

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Baker S39169

f26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/6/08 rev'd 8/8/14

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

[p 3]

State of Tennessee, Giles County

On this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ 1830 personally appeared in open Court, in the Circuit Court of Giles County in said State began & held for said County at the Court house in the Town of Pulaski on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August in the year 1830, the said circuit court being a "court of record proceeding according to the course of the common law, having unlimited Jurisdiction in point of amount & keeping a record of its proceedings," Samuel Baker, a resident in said County of Giles aged Seven Six [sic, 76] years who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and the first of May 1820. That he the said Samuel Baker enlisted for the Term of five years or during the war, Sometime in the month of July in the year 1777 (as well [as] declarant can now recollect not having anything to refer to for certainty as to dates, having lost his discharge after keeping it 15 or 20 years), in the Town of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain Ezekiel Polk, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk in the Line of the State of North Carolina on the North Carolina Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in said Corps until the close of the Revolutionary war (declarant for the reason above stated cannot state the precise time of his discharge), -- when he was discharged from the service near the "high hills of Santee" (the County not known in the State of South Carolina).

Declarant further states that while he was in Service, he was in the battle of the "Eutaw Springs" in 1781 [September 8, 1781] in which by the passage of a cannon ball almost touching his head, he lost the hearing of his left ear which he has never recovered, declarant was also in the battle of Savannah in Georgia in 1778 [the British took possession of Savannah December 29, 1778]. Declarant was also at the battle of the "Cowpens" in 1781 [January 17, 1781] in which he received a wound in his right arm near his wrist which shattered his arm very much & has left a large knot at his wrist; said wound was received from a gun barrel in close engagement. Declarant states that he enlisted in company with one Benjamin Rowan<sup>1</sup> or Rowing -- & that said Rowan & one Jonathan Potts were two of his messmates for a long time. Declarant further states that not long after he enlisted he was marched into South Carolina where & in North Carolina he performed most of his service & passed the principal part of his time, until he was discharged as aforesaid. Declarant states that he was with his company & Corps to which he belonged took water at Monck's Corner on Cooper River & went down to Charleston where Declarant was at the siege in 1780 [the City of Charleston South Carolina was surrendered to the British on May 12, 1780] & where he with the remainder of the besieged was surrendered as prisoners of war in the month of April, May or June & declarant can't recollect which. Declarant remained a prisoner about three months in the barracks at Charleston and was then with a

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1 [Benjamin Rowan S35049](#)

few others exchange – the Main body of the American prisoners taken on this occasion having been sent on board the British fleet were not exchange so early. Declarant states that a year or two after the act of 1818 above referred to passed he applied to Alfred M. Harris & had a Declaration prepared for him, & sent it on to the War department, whence it shortly returned with information that declarant could not be placed on the pension roll on his own unsupported oath, but that evidence independent of his own statement must be adduced. Declarant did not then know of any person within his reach cognizant of the facts of his having served as aforesaid until about one year ago. Declarant ascertained that two of his revolutionary associates lived within 20 or 30 miles of him & sometime last winter he procured another Declaration to be made out & procured the evidence of said persons & prepared his papers for the pension office – but they have been lost or mislaid in the clerk's office of Giles County as he is informed by the clerk & have not been awarded to Washington as declarant believes & is informed. These are the reasons why he has not applied earlier for a pension.

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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

Schedule of property belonging to Samuel Baker

2 ploughs worth together	\$4.00
1 axe worth	\$2.00
2 Hoes worth	\$1.00
1 pair of ploughing gear worth	\$2.00
4 barrels of corn worth	\$4.00
100 lbs bacon worth	\$8.00

no horse beast – nor horned cattle, nor sheep, nor hogs – a few oats, a small crop of corn growing \$25.  
a Stock of Fowls say geese, chickens & doz. Turkeys, 4 Ducks \$10.

