

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Bawcutt W3498

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act entitled "an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the Revolution." approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828 I William Bawcutt of the town of Winchester in the county of Frederick in the state of Virginia, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the continental line of the army of the Revolution for and during the War, and continued in its service until its termination, at which period I was a Sergeant of dragoons and forage master in Capt. Henry Bedkins company in the first Partisan Legion under the command of General Armand [Charles Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie] and I also declare that I do not recollect whether I did nor did not receive certificates for the reward of Eighty dollars to which I was entitled under a resolve of congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778 and I further declare that I was not on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828 on the pension list of the United States, witness my hand this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 182[8]

[signed] William Bawcutt

State of Virginia } Ss.  
County of Frederick }

I William Bawcutt aged sixty eight years, do, upon oath testify and declare, that about or in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven I enlisted or entered the service as a soldier for the term of "during the war," in the 3<sup>d</sup> Virg'a. Regiment commanded by Colo Th. Marshall [Thomas Marshall] and afterwards served in the Corps commanded by Colo. Armand, and that I continued in the service aforesaid until the close of the war, when I was regularly discharged from the same Corps, commanded by Colo. Armand of the Virginia line, when I was a Sergeant. His discharge was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I further declare, that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States; nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim in any manner whatever.

[Power of attorney follows.]

[signed 1 Sep 1828] William Bawcutt

[On 15 Aug 1853 Sarah Bawcutt, 74, applied for a pension as the widow of William Bawcutt. The application is less detailed than the one that follows.]

State of Virginia } SS  
Augusta County }

On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty six personally appeared before me a justice of the peace, within and for the County aforesaid Sarah Bawcutt aged seventy seven years a resident of Augusta county in the state of Virginia who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of William Bawcutt deceased who was a Forage Master in Armand's legion in the Army of the Revolution – that her said husband William Bawcutt served for a long period of time in said Armands Legion until he was honourably discharged at York Town in the state of Pennsylvania on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1783, and which said discharge now lies before me, the above facts will more fully appear by reference to the Record and papers filed in the office of the "Commissioner of Pensions" which said papers to which you are referred, now entitles her to a Semiannual Pension of \$300 the certificate of which is now in said Sarah Bawcutts possession.

She farther states that she was married to the said William Bawcutt in the County of Augusta on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1803 by the Rev. William King – Methodist clergyman, and that her name before her marriage was Sarah Dixon, that her husband died in Augusta County in the State of Virginia on the 10<sup>th</sup>

day of Augusta 1839, and that she is now a widow.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty Land to which she may be entitled under the Act approved March 3<sup>d</sup> 1855 [signed] Sarah Bawcutt

(Copy.)

I, William Bawcutt, do acknowledge the United States of America, to be free, independent, and sovereign States, and declare that the People thereof owe no allegiance or Obedience to George the Third, King of Great Britain; and I renounce, refuse, and abjure any Allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear that I will to the utmost of my Power, support, maintain, and defend the United States, against the said King George the Third, his heirs, and successors, and his and their abettors, assistants, and adherents, and will serve the United States in the Office of Forage Master to the Legion, which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my Skill and Understanding.

Sworn to before me, Octob'r. 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

(Signed) W. Bawcutt, Fo. M.

(Signed) P. Muhlenberg, B.G. [Peter Muhlenberg, Brigadier General]

I, William Bawcutt, do swear that I will faithfully, truly, and impartially execute the Office of Forage Master to the Legion to which I am appointed; and render a true Account, when thereunto required, of all public Monies by me received or expended, and of all Stores or other Effects to me intrusted, which belong to the United States; and will, in all respects, discharge the Trust reposed in me with justice and integrity, to the best of my skill and understanding.

Sworn, Octob'r. 14<sup>th</sup> 1781.

(Signed) W. Bawcutt, For. M'r.

(Signed) P. Muhlenberg, B.G.

(Copy.)

I certify that William Baket [Bawcutt written above], forage master to the first Partizan Legion under my command, has conducted himself, since promoted to that station, with the activity, faithfulness, & propriety belonging to it, & that while in it, as well as when he was a surgeant in the dragoons of the same corps, he has obtained to himself the esteem of the legion in general – the captain under which he served before he joigned the legion make a handsome report of his bravery.

Given under my hand & seal at Yorktown, in the State of Pennsylvania this 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1783.

(Signed) C. Armand, Mqis de la Rouerie.

I, Octavius Pickering of the city of Boston, depose and say, that I am the son of the late Timothy Pickering, Quarter Master General in the American Revolution; that among my father's papers is a large folio sheet, labelled "Return of Specie certificates issued by Samuel Hodgdon in Philadelphia" and signed "Sam Hodgdon Asst. Q Master", which signature I believe to be in the proper handwriting of said Hodgden; and that said paper contains the following entries, (with many others):

"D'r. Colo. Tim'o. Pickering Q M Gen'l. in acct. with Samuel Hodgdon Esq'r A Q M'r. for monies paid in Certificates

1783 Date	Number of Certificates	To whom issued	For what purpose	Commencement of Interest	Amount of Certificate given Dollars
Aug't 7 1784	12313	Wm Bawcutt	Pay as a Forage Master	Jan'y 1 <sup>st</sup> 1784	148 60/90
April 5	12340	Wm Bawcutt	do as a Forage Mast'r	Jan'y 1 1785	110

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand this twelfth day of March 1855. Octavius Pickering

NOTES:

A document from the pension office also notes that Bawcutt's service was "confirmed by rolls of Capt Bedkin (under whom Bawcutt said he served) of Pulaski's Legion, in 1779 and early part of 1780."

A document dated 3 Apr 1866 states that Sarah Bawcutt had lived for a number of years on a farm with her son, Archibald D. Bawcutt, who was between 55 and 60 at the time of her death in August 1863, and that no one else lived on the farm except "an old negro man about seventy years of age." The document further states that she lived a very retired life and as far as was known did not "take up arms against the Government of the United States or in any manner encourage the rebels or manifest a sympathy with their cause." The purpose of the document was to obtain for her heirs the pension that had been withheld during the Civil War.

The file includes a copy of her last will and testament dated 18 Oct 1862 and probated 28 Sep 1863. It names the following as heirs: Archibald D. Bawcutt; Elizabeth Byers, Samuel Byers, James Byers, and Robert Byers, children of her daughter Lelitia Byers, wife of James Byers; Nancy Berry, wife of Thornton Berry; Betsy Lesley; and Rachel Margaret Byers, wife of John S. Byers, her grandson. She also directed that Ben, her slave, would have the privilege of choosing his master.

On 23 Apr 1866 John S. Byers listed his children and certified that none of them had taken part in the War of the Rebellion: Mattie Byers born 28 May 1844; James T. Byers born 3 Sep 1848; David Marshall Byers born 9 Apr 1850; Mary A. Byers born 23 Jan 1852; John H. Byers born 26 Mar 1854. He stated that Archibald D. Bawcutt died in Oct 1863, and that Sarah Bawcutt died 29 Aug 1863.