, we passed over to Brownsboro in Richmond County Georgia. At this place, we were attacked by a British Captain named Whitley, and, I was under a Captain Cooper in a detachment that, had been sent out by Colonel Marbury; we had a skirmish & Lieutenant Hall was taken & killed by hanging, after, we had took Whitley's command, he was hung at Ninety Six, and, for the reason he had deserted our service. And, he further declares, he was with Colonel Marbury's Dragoons, when they encountered a party of British just before the battle of Briar Creek [Brier Creek, March 3, 1779].⁴ After this he says, he was in the company who assembled at Wrightsborough, in this County and marched against the Creeks, under Colonel Leroy Hammond, General Clarke, Colonel Few [Benjamin Few], and Lieutenant

¹ probably the unsuccessful first siege of Augusta, September 12-18, 1780

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800914-augusta/>

² Kettle Creek February 14, 1779

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

³ [**Leonard Marbury W27446**](#)

⁴ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

Alexander and others. From this period up to the second siege of Augusta in 1781,⁵ he says, he was engaged in various warlike and hard open [sic] military duties, such as scouting, spying, and skirmishing against the Indians and Tories. At the siege of Augusta, he says, he was present & well recollects, Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens], Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], Clarke, and Captain Rudolph [perhaps Captain Michael Rudolph of Lee's Legion], also, Captain Richard Jones, and, many others. After this, he says, he was at Ninety Six in 1781⁶ & in the Cherokee expedition under General Clark and Pickens,⁷ & they rendezvoused for the campaign at Long Creek Wilkes County Georgia, on the 16th September 1782, a day he will never forget. Clarke's command consisted of only 10 volunteers from Richmond County Georgia or St. Paul's Parish, and, I was one of them, added to them he had 89 others from other places, making 99 in all Pickens had over 300. On the 24th he crossed the Beaver Shoals on the Chattahoochee River, he went after Waters' party, Colonel Robert Anderson of South Carolina was with us, but, Waters fled. On the 8th October, Colonel Clarke went again after Waters, but, he fled on the 17th of October, we held a treaty at Long Swamp, at which Colonel Clarke & General Pickens were present, this closed the scene [?]⁸ and on the 22nd of October 1783, we were discharged at Long Creek, and after, that, he says, he was not much in service, only, and Indian skirmishes on the frontiers & I was brevet Lieutenant about 4 months.

And he further declares and says, that, he would have applied long since, for a Pension, but, was informed he was excluded by a property qualification. And he further declares and says, that, he has lost all his papers in regard to his services, never expecting to get anything and took, but, little care of them; and, he knows of no documentary or other evidence now living or in existence by which he can sustain it, & hence, he appeals to the Pension Bureau; for justice, as he is now infirm, lost to a degree in memory, by dint of old age, and, hence physically unable to sustain himself. And he hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any Pension or annuity in his name except the present, and he declares that, his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State by his knowledge or consent, that, he is aware of now, does he want a cent only fairly and justly; and, he further declares that, while he may by reason of old age and loss of memory err in dates as to his service he thinks the facts are generally correct and refers to the history of the country to sustain them.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

S/ Stephen Drane, JIC

S/ Beckom May, X his mark

[H. A. Ramsay and Wiley Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[paper in the file (p 14) notes that as of June 18, 1856, the applicant was dead and that the applicant was the father of Matilda Tucker.⁹]

[p 16]

On the 20 October 1855, Beckam May swears he was a soldier against Great Britain in 1776,

⁵ Siege of Augusta (second/Clarke) [May 22-June 6, 1781] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

⁶ May 21-June 19, 1781 http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁷ September 16-October 17, 1782

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_last_cherokee_campaign.html

⁸ 

⁹ She was the widow of [John Tucker R10738](#)

entered as a private under Captain Samuel Beckam of the Georgia Militia in 1776, was out in many Indian & Tory skirmishes on Little River, Ogeechee & other places, was with General Elijah Clarke at the siege of Augusta, was with him when he retreated to Kentucky & previously to his retreat through North Carolina which was opposed by John Jones, Richard Jones & others, was in the battle of Kettle Creek in 1779 at which battle Pickens & Clarke were present & Colonel Boyd the Tory was killed. He subsequently encamped near where Washington now stands, then entered a company under Colonel Leonard Marbury, crossed Savannah River & joined Colonel Andrew Williamson & passed to Brownsboro Richmond County Georgia, was attacked by a British Captain named Whitley, was then under command of Captain Cooper, had a skirmish & Lieutenant Hall was taken & killed by hanging, Whitley was taken & hung at Ninety Six because he had deserted the service, was with Colonel Marbury when he was attacked by a party of British first before the battle of Brier Creek. After this was in the company that assembled at Wrightsborough & marched against the Creeks under Colonel Leroy Hammond, General Clarke, Colonel Few & others. From this period he was engaged in hard duties to the 2nd siege of Augusta in 1781, was present at the siege of Augusta, Captain Richard Jones was there, was at Ninety Six in 1781 and the Cherokee expedition under Generals Clarke & Pickens, rendezvoused at Long Creek -- on the 16 September 1782, well remembers the day &c, mentions treaties &c give dates &c give the usual reason for not having applied sooner.

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State of Georgia County of Columbia

On this the Twenty Ninth day of November 1855, personally came before me Stephen Drane a Judge of the Inferior Court for and in said County and State, Isaac Brooks of the County of Warren, said State, who appears here because there is no magistrate in his District, and, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say, he is personally acquainted with Beckam May of the County of Columbia, who applies for a Pension under the Act of June the 7th 1832, and, he further says he is near about the age of Beckam May, he being 97 years of age, & he further says, he knew the said Beckam May during the Revolutionary war, they were raised boys together, and, that, while Beckam was never a regularly constituted regular he was in and through the whole war from 1776 to 1783, and done good and effectual service, being wounded in the thigh upon one occasion. And he further says the said Beckam May, was under Captain Samuel Beckam as a Lieutenant by brevet and, he was at the siege of Augusta, Ninety Six, at Brier Creek, Clarke's Retreat, and at the skirmish and expedition to Long Creek, and the treaty of the latter in 1782. All these occurrences took place in 1782, 1781, 1779, 1780 -- and, the said Beckam May's father was killed in a skirmish on the Ogeechee near Newsom's Fort in 1779, and my father was killed by Captain Josiah Dunn, in the County of Columbia, on the Kiokee Creek, who fought through the war and was with May at the siege of Augusta and other places. These things I know to be correct and I have no interest whatever in the claim. I was not in May's company, but, I know the facts to be correct to the line; and I am now in my 97th year. Sworn to and subscribed before me, the day and year above written.

S/ Isaac Brooks, X his mark

[Note on p 2 reads:

Beckam May [sic]

1832

P} See May's affidavit in the case of Matilda Tucker widow of John [[John Tucker R10738](#)] of

Georgia, Act. 1838—and also in the case of Richard Jones of Ga 1832]