

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Bates S32105

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

Before the Honorable Circuit Court of the County of Greene & State of Illinois, April Term 1832: (the said Court being a Court of Record:)

Present Honorable: Samuel D. Lockwood, Judge:

Personally appeared in open Court, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1832, (and said Court, being a Court of Record by Statute for the State & County aforesaid) William Bates, who being first duly sworn according to law, make the following Declaration, in order to be placed upon the Pension List under the Acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 1818, and the first of May, 1820; -- that that he, the said William Bates is now a resident of said County of Greene, & State of Illinois, and aged 75 years: -- That he enlisted for the term of Eighteen months, on the \_\_\_ day of March, or April, in the year 1781 in the State of North Carolina, in the company commanded by Captain Dixon [probably Tilghman Dixon], in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Clark, in the line of the State of North Carolina, and was under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] on the Continental Establishment; -- That he continued to serve in said Corps until December or January, in the year 1782, or 1783, when he was discharged from the Service in Wilmington in the State of North Carolina: -- That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a Pension, except the present: -- That his name is not on the Roll of any State, except North Carolina; -- That the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a Pension: --

First: -- Ever since the Revolutionary War, in which I lost many relations & property, being poor, I chose the Western Frontier, wishing more for revenge from the Indians, than a Pension from my Country: --

Secondly: Neither was I blest with Education, and of course could not read the Laws, which give me a right to a Pension: neither did I know of the Benevolent Law until a short time since; & perhaps I would not have heard thereof, if I had not become too frail to labor, & support my helpless family; & some of the people, who heard me relating of my suffering, & hard fighting under General Greene, as a Revolutionary Soldier, and formed me of the Law of Congress &c whereupon, I think fully & confidently passed the just bounty of my Country.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or other wise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, as follows, viz:

One horse, 10 years old, worth	\$20
One mare & colt	\$20
One old Wagon	\$20
Four Cows, two 2-year olds, two yearlings, & one bull	\$40

80 Acres of thin soil hill Land, (a small parcel thereof is fit for cultivation)	100
A few stock hogs, worth	6
Household & kitchen furniture	6
One Axe, 2 old ploughs, & 1 Hoe	<u>4</u>
Total amount of property	\$216.00

I think the above estimate to be more than I could sell my property for, in cash; but I could not part with it, unless I should brake [break] up housekeeping. I am a farmer by occupation; but by reason of age & infirmities, particularly the Rheumatism, I am not able to follow it; no: not able, many times to get firewood.

The age of my wife is thirty-five years. The name of the oldest child living with me is Susannah, aged 12 years; the next is named Joseph, aged 10 years; the name of the next is William, aged 8; and the next is named Mary Ann aged Six months. Thus while my wife has a suckling child to take care of, there are none of the rest of my family that are able to support themselves, in a frontier, where female labor is of a little worth, not one of my children has any learning; and it gives me pain to think of having to leave them on the cold charity of a merciless world, without being able to read a Chapter in the Bible: -- for in the course of nature, I cannot live much longer with them.

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818, no material change has taken place in my property, except that I had to sell about 50 acres off of my land, to James Bates, the son of my first wife, for what we valued in horses, at \$70; which sale or trade was made in the year 1825: hence my present horses, as above stated.

And I will here observe, that it is impossible for me to remember the precise time that I entered the regular Service. For two years previous, I have been engaged as a spy, by Colonel Shepherd, in the militia service; and when General Greene came to the South, I enlisted for eighteen months. But I well remember, that I was in the Regular Service, at the time of the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] or shortly after when General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] commanded our force: and I shall never forget the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]: and lastly, I do remember, that we were marched to Wilmington at or after, the close of the Revolutionary War, & there discharged. -- But whether I served just eighteen months for which I enlisted, or a little longer, or a few weeks shorter, I am not certain; but I am certain, that I served until Peace was made. And with a due deference, (though my memory may have failed, and for want of education I could not write down any date, yet) I submit my just claim to the Board of War, confident that if the Laws mean to give a Pension to any, who have served long, & suffered much, both in the Militia, as well as in the Continental Establishment, in the Revolutionary War, I am one, who comes fairly within the provisions of said Acts.

