

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Baker W277
Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary Baker
rev'd 6/24/14 & 4/13/18 f75NC

[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 39]

State of Tennessee, County of White, on the 20th day of August 1828 personally appeared in open Court Peter Baker, being a court of record for the third Judicial Circuit for the County of White, Tennessee; a resident in said County, aged Seventy-Three 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 18th of March 1818, and the 1st of May 1820, that he the said Peter Baker enlisted for the term of three years in the fall of 1775, in the State of North Carolina in the Company commanded by William Lytle, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Archibald Lytle in the line of the State: That he enlisted again after his time was out about 1778, for Eighteen months under the same Captain and in the Regiment commanded by the same Colonel in the said State of North Carolina, that after he served his time he again enlisted for the term of nine months in the said River and Company commanded by the above-mentioned Lytle, and in said State, on the Continental establishment: that he continued to serve in the said Corps until sometime in the year 1780 when he was discharged from the service in the company commanded by said William Lytle, and the Regiment commanded by said Archibald Lytle, in the State of North Carolina that he relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any other State, but North Carolina, and that the following all the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, that, he made application for pension in 1818 and 1819 and employed Jacob A. Lane and William H Campbell to send his declaration and to do his business and has been trying ever since to procure information upon the subject of his application, but has never received any and has from time to time made application to his said Attorneys, to learn from them his fate, but has always been told by them that they would see to the business.

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 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever 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 18th 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. One bed and furniture, fifteen dollars, two plates of pewter fifty cents, one cow and calf ten dollars, half dozen knives and forks one dollar, one mare and colt, which died in 1826, forty dollars: which is all that I have ever possessed, since that time.

Peter Baker

Sworn to and subscribed on the 20th day of August 1828 in open court before
S/ N. W. Williams Judge

S/ A. Dibrell, Clerk

This day personally came Thomas Crawley into open Court, and made oath that he served a Campaign with the said Peter Baker in the year 1778, that said Baker was then in the service of the United States

in the Continental establishment, that the said Peter Baker was then enlisted in the company commanded by Captain William Lytle, that his term of service was 9 months and he was with him, and believes that said Peter Baker served his time for the term of 9 months.

S/ Thomas Crawley X his mark

[p 38]

Raleigh North Carolina Secretary of State's Office 16th May 1829

Sir

Your letter of the 11th instant with the Declaration of Peter Baker is received and attended to. I do not find the name of Peter Baker on the musterrolls of the revolutionary Army except as a Lieutenant – he of course cannot be the present applicant for a Pension. I find that a Warrant was issued to the Heirs of Peter Baker a private, from which it is understood that the Soldier for whose services this Warrant issued was dead previous to the issuing said Warrant. I am of opinion that the statement of the present applicant is incorrect, for had he enlisted as often as he says he did his name would certainly have been found on the rolls.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Hill

James L Edwards Esquire
Chief Clerk Pension Office

[p 4]

State of Tennessee, White County

On this 5th day of October personally appeared before me John Wallace an acting Justice of the Peace for said County of White aforesaid Peter Baker a resident of White County and State of Tennessee aged Seventy-six years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath like the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated --

He volunteered his services in Caswell County in the State of North Carolina under Captain John Atkinson, his Lieutenant's name was William Paine – This declarant was at this time in the Light Horse Service. Captain Atkinson's Company being a company of that description – We were marched from Caswell County to a place called the Cross Creek in North Carolina now as this declarant is informed called Fayette [sic, Fayetteville] – The object we had in view was to subdue and keep down the Tories who had at the time of which he speaks become remarkably troublesome, about Cross Creek, Wilmington, Georgetown and throughout that Country – There was only two companies at Cross Creek the whole time which this declarant served during this term of service, to wit, the one to which he belonged and another under the command of Captain Adkins, and Lieutenant, John Elkins – Captain Adkins' company was from a County adjoining Orange, but this declarant is at this period unable to give the name – This was a six months tour. He served it out and returned to his father's in Caswell County. -- He here remained some time, but how long he cannot state, when he enlisted for nine months under Captain William Lytle, his Lieutenant's name was William Lewis – Captain Lytle's company belonged to the third Regiment of Continental soldiers – Colonel Archibald Lytle a brother to Captain William Lytle, commanded this Regiment – Thomas Donaho [Thomas Donoho] was first Major: John Armstrong Second Major – we were marched from Hillsboro where the troops had rendezvoused in Orange County to Purysburg on Savannah River where we were stationed three months during the winter of 1778 as well as he can now recollect. There were two other Regiments the first and second of the same description of troops as those composing the Regiment to which this declarant belonged, each Regiment being from North Carolina stationed with them at the same time –

