

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Baldrige W5789

Isabella Baldrige

f48NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/23/16 & 10/7/17

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

State of Tennessee, Maury County

On this 29th day of April 1843, personally appeared before me James G. Harris an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County of Marty aforesaid Isabella Baldrige a Citizen of the County of Maury & State of Tennessee aged Eighty-two years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the several acts of Congress passed the different periods granting pensions to certain widows & relics of deceased Officers & Soldiers of the war of the revolution. That she is the widow & relic of Captain John Baldrige deceased, who was a Captain duly Commissioned of a Volunteer or Militia Company, she cannot be positive which, but her best impression is it was a Volunteer Company – that he served under Generals Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Davidson [William Lee Davidson] & Pulaski, Colonel Barbor [sic, John Barber or Barbour] & Major Carruth [perhaps John Carruth], and many of our officers whose names she cannot now recollect. Affiant cannot state the precise days, months or all the years when her said husband entered the service or the time he left it, but she will here state to the Honorable Secretary of War or Commissioner of Pensions that in giving a detailed statement of the services of her said husband she relies mainly upon the statements made to her by her said husband during the old War & since to the day of his death, his statements were uniformly the same in substance: some parts of his services she knows of her on knowledge, and those she received from him & his compatriots she believes to be true. That Captain John Baldrige and this affiant were married on the 21st day of August 1780 in Iredell County North Carolina by the Reverend Mr. McCall a Presbyterian Clergyman. That at the time of their marriage her husband was the Captain of a Volunteer Company of Riflemen, and in three days after the marriage he left Lincoln County at the head of his Company and served out what was called a six months tour, that he often told her that he had served one tour of nine & one of five months in actual service previous to their marriage, that in 1780, 1781, 1782 & until sometime in the year 1783 he was more than one half of the three years absent at the Camps and Captain of a Company. He was in the following battles at Ramsour's [Ramseur's Mill, June 20, 1780]¹ near Lincoln Court House against the Tories, General Rutherford's Brigade. The battle at Mrs. Torne's [sic, Torrent's Tavern, February 1, 1781]² in Iredell County in North Carolina, at Puryburg in South Carolina she thinks under General Pulaski of that however she is not positive – he was in the Battle at Cowens & Beatties Ford [sic, Cowans Ford, February 1, 1781]³ in North Carolina under General Davidson, who was killed in the engagement and the American Army was forced to retreat; Affiant's husband came to where she was after the retreat

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

and procured horses and carried her off into a more remote & less dangerous portion of North Carolina and left for his Company & post in the Army, and he was so closely pursued by Cornwallis that she once in the flight had a full view of the British Army. That the British took their wagon, horses and all their plunder, they afterwards recovered the wagon, but nothing else: and she saw too the unfortunate Davidson after he was killed & her husband called one of her sons William Davidson Baldrige after him, he often spoke of being in numerous scrimmages battles with small parties of Tories and other important services he rendered his Country in the War that gave his Country permanent independence. He spoke often of being present when Newton & Jasper brought into the Camps a Mrs. Jones & her child, of being present when General Marion [Frances Marion] was giving Young Gwynne presents, a horse, saddle & bridle &c of giving presents to a small boy for informing him of a contemplated attack on him. She thinks her husband was never under the command of Marion but often in his Company during the War and in some engagements when he was present and his gallant soldiers and of his daring acts of generalship & bravery. There were a great many Tories in Lincoln County North Carolina and in the adjacent Counties and her husband & his Company was always said to be particularly expert in capturing & punishing them. He often marched into South Carolina, and was at almost every battle in North Carolina, during the seven-years war. She has often heard him say he did not miss a whole year during the War of being in the Service more or less. He was in actual service to her own knowledge more than two years after she moved to Lincoln County North Carolina before & after their marriage & after she became acquainted with him, he was a Captain when she first knew him & continued a Captain to the end of the War. She has often seen and read his Commission of Captain and his numerous discharges by his Superior Officers after their marriage, until they were destroyed by fire, their house having been accidentally burned down & all his valuable papers burned with it. He the said John Baldrige was a Citizen of Lincoln County North Carolina during the War until 1797, and he always entered in the public service of that County. She does not remember that her said husband was ever drafted, but she thinks his services were always voluntary. She has given a mere outline of the many important services rendered his Country by her husband she cannot now recollect the one half – but she hopes this will enable the Honorable Secretary of War & Pension Commissioner to investigate her right or claim on the Government for a pension equal to the full pay of a Captain in the War of the revolution. Affiant was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania according to the family record February 27, 1761 – her said husband Captain John Baldrige was born September 28, 1754, that they were married in Iredell County North Carolina August 21, 1780, and lived in Lincoln County North Carolina until 1797. They be moved & settled in Davidson County Tennessee in 1798, and settled the farm which she now lives in 1813. That she has torn from the old family Bible the family register containing the dates of the births of affiant & her said husband, of their marriage, the births of their numerous offspring & deaths, most of them in the handwriting of her said deceased husband, it is a highly valuable family treasure & she respectfully requests that it be returned to her after the final decision of her claim is made. Her said husband was more than five years a Captain of Company during the War of the Revolution but