S/ William Bates, X his mark

Sworn to & declared on the fifth of April 1832, before Moses O. Bledsoe, Clerk

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State of Illinois, County of Greene

On this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of January 1833 – Personally Appeared before the County Commissioners Court of Greene County in the State of Illinois, William Bates a resident of said County aged Seventy-Six 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – That he Enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1781, out of the militia Service while they were guarding some British prisoners – then in jail at Salisbury in the State of North Carolina – he was informed that the Tories had determined to assassinate him, and therefore enlisted rather than return home with the militia – and that he was sent and put under the command of Captain Dixon in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Clarke (he thinks it was the first Regiment of the Line of the State of North Carolina-- he cannot remember the precise time he entered the regular

service, as it was only a change from the militia to the regular service for two years previous he had been engaged in the militia service, for the most part as a spy for Colonel Shepherd. But he remembers that he was in the militia service at the time of General Gates Defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] – and perhaps when the Battle of the Cowpens was fought, when General Morgan commanded our force. -- But he is certain he was in the regular service at the time of the Battle of the Eutaw Springs where Greene commanded our force &c he remembers to have seen while in the Army the following officers, viz.: General Greene, General Marion [Francis Marion] and Colonel de Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] and General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Colonel Washington [William Washington] and many others – that he was marched a great deal through both Carolinas – but mostly on the frontiers as a spy as he was used to the Forest & frontier, and therefore was often on express &c and that he was at last transferred or sent with a Detached party to Wilmington near Cape Fear River in the State of North Carolina, where he was Discharged, he cannot remember the names of the officers at the last mentioned place, But he thinks it was one Major McCree, or a subaltern officer at that place that gave him a Discharge at or after the close of the war – which Discharge he has lost, nor could he read it. But whether he served just the eighteen months for which he Enlisted, or a little longer or a few weeks shorter he is not certain. -- But he is certain that he served until peace was made – And although his memory has failed, and for want of education he could not write down any dates, nor read any that was written, yet he submits his just Claim to the Board of War, Confident that if the Law means to give a pension to any who has Served Long & Suffered much Both in the militia as well as the Regular Service, he is one that comes fairly within the meaning of said acts – yet he has no Documentary Evidence of his Service – and has Been informed that his name is not on the Rolls Returned to the War Department nor does he know of any person in this place by whom he can prove the facts. But he appeals to all that has known him for many years who can testify to his Standing for truth and veracity – he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension, except the present, and he Declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Bates, X his mark

[Young Wood, late Sheriff, and Colonel Fry [Jacob Fry], the present Sheriff of Greene County and the Richard Rattan, treasurer of the County, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The following Questions was a part of the applicant

1<sup>st</sup> where and in what year was you born? Ans: in Pennsylvania. Have you any Record of your age? Ans No – Where were you living when called into service and where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live – Ans – I then lived on the Adkin [sic, Yadkin] River in the State of North Carolina – and something like 23 years I have lived near the Mississippi River and within 15 miles of where the town of Alton now stands – for the last 23 years – how were you called into Service? Ans: I went a volunteer in the militia service & enlisted out of that into the regular Service – (he has named many of the officers with whom he was acquainted, who were with the regular troops, and so in regard to his Discharge – and many credible witnesses to whom he is known for near 20 years – the said Court do Declare their opinion after the investigation – that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier & Served as he States. The Court certifies that the witnesses who signed the preceding Certificate have & do Bare the offices therein mentioned & are entitled to credit.

[Facts in file: “Bithy [also spelled Bitha] Bates” was the name of applicant's wife in 1825 when he and she conveyed land to James Bates.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line and militia.]