The first Regiment was commanded by Col. Thacston [James Thackston]. As to the balance of the officers belonging to said Regiments he cannot say – From this place in the spring of the year of the troops were marched about twenty miles of the Savannah River to what was then called the Black Swamp. This Declarant would here state that the regulars were also stationed at Purysburg and the whole Army marched to the Black Swamp as above mentioned. We were here stationed and remained some short time perhaps two months, where we were joined by the Militia from North Carolina. Here this declarant was taken sick and was placed in the Hospital-- General Mostery [probably William Moultrie] with about three hundred men as a guard moved all the sick then in the Hospital down to Charlestown [Charleston]. Having received intelligence that the British had ascended the Savannah River to Purysburg and intruded to intercept our passage to Charlestown. General Mostery was commander at this time of the troops in Charleston from which he had brought the guard above spoken of – We reached Charleston in safety – the Army from the Black Swamp was marched still further up the River and crossed over the Briar Creek [March 3, 1779] where they had a skirmish with some of the British as he was informed not being with the troops himself. This Declarant in the meantime recovered his health and wished to return to the Army. He was informed that he would be more secure were in Charleston, that it was expected that our troops and the British would have an engagement – my reply was that if this was expected I wished to be with the troops when that took place – My Physician gave me a furlough and I went to my Regiment about twenty miles from Charleston between a small town called Dogister [Dorchester] and Ashley River, to which point the Army had been marched during his stay at Charleston. A few days after he had thus joined his Regiment they were marched to and joined the Militia again they having been separated from the balance of the troops – The whole Army was then marched to Stono Fort – This Declarant was in the battle [June 20, 1779] at this place – where we lost of killed about three hundred of our men. The British were defeated and retreated from Stono Fort to Port Royal – The three regiments from North Carolina were then marched back to the place above mentioned between Dorchester and Ashley River. From this place about six or seven hundred of the troops among which number this declarant was one were, under the command of Col. Archibald Lytle marched to Port Royal, where we were stationed and remained until the expiration of our nine months – When we were marched to Charleston. From thence we took and guarded about one hundred prisoners to Salisbury – Where this declarant received his discharge and returned again to his father's – He remained with his father until the latter part of the year 1780 when he again volunteered as a light horse man under Captain Samuel Martin, Thomas Polk was the name of his Lieutenant – This was in Guilford County North Carolina his father in the meantime having moved from Caswell and settled in Guilford – We rendezvoused at Charlotte in Mecklenburg County – Captain Martin's company was attached to Colonel Polk's Regiment. Colonel Polk marched his Regiment to what was called Ancrum's ferry on the Congaree River where we joined four regiments of Dragoons from South Carolina commanded by Colonels Wade, Richard, John and Henry Hampton [Wade Hampton, Richard Hampton, John Hampton]. The five regiments being thus united were marched to Orangeburg in the State of South Carolina, where we were stationed but how long he cannot with accuracy state – General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] was the commander in chief of the Dragoons – From thence they were marched to within three miles of the Eutaw Springs where we joined General Green [Nathanael Greene], and were with the troops under his command marched immediately to the Springs – Where we had a severe conflict of about six hours duration with the British. This Declarant was in that battle – It was fought on the 4th of September in the year 1781¹ – In this Battle this Declarant's Lieutenant Thomas Polk was killed. Major Rutherford [James Rutherford] was also shot dead on his horse – We defeated the British. The next morning after we pursued on after them, but meeting General Marion [Francis Marion], Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and Colonel Malbury [sic, Francois Lellorquis Marquis de Malmady (also Malmedy, Malmèdy)]

1 Sic, September 8, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

returning from the pursuit who informed us that the British had returned to Charleston which was at this time in the possession of the British. Shortly after this engagement, this declarant's time, he having volunteered for ten months expired, when we were dismissed, and he once more returned to his father's who still remained in Guilford. Thus terminated his services to his Country. Lord Cornwallis having surrendered the 19th of October in the same year. -- He has no written documents by which he can establish the foregoing facts. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Answers to the Questions propounded by the War Department

1st He was born in the State of New Jersey about fifty or sixty miles from Philadelphia, he does not recollect with sufficient certainty to state the name of the County having moved there from at the age of about ten years -- I was born the 20th of May 1756--

2nd I now have no record of my age -- I once had a record, but it has been destroyed by fire --

3rd I have already stated where I was living when I was called into service -- from Guilford County I moved to South Carolina Greenville County where I resided twenty-three years having prior to that time married -- from thence he moved to White County Tennessee where he now lives and has lived ever since --

4th I have stated the manner of my being called into service --

5th I have also stated the names of such officers who were with the troops where I served -- and the general circumstances of my service as well as I now can recollect. Being now old and having been sorely afflicted with disease for upwards of eight months -- During the whole of this period I have been confined to my bed principally --

6th At the expiration of my nine months Tour I received a discharge from my Captain William Lytle -- This discharge I gave to Major Thomas Donoho for the purpose of enabling him to draw my money or pay -- Since when I have never seen Donoho or the discharge -- Neither have I received any pay for my services --

