

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Absalom Baker S35181 ¹

f41NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 6/17/06

rev'd 5/1/09 & 8/7/14

[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.]

[p 9]

I Absolum Baker [Absalom Baker] was an inhabitant of North Carolina and had a wife and two infant children at the commencement of the revolutionary war my circumstances were comfortable and my family dear to me notwithstanding the zeal that I felt in the glorious cause of liberty induced me to enter the contental [Continental] Service which I did in the month of May 1775 and continued regularly in the Service of my Country until in the Spring of 1781 a term of nearly Six years the battles and skirmeges [skirmishes or scrimmages] that I was in were as follows, the battle at ramsours mill [Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780], eutaw springs [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] near[?] [,] baconsbridge [Bacon's Bridge] [,] Stono ferry [June 20, 1777] [,] hanging rock [Hanging Rock, August 6, 1780][,] Sumters defeat Camden district[Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780,] Buford defeat [Waxhaws, May 29, 1780][,] kingsmountain [Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780][,] gateses [Gates'] defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] where I got wounded in the right ankle and Guilford courthouse [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] [,] [T]he sufferings and privations above mentioned is [are] not all, I lost a waggon [wagon] and team that cost me eight hundred dollars and two likely negroes which cost me one thousand dollars taken by agnew [Agnew] a tory [Tory] officer[.] [T]o compleat [complete] my misfortunes[,] twenty one thousand seven hundred dollars of continental money perished in my hands twenty one hundred of which I had exchanged gold and silver for. [T] the foregoing is to inform your honourable body of my term of Service in the revolutionary war, the battles I was in and the loses I sustained during the period, now if your honours do beleave [believe] that an old revolutionary veteran who is tottering as it were on the brink of the grave and who knows that he must shortly appear to give an account of the deads [deeds] done in this life, I if your honours do beleave [believe] a man under such circumstances is capable of speaking the truth you may rely on the foregoing statement as being authentically true.

S/ Absolum Baker Sr.

[no date]

¹ Confusion reigns with reference to the number assigned to this file. While the cover sheet and the internal letters from the War Department refer to the file as "S35184," the file is indexed by Fold3.com and Ancestry.com. That number also appears to be the file designation used by the National Archives when it microfilmed the records. I have decided to use the National Archives' file number.

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The following Statement Gentlemen are facts[.] I entered under Capt. John Brannon [John Brandon] N. Ca.—the first action was at Ramsowers [Ramsour's] Mills lincon [Lincoln] County N. Ca. Commanded by Major James Retherford [Rutherford][.] 2nd Action Com'd by the same at Autaw [Eutaw] Springs Santee S. Ca. 3rd Action Com'd by Genl. Lincon [Lincoln] Stonee [Stono] Battleaderster [?] River near Charleston S. Ca. and at the Sieadge [Siege] of Charleston taken a prisoner [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] and kept under a strict gard [guard] for thirty days until exchanged[.]

5th Action Bluefats [Buford's] defeat near Camden S. Ca.

6[th] do Genl Sumters defeat Hanging Rock S. Ca.

7[th] do Genl Gates [Defeat] near Camden S. Ca. whare [where] I was wounded in my right ancle [ankle] [and I] was sent the Hospittle [hospital] and thare [there] remained. When Cornwallace [Cornwallis] Crossed the river of Cortober [Catawba]—I was Commanded by Genl. Davis [sic, William Lee Davidson] who was killed during the time of the enemys [enemy's] crossing—Then Genl. Green [Nathanael Greene] tooke [took] Com'd and followed the enemy with speed to Guilford Coty [County] North Ca. whare [where] they had a very severe time which was the last engagement I was in and the last that Cornwallace [Cornwallis] had in America. Genl. Green [Greene] followed them to York whare [where] I took the small pox and returned home.

Gentlemen I do this to let you know what I have suffered—If you please Judge for yourselves and say whether or not I deserve any aid. If I do in the name of god let me have it[.] [Y]ou see my situation, you must know I need it and I assure you it is Justly due me—Your very obt. Humble Servt.