S/ Samuel Baker, X his mark

Declarant states that he is by occupation a farmer, is very infirm, walks with much difficulty, is also deaf & crippled in one arm & in every way unable to pursue his occupation so as to make a support by it. He further states that a wife named Betsy & aged about 60 years, subject to Rheumatic pains-- quite infirm -- & unable to do anything of consequence supporting the family, a daughter named Nancy aged about 20 or 21 years, a tolerably healthy girl & able to do as much work as most of girls – constitutes the whole of Declarant's family resident with him. The number of the family including himself being 3.

The Declarant states that since the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, the following changes have taken place in his property.

List of property owned by Samuel Baker on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 & not now owned by him, Viz.:

One horse killed by having his thigh broke eight or nine years ago; between 40 & 50 hogs – some of them killed for pork but most of them died naturally or were killed by dogs – 15 head of horned cattle all died of some distemper from time to time or killed casually except about 4 or 5 eaten. Some few other articles of property not amounting as declarant believes in all to \$10: some other changes of a minor character may have taken place but Declarant does not now recollect & cannot name them, if any. Declarant states that he had a discharge from service given to him by his Captain said Ezekiel Polk at the place at which he was discharged aforesaid – and kept said discharge for 15 or 20 years – but the same is now lost or worn out & Declarant has not seen or heard of it since.

Sworn to & declared on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1830 in open Court before the Circuit Court of Giles County, Tennessee.

S/ Samuel Baker, X his mark

S/ Sterling H. Lester, Clerk &c.

State of Tennessee, Giles County

This day being the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1830 Matthew Wood<sup>2</sup> a citizen of said County & under oath in open Court, that he said affiant knows that Samuel Baker aged about 67 years & a citizen of said County belonged to the Army of the revolution in the year 1778 as well as affiant can now recollect the time; affiant states that he commanded a company in the third Regiment of North Carolina Line of the Continental establishment (which said Regiment was commanded by Colonel Jethro Sumner) – and knew said Baker – he said Samuel Baker being for some time a member of the affiant's said company & being commanded by affiant, as affiant thinks for about six months.

Sworn to, in open Court the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1830.

S/ Sterling H. Lester, Clerk

S/ Matt. Wood



[p 11: NC Secretary of State, William Hill, sent a letter dated December 27, 1830 to James K. Polk stating that Samuel Baker's name was not found on the musterrolls of the Continental line in NC.]

[p 15]

Washington City December 14, 1831

Sir,

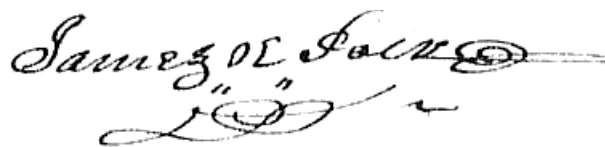
Enclosed I send you the declaration of Samuel Baker for a pension, accompanied by an additional affidavit of Captain Matthew Woods (a respectable citizen of Tennessee, and now I believe himself on the pension roll) in support of his claim. Mr. Baker's declaration was once before submitted to your examination, but I must as you that you will give it another examination connected with his new testimony now addressed, for I am impressed with the believe that he is a very meritorious old man and that his claim is well founded. I think from his own statement and the proof in the case, notwithstanding his name does not appear upon the North Carolina musterrolls, a few well perceive from the enclosed letter from the Secretary of State of that State addressed to me. When you have decided on his case advise me of it.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
S/ James K. Polk<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [Matthew Wood S39135](#)

<sup>3</sup> POLK, James Knox, (brother of William Hawkins Polk), a Representative from Tennessee and 11th President of the United States; born near Little Sugar Creek, Mecklenburg County, N.C., November 2, 1795; moved to Tennessee in 1806 with his parents, who settled in what later became Maury County; attended the common schools and was tutored privately; graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1818; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1820 and commenced practice in Columbia, Tenn.; chief clerk of the state senate 1821-1823; member of the state house of representatives 1823-1825; elected as a Jacksonian to the Nineteenth through the Twenty-fourth Congresses and reelected as a Democrat to the Twenty-fifth Congress (March 4, 1825-March 3, 1839); chairman, Committee on Ways and Means (Twenty-third Congress); Speaker of the House of Representatives (Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Congresses); did not seek renomination in 1838 having become a candidate for governor; governor of Tennessee 1839-1841; elected as a Democrat as President of the United States in 1844; inaugurated on March 4, 1845, and served until March 3, 1849; declined to be a candidate for renomination; died in Nashville, Tenn., June 15, 1849; interment within the grounds of the state capitol.



