

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Utterback S16559

Transcribed by Will Graves

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rev'd 7/19/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Indiana, Morgan County

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Morgan Circuit Court sitting in & for the County aforesaid Benjamin Utterback a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 77 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States or rather in the Virginia State Troops or line in the month of October as he now believes in the year 1777 with Captain Elias Edmonds and served in a Regiment of Virginia line, its denomination now forgotten, under the following named officers Colonel commandant Thomas Marshal [Thomas Marshall], Major Elias Edmonds – Adjutant Harry or Henry Vorels [Henry Vowles]—Pope [Matthew Pope?]- surgeon of our officers of the Regiment not now recollected. Edmonds with whom this applicant first enlisted served only for a short time as a Captain before he was promoted to the office of Major and one Samuel Blackwell succeeded Edmonds as Captain. Nathaniel Rice to the best of applicant's recollection was the Lieutenant of his Company the Ensign not now recollected certainly but thinks, one James Lipscomb. This applicant was the first or orderly Sergeant. This applicant at the time of his enlistment was a resident of Fauquier County Virginia in which County he is informed he was born. He enlisted for the term of three years with 18 others at Fauquier Court House in the month & year above stated. His was a company of artillery – short time after his enlistment he was marched by his Captain to Williamsburg through Fredericksburg by Hanover Court House. A short time after his arrival at Williamsburg a number of companies of the Virginia state troops were assembled. In the same fall of 1777 this Regiment was marched through Little York and Hampton to Norfolk about 70 miles from Williamsburg – stayed a short time at Norfolk & then returned again to Little York where the Regiment took up winter quarters. The applicant's company remained the greater part of the time at Little York and the adjacent towns. He thinks the summer of 1778 Captain Edmonds was promoted to the office of Major & Samuel Blackwell before named was made Captain of his company. In the summer or fall of 1778 or 1779 but which of those two years he cannot now recollect a detachment from the troops laying at Little York were ordered to march to Smithfield to repel the invasion of the British forces that had landed just below that place. The applicant went in a company of volunteers commanded by Captain Clay [Capt. Thomas Clay?]. They marched through no towns but arrived at Smithfield in about two days after they left Little York. They on their arrival or about the time they arrived, met about 1100 Virginia Militia who had also been raised for the purpose of defending Smithfield. But the British soon after their arrival went aboard of their vessels & not a gun was fired. His company stayed there three or four weeks, when they marched back to Little York where they wintered a third time to the best of his recollection. This applicant with the rest of his company & Regiment was ordered to the South or as it was then referred to St. Augustine. They left their contonement [sic ?] sometime in April 1780 about the first of the month – crossed the James River at Jamestown, thence to Petersburg; thence Hillsboro N. C. thence to Guilford Court House, thence to Salisbury & from Salisbury they marched towards Colonel Blufort's [sic,

Abraham Buford's] Army -- & came within 12 miles of his Army before they heard of his defeat -- and receiving that news, Col. Charles Porterfield formed their forces into a line of battle where they remained for a short time & then retreated back through Salisbury to near the Roanoke River in Virginia where they met General Gates' Army but General Gates not with them, the Main Army, to the best of applicant's recollection being under the command of General Smallwood. The Corps to which this applicant belonged joined Gates' Army and immediately advanced into North Carolina -- & General Gates overtook them in a very few days -- that he made no halt until they arrived at Rugeley's Mill, where they laid the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1780 -- on the 15<sup>th</sup> the Army under the command of Gates moved about dark towards Camden -- Colonel Porterfield commanding the advance guard. They marched about 6 miles from the mill when both of the advanced guards of the two armies met. He thinks about one o'clock in the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. It was a moon light night. After a few shots exchanged by the advanced guard of the contending parties in which Colonel Porterfield was killed, firing ceased & they stood under arms until day light, when the hostilities of again commenced in a grove of long leaved pine trees. The contest was kept up about three hours to the best of applicant's recollection. The company that this applicant belonged to was on that day he commanded by Captain Christopher Roan [sic, Christopher Roane?] -- Captain Blackwell having left the company at Petersburg on their march to the South. Captain Roan was wounded in 10 steps of this applicant with a bayonet in his shoulder during the engagement. He was also with them 50 steps of Baron De Kalb when he was killed and very shortly after that brave officer fell, General Nelson's light horse gave way & the troops of the regular Army retreated in confusion -- the militia having most disgracefully abandoned the cause at the commencement of the battle. This applicant with the retreating Army proceeded in this order to Hillsboro and remained there until October thereafter when he was regularly discharged by Major John Mazrett [sic, John Mazarett] which discharge this applicant retained in his possession for some years thereafter when he lost or mislaid the same & has no documentary evidence of his service as above set forth. He resided two years in Fauquier County after his discharge when he moved to the State of Kentucky where he resided until about the year 1822 when he removed to this State where he has resided ever since in the County of Monroe & Morgan. He has no record proof of his age.

He is well acquainted with George M. Baker a clergyman & Bernard Arnold who live in the neighborhood where he now resides and can state as to his character for veracity & their belief as to his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

This applicant hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any State of the Union or territory.

Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Geo. A. Phelps, Clk

S/ Benjamin Utterback



[George M. Baker, a clergyman and Bernard Arnold gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]