S/ Absomum Baker

[no date]

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Rowan County State of North Carolina 20th August 1822

To the Senators & Representatives in Congress from the State of Illinois

We your petitioners do represent to you that we are well acquainted with Absolum Baker—during the revolutionary war in which he served five years and eight months under me John Brannon—and that to our knowledge Mr. Baker was in seven set actions besides several skirmishes in one of which Battles he got wounded in his ancle [ankle]—this we think was at Gates defeat near Camden South Carolina. [W]e state that we do not think that there was a better soldier in the war than Baker—he was always ready to go out on any dangerous service when he was called upon and always performed his duty well—As Cornwallis went through the State of North Carolina one Coln [Colonel] Agner [Agnew?] took from Baker two likely negroes which cost him one thousand dollars, a waggon [wagon] and five horses which cost him eight hundred [dollars] which Agner took to Cornwallis' Army and Baker never again got the property or any money for it to our knowledge. [T]he reason why it was [that] the Board would not allow the value, as Baker supposed, and he would not take any thing. To our knowledge twenty one thousand seven hundred dollars of Continental money fell in his hands. Twenty one hundred dollars of which he changed [into] Gold and Silver for even—this twenty one hundred dollars he gave to his Brother for the same quantity of Continental money because he thought his Brother was well inclined to the Tories, and wanted to keep him well disposed to the new government[.]

[S]aid Baker was a man of good property but lost it all by the war and the Tories—and we think no man is better entitled to your notice than said Baker.

(signed) S/ John Brannon
S/ Martin Fifer²

The above is a copy of a letter from Brannon and Fifer addressed to Ninian Edwards which I have sent on to Washington to aid Mr. Baker in getting a pension.

(Signed)
S/ Wm. H. Brown

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This is to certify all to whom it may concern that the Bearer Absalom Baker he whom I am well acquainted with served under Col. John Brannon and Col. Martin Fifer [Martin Phifer] officers of the American Revolution war, and to my own certain knowledge was in various engagements in South Carolina, that I myself was with him at the Battle at the Hanging Rock, Camden district, Lincon's [sic, Lincoln's] defeat, Kings mountain and at General Gates defeat the latter at which he was wounded in the ankle and various other Battles that he was then to my own knowledge -- that the said Baker served under those officers for upwards of 5 years and whatever statements the said Col. John Brannon, or Col. Martin Fifer has made Respecting the said Baker may be taken as matters of fact, as I myself was well acquainted with them and served under them with said Absalom Baker. And I further certify that the said Absalom Baker lost two Negro men which cost him one thousand dollars, also one wagon & team which cost him eight hundred dollars, which property was taken by the enemy in time of war and that the said Baker has never to my knowledge received any Remuneration for the same.

S/ William Hall

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Hall". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century.

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I hereby certify that I William Mathers read and examined all the papers of Absalom Baker the bearer of these papers and in them was his regular discharge from the Continental Army of the United States in the Revolutionary war and I do certify that all these papers relative to his situation and claims have all been clandestinely taken from said Baker on the 1st day of January 1828 & illegally kept from him and that I am know [knowing] to all their contents for I read every paper myself on the 7th of January 1828 to all which I am ready & willing to swear before any proper authority and under these circumstances General Clark, Major Biddle & Col. McCree all gentlemen of St. Louis advised the old gentleman Mr. Baker to go in person and throw himself on the mercy of the President & Congress of the United States to see if the [sic, they] would grant relief to the bearer Absalom Baker as you will see now labors with the infirmities of old age in the evening of life his private resources being spent he is now sent to the National Capitol as a legal Claimant for services done in the prime of life in behalf of his country & we do sincerely hope no advantage will be taken for want of form in any of his documents so as to hinder that speedy relief he ought to have I remained ever a friend to the cause.