State of Tennessee, Giles County

This day personally appeared before me Robert Reed a Justice of the peace in and for said County Matthew Wood age 73 years a citizen of said State & resident in said County & made oath that he said Matthew Wood was well acquainted with Samuel Baker now of said County & he knows that said Samuel Baker now aged about 78 was in the Army of the revolution & belonged to the North Carolina line, on the Continental establishment. Said Samuel Baker belonged to a company commanded by Captain Ezekiel Polk & was commanded by William Polk as Major & Thomas Polk as his Colonel. This affiant Matthew Wood as Captain of a company, commanded said Samuel Baker as a private of his company for about six months, the Captain Ezekiel Polk of said Baker's company & the other officers having been taken sick & put on other service, & his Captain Ezekiel Polk having returned home, this affiant states that he knows that the said Samuel Baker was in said Army of the revolution in the North Carolina line on the Continental establishment for about three years; affiant further states that he is now well acquainted with the general character of said Samuel Baker & from that character, he affiant would believe him said Baker on his oath in a court of Justice. Sworn to & subscribed this 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1831. S/ Matt. Wood

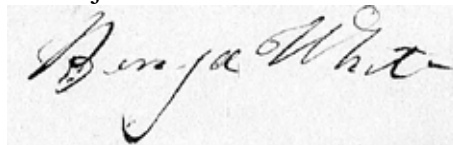
State of Tennessee, Giles County

This day personally appeared in open court in the County court of said County Benjamin White<sup>4</sup> of said County – aged about 78 years & made oath that he affiant was in the Army of the revolution & was attached to the third Regiment of the North Carolina Line – on the Continental establishment which said Regiment was commanded as affiant now recollects by Colonel \_\_ Jones and affiant was at the Siege of Charleston & taken prisoner on the surrender of that place affiant knew Samuel Baker aged about 77 years at the Siege of Charleston & knows that said Baker now of this County was a soldier in the American Army & belonged to the North Carolina line on the Continental establishment at & during said Siege & was surrendered with the American troops on that occasion as a prisoner of war affiant was acquainted with said Baker about three months in the year 1780 & knows that said Baker was a soldier as above & been long as above to the North Carolina line on the Continental establishment.

Sworn to in open Court this 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1830.

S/ German Lester, Clk

S/ Benja. White



[p 23]

State of Tennessee Giles County: This day being the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 1830 Lester Morris aged about 72 years came into open Court in the Circuit Court of Giles County & made oath that he became

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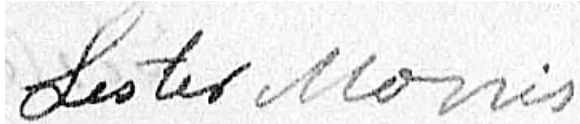
#### Bibliography

Merry, Robert W. *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk, the Mexican War and the Conquest of the American Continent*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009; Borneman, Walter R. *Polk: The Man Who Transformed the Presidency and America*. New York: Random House, 2008. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=P000409>

4 [Benjamin White S39123](#)

acquainted with Samuel Baker now of Giles County Tennessee aged about 77 years & who is now an applicant knows making out [sic, but ???], & preparing a declaration for a pension &c, at the Siege of Charleston in South Carolina in the year 1780 & knows the said Samuel Baker was a soldier in the American Army on that occasion & belonged to the line of the State of North Carolina on the North Carolina Continental establishment. – Affiant became acquainted with said Baker during the first part of the Siege & knew him till the surrender of the American troops. Affiant does not now recollect to what Regiment said Baker belonged. Affiant was himself a soldier in the American Army & belonged to the Virginia Line.

S/ Lester Morris<sup>5</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lester Morris". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing December 16, 1831, for service as a private for 5 years in the North Carolina Continental line.]

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<sup>5</sup> [Lester Morris S2003](#)