7th He states the names of the following persons who can testify as to his services (viz.) Thomas Crawley² and William Baker: he also would say that Turner Lane, John Bryan Esq. -- Thomas Crawley -- John Austin -- & John Green will testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Wallace, JP

S/ Peter Baker, X his mark

[p 9]

State of Tennessee, White County

This day personally appeared before me John Wallace an acting Justice of the peace for said County, William Baker a resident of White County and makes oath in due form of law that he is well acquainted with Peter Baker who has signed the foregoing Declaration for a pension, said applicant being the brother of this affiant. -- He further states that said applicant did serve as a revolutionary soldier three tours as he states under Captains John Atkinson, William Lytle and Samuel Martin, as said applicant states -- Said Peter Baker is entitled to full credit on oath -- And this affiant believes the circumstances are true related by him as having taken place during his service -- further that he is of the age stated by him. --

S/ William Baker, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me this eighth day of October A.D. 1832

S/ John Wallace, JP

State of Tennessee, White County

This day personally appeared before me John Wallace an acting Justice of the peace for said

2 [Thomas Crawley R2476](#)

County Thomas Crawley a resident of said County and makes oath that, he is well acquainted with Peter Baker who has signed the foregoing –Declaration – That said applicant did serve nine months under Captain William Lytle – Archibald Lytle was the Colonel of the Regiment to which the declarant belonged – Said Baker was in the Battle of Stono – This affiant recollects distinctly to have seen said Baker two or three times during said engagement – as to his other services this affiant of his on knowledge knows nothing – Said Baker has been known to this affiant nearly fifty years. He is entitled to credit – He believes that the circumstances of his service as stated by him are true –And the said Baker is of the age represented by him. -- S/ Thomas Crawley, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed this 9 October 1832

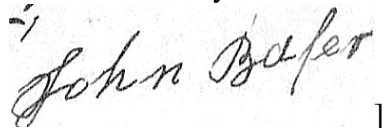
S/ John Wallace, JP

[John Green, a clergyman, and Turner Lane gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15: On April 2, 1838, Mary Baker, 69, made application in White County Tennessee for a widow's pension stating that she married Peter Baker in the month of March 1784 in Surry County North Carolina; that they were married by James Martin Esquire a justice of the peace for Surry County; that her husband died February 7, 1833 in White County. She signed her application with her mark. In a separate affidavit dated September 2nd, 1839, the widow testified that she at one time had a record of her marriage and the births of her children but that the same was destroyed by the burning of the dwelling house of Robert Walker in 1812, Walker being the brother-in-law of said Mary Baker.]

[p 18: On September 2, 1839 in White County Tennessee, William Baker gave evidence that he was present at the marriage of his brother Peter Baker and Mary Baker; that they were married either in the year 1785 or 1786. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 21: On October 20, 1851, John Baker, 60, filed an affidavit in White County, saying he is the son of Peter and Mary Baker; that his mother died on February 10, 1845 survived by William Baker, about 64, James Baker, about 56, Lavisa Foster formerly Lavisa Baker about 40, Riley Baker, about 38 & Malita Baker about 40 years.

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[Facts in file: In addition to the children named by John Baker in his affidavit above, the following children of the veteran and his wife are mentioned in the file: Mary Baker who married a Marbly; Elizabeth Baker who married a Chandler; presumably Mary and Elizabeth were deceased in 1851 when John Baker gave the above affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$93.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the dragoons for 16 months and in the Infantry for 8 months. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts³ relating to Peter Baker (Bacor)
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 249A

AA4

I Peter Bacor [sic] of Guilford County and State of North Carolina do assign and give over my Right

³ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>

and Title to the Negro that I the said Peter Bacor have a right to Draw as my Bounty as being a soldier in the Voluntary Light Dragoons in South Carolina under the command of Brig at General Thomas Sumter unto Abner Nelson [could be Abner Nilson] of said State & said County for Value of him Received this 7 April 1782

Test

S/ James Nelson [could be Nilson]

S/ John Hunter

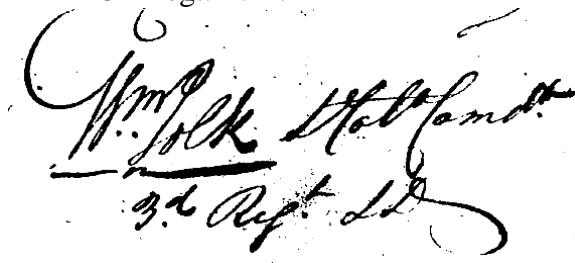
S/ Peter Bacor, X his mark

I do hereby Certify that Peter Baker a private Soldier in the Third Regiment of Light Dragoons in the service of the State of South Carolina hath Completed the time of his enlistment, and is entitled to a Negro a balance of Cloathing &c from the said State

Given under my hand at Charlotte this 25th Day of June 1784

S/ Wm Polk, Lt. Col. Comdt [Commandant]

3rd Regt. L. D.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Polk Lt. Col. Comdt" with "3rd Regt. L. D." written below it. The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.