S/ Wm Mathers

² Sic, [Martin Pfifer \(Phifer\) S7312](#)



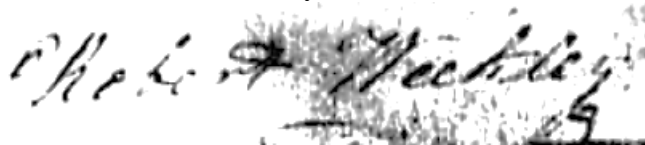
[p 24]

December 20, 1828

This is to inform you and all persons That I was acquainted with Absalom Baker Senior throughout the Revolutionary War and know that he served in said War between five & six years as a faithful soldier – and was in a number of set actions besides a number of skirmishes in one of which he got wounded at Gates defeat (in his right ankle) South Carolina near Camden. Said Baker was a man of good property and lost all of it by the Tories in said war \$21,000 fell in his hands of Continental money \$2100 of which he changed Gold & Silver for and as Cornwallis marched through North Carolina Colonel Agner took two likely Negro man from said Baker – which cost him \$1000 and a wagon and five horses cost him \$800 which he took Cornwallis' Army which Baker never got back or anything for for I was at the board of Commissioners when he presented his claim and they would not allow him what the property cost him and therefore he would not take anything. This I certify to your Honorable body that he may not be wronged out of his Just right and am sure he would not present before you anything [indecipherable word].³ Therefore I hope your Honorable body will not hesitate to remunerate him for his losses for I know the claim to be just.

Given under my hand Davidson County State of Tennessee. I also certify that I was well acquainted with John Brannon & Martin Phifer and any statement they have made in behalf of said Baker you may rely on as truth.

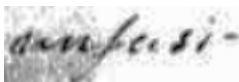
S/ Robert Weekley



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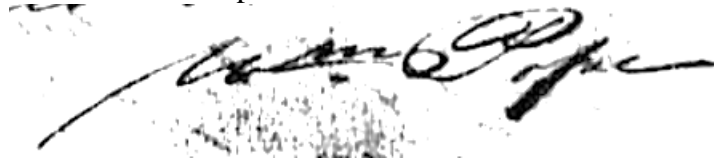
City of Washington March 6th, 1829

This is to Certify that I was Intimately Acquainted with Colonel John Brannon & Martin Fifer through the Revolutionary War and any statement that they have made relative to Absalom Baker Senior to assist him in drawing his pension and getting pay for his two Negroes and wagons and Team is undoubtedly true From my own knowledge of t unstained character and I hereby also certify that I was well acquainted with said Baker in said War and that to my own knowledge he served between 5 and 6 years and was in several Battles and various skirmishes Bearing the Character of a valiant Soldier and was wounded at Gates Defeat near Camden South Carolina and also of his Loss in taking odds of \$2000 of Continental Money 2100 Dollars of which he changed gold & silver for even and as Cornwallis marched through North Carolina Colonel Agnew took the likely Negro men and a wagon & team which two Negroes cost him said Baker \$1000 & said Wagon & team cost him \$800 which said Agnew took to Cornwallis' Camp and which said Baker never received Back or Compensation for in any way and I was Present when he said Baker presented his Claim for said Negroes & wagon & Team to the Board

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of Commissioners & they did not allow him as much as the cost of them he therefore would not receive anything I also Believe that if any man deserves your Charity as the Charity of any such an Honorable Body the Honorable Congress of the United States will certainly take Consideration for the decrepitude and impoverished Condition of the said Baker 1 of our forefathers of Liberty and I Trust you will not Hesitate to grant him justice and to extend to him a Liberal hand of Charity

Your & O.
S/ Wm Pope

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Pope", written in dark ink on a light background.

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State of Illinois Madison County

I William Hall do certify that I have been well acquainted with William Poke ever since he was a boy, I knew him during the whole time of the American revolutionary war, he was a good soldier and a man of an excellent character and any statement that he has made relative to Absalom Baker Senior as to the time of service in the revolutionary war as a valiant soldier being wounded at Gates defeat near Camden South Carolina and the loss of property &c I believe to be true -- I also certify that I have been personally acquainted with Absalom Baker Senior ever since the year 1816 and I believe him to be a good I next industrious citizen. February 24th 1830

S/ Wm Hall

[On the basis of this documentation, Baker was awarded a pension of \$8 per month commencing May 21, 1830 with arrearage of \$209.03, under the Act of Congress passed May 20, 1830. Baker was a resident of Illinois when the pension was awarded.]