

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Baxter Ragsdale S4753

Transcribed by Will Graves

f27NC/VA

9/7/08; rev'd 3/5/17

[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 Tennessee [County of Bedford]: SS

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

On this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful John L. Null, John B. Armstrong & Samuel Phillips Esquire Gentlemen Justices of the peace for Bedford County in the State aforesaid: Appointed to hold the court of pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, Now Sitting, Baxter Ragsdale, a resident of said County of Bedford aged Seventy-two years two months and Sixteen days; 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 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, To Wit: That he entered the Service of the United States as a drafted Soldier, sometime in the Spring of 1780 the precise day and month he does not at this time recollect, but thinks it was in May or June of that year; and was marched towards the American Army in South Carolina under the command of General Gates [Horatio Gates]; He States he was placed in a company commanded by a Captain Peter Bennett of Granville County in the State of North Carolina, and was marched by him and Colonel Gaddy [Lieutenant Colonel John Geddy of the Halifax County, NC, Regiment of militia to General Gates's Army in South Carolina where he was mustered into Service on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1780 and was marched about a month afterwards to a place called Rugeley's Mills where he remained about 15 days and was then marched, across the Catawba River in a company commanded by Captain Samuel Jones to Join General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] which he says he thinks was about the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of August, and was marched under General Sumter down the Catawba River, as he was told to prevent the British from crossing at some particular ford on said River but that General Sumter retreated on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> marched all that night, all day and night 17<sup>th</sup> and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, the British troops overtook General Sumter' Army near to a place called Rocky Mount in an old field on the Catawba River, when a battle [Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780]<sup>1</sup> ensued between he thinks Colonel Tarleton's [Banastre Tarleton's] light horse and some mounted gunmen of the British Army; and the troops under General Sumter; He says that the troops under General Sumter gave way and fled in every direction. He says he made his way to Bell's Mill on Deep River where he met his old Captain P. Bennett, and joined him again and was marched from that to the Town of Hillsboro Orange County North Carolina where he again saw General Gates and General Butler [John Butler] and remained there in that County until about the first of October when he says he was discharged after his term of three months Service was out and returned home to Granville County NC.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_fishing\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html)

Deponent States that he removed from Granville to the County of Lunenburg in the State of Virginia, where he was drafted again and entered the Service of the United States in a company commanded by Captain M. Mackey and was marched to General George Washington's Army where he says he saw General Lafayette and conversed with him, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1781 and was marched by General Washington to what was then called Mabbens Hills [sic, Malvern Hill, also spelled Mobbin, Maubin, Marbin, &c] on James River, and from that was marched, along in view of the City of Richmond on to a place called Newcastle on Pomankey River [sic, Pamunkey River] and from that down the same some distance, and then across to York River and was marched from an encampment and that neighborhood within 12 miles of Williamsburg as he was told, where he says the Americans were attacked by some British light horse and were compelled to retreat towards the Main Army when he was on his way back he met with the Captain who had not been on this little excursion at the house of a Mister Shepheard and his Captain being discharged, and he says his term of 3 months was then out and his Captain gave him a discharge in writing for the same making in all a term of actual Service of 6 months; and that he has no documentary evidence whatever and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his Service. And that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in the United States.

By the Court

Int. 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in the County of Lunenburg in the State of Virginia on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1760

Int. 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have a record of my age at my house in this County in my Bible; which was taken from my father's family record

Int. 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?

Ans: I was a citizen [of] Granville County North Carolina when I first entered the service of the United States & a citizen of Lunenburg County State of Virginia when I entered the Service the last time, and from that I moved to Granville County North Carolina & remained there until the close of the revolution; and then I removed into Franklin County North Carolina; and I removed from Franklin County last mentioned in the year 1807 to Bedford County on the Wartrace fork of Duck River in the State of Tennessee; where I have lived ever since and where I now live.

Int. 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was drafted altogether

Int. 5<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?

Ans: I did received two discharges in writing but where they are now I cannot tell

Int. 6<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I recollect General Lafayette, and Gates, and have seen their regiments, and other officers, but cannot now recollect the names of either. -- I also recollect that Colonel Geddy commanded the Regiment of militia I first Served then but do not know the number of it, and I believe I have given the general circumstances of my Service in the foregoing declaration. --

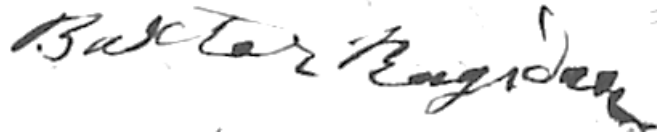
State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in

the revolution.

Ans: Wm Norville, Esqr., Jesse Davis, William McGrew [?], Col. James Arnold, and Stephen Murphree, Esqr. and that is not in my power to obtain the evidence of a clergyman at this time.

Sworn to in open Court the day and year aforesaid;  
S/ Jas. McKisick, Clk

S/ Baxter Ragsdale

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Baxter Ragsdale". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

[Wm Norville and Jas. Arnold gave the standard supporting affidavit.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina and Virginia militias.]