

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Sharp S17086

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 1/31/12 & 6/9/15

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

State of Missouri, Montgomery County

On this 7 day of May A. D. 1833, personally appeared in open court before the circuit court a court of record of Montgomery County and State of Missouri now sitting Benjamin Sharp a resident of said county of Warren and State aforesaid aged seventy-one 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the month of June or July 1776 the whole country where I resided was broken up and driven into forts by the Cherokee Indians. I then resided in what was the Fincastle County now Washington County Virginia. I volunteered and entered the service under the command of Captain Andrew Colville and did duty at Black's Fort near where Abingdon now stands. I was then about 14 years of age. I was after some time marched to Shelby's Fort, then in North Carolina, now in Sullivan County and State of Tennessee, but I was generally employed in the defense of Black's Fort for the defense of which the troops to which I was attached were raised. At this time most of the effective man in that part of the country had been, or were about to be, marched against the Cherokee Indians under Colonel William Christian and, commonly called Christian's Campaign. I was employed in this service, as I believe, somewhere between four and five months, but the precise length of time I am unable to say. I do not recollect of being at this time under any higher grade of officer than a Captain, nor do I recollect who were subaltern officers in Captain Colville's company. I received no written discharge from this service, as I remember, but think, I received pay in paper money.

Sometime after the above service was performed, but what year I cannot call to mind, but it was in the summer season, a report reached Washington County where I resided that the Glade Hollow Fort on Clinch River, then Washington County, but now Russell County Virginia was taken by the Indians and all the people killed. I volunteered under Captain James Dysart and I believe Samuel Newel was Lieutenant and James Vance, Ensign. The Glade Hollow Fort was about 35 or 30 miles from the Fort Black's. We went to the Glade Hollow Fort and found it not taken, but the alarm had been raised from the Indians' attacking and defeating a company of man commanded by Captain Smith in view of the Fort, two of Smith's men were killed, one was called Priest, and the other Little. I was employed in this service perhaps six weeks or more either guarding the forts or ranging. I served part of the time as a spy, and the balance as a private. I received no written discharge nor was I ever paid for it as I remember.

In the year either 1778 or 1779 as I believe a report reached us that the Tories were embodying on New River in order to destroy the lead works in that quarter on which the Western country chiefly depended for their supply of that necessary article. I then volunteered under Captain James Fulkerson and I believe Nathaniel Dryden was Ensign. We marched under the command of Colonel William Campbell to New River and kept our headquarters in part of Pepper's Ferry and at Michael Price's five or six miles from thence, where detachments were constantly sent out in search of Tories, a good many of them we took, and among others, a Captain Britain who it was said held a Captain's commission among the Tories. I do not know how long I was employed in this service, some six weeks or more. I was not discharged in writing nor paid for this service as I remember.

In the year 1780 as I believe, Col. McDowell of North Carolina fled over the mountain from the head waters of the Catawba River, being driven from thence by a large body of British and Tories under the command of Major Ferguson, a British Officer. I then volunteered I think early in September under Captain Robert Craig, Lieut. William Blackburn and Ensign Nathaniel Dryden, and we marched for the Carolinas under the command of Col. William Campbell. On our way we were joined by the Cols. Shelby, Sevier, Cleveland & Genl. Williams, and their regiments. We overtook the British and Tories in South Carolina on Kings Mountain where Ferguson was killed and his whole army killed or taken. I was in the battle. Col. Campbell was appointed to Command & Genl. Williams and my commanding Lieut. and Ensign were killed in the action. The battle was fought I believe on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of October and I think I returned home about the last of November. I left Col. Campbell by his permission, after the Company I served in had left him, he was then about two days march below Wilkes Courthouse on the Yadkin River in North Carolina. On this expedition we suffered greatly through hard duty and want of provision.

A few weeks after my return from King's Mountain information was received that the Indians were coming in force against the settlements. I then volunteered under the command of Captain Andrew Cowan, and by the courtesy of the superior officers, I commanded as Ensign in said company but as there was no other subaltern officers in the company, I did the duty of lieutenant during the whole of that expedition, but was not commissioned. We marched for the Cherokee towns under the command of Colonel Arthur Campbell. The advance of the Army met the Indians on their way to the settlements, killed seven or eight of them and caused them to retreat. I was in several skirmishes with the Indians [on] this campaign, one of which was very warm while it continued. This service as well as I can remember continued about six weeks or two months. It was in the dead of winter. We were in the town on Christmas day. We destroyed a great deal of corn, and other provisions, burned 16 or 17 towns; killed a good many Indians; took 30 or 40 women and children prisoners; and took a good many cannon; we sent the prisoners and cannon up the river to Fort Henry at the Long Island on Holston River. I cannot remember of receiving written discharges or pay either for this or that King's Mountain expedition. This is the last service I recollect of performing in the war of the revolution. I was prepared at another time to march for the defense of Kentucky against an army of British and Indians advancing from Canada, but before we started, intelligence was received that they had taken Ruffles [Fort] and another Fort the name of which I do not now remember and had made good their retreat with the prisoners to Detroit, in consequence of which the expedition did not proceed.

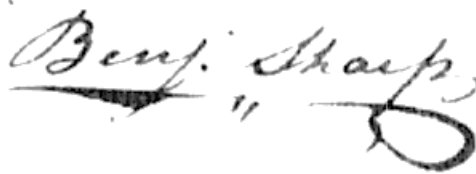
The Reverend Robert Baker, an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose deposition is annexed to this statement can prove my being in the expeditions to King's Mountain

and the Cherokee towns, but I do not know of any others in this country who know of it, nor have I any documentary evidence of these matters. The mode of our discharges generally was, when the service was done, we were permitted to go home without any further ceremony.

I Benjamin Sharp relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state and at all times I was out until I was discharged. I was employed in military, not civil, pursuits.

Sworn to and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Benj. Sharp

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benj. Sharp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Benj. Sharp".

Attest: S/ Jacob L. Sharp, Clerk

The following in her auto Tories were propounded to the see it Benjamin sharp by the court:

1<sup>st</sup>: When and in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in the County of Lancaster now Dauphin County Pennsylvania in the year 1762.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it? Answer: I have none but what I found in my father's Bible which I transcribed into my own Bible and have it now in my possession.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? Answer: I first lived in Fincastle County Virginia which was afterwards Washington County where I lived at all the times I was called into service. After the revolution I moved to Lee County Virginia and for about the last 16 years, I have resided in the County of Montgomery or by that part of it which has lately been [illegible].

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute? Answer: I always volunteered and never was drafted or entered as a substitute. The manner of our being called out was a sergeant or other inferior officer came around and informed us we were wanted and [we] joined and marched to the point where we were directed by our superior officers.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Answer: I knew of no regular officers to be with us and as to the name of the regiments, I have stated the name of the commanders above. As to our service, it was doing fort duty generally and ranging duty on horseback and pursuit of Indians, British and Tories.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it? Answer I'd never received any written discharge nor was I commissioned. When I acted as Ensign as before stated, I simply was appointed by my superiors and did the duty: very few officers those days wanted for commissions.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution. Answer: Nathaniel Dryden and Sylvester Baker, the Reverend Samuel C. Ruby, Nathaniel Hart, Frederick Griswold and James Hughes Esquire all of Montgomery or Warren County.

Sworn to and Subscribe to in open court the 7th May 1832.

S/ Benj. Sharp

Attest: S/ Jacob L. Sharp, Clerk

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State of Missouri Montgomery County

I Robert Baker<sup>1</sup> state and make oath that I have seen the statement made above by Benjamin Sharp & further state that I was with him in the expedition & fight at Kings Mountain & the one to the Cherokee Towns as set forth in his statement &c That he served the same and at the latter place saw him exercise the duties & command of an Ensign or Lieutenant & saw him frequently out in command of detachments as such officer & I believe he has stated the facts as the [they] exist as to the balance of what I did not know of my own knowledge.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 7th May 1833

S/ Robert Baker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

[Nathaniel Pendleton, a clergyman, David J Talbot and Christopher Talbot gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35.97 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> [Robert Baker S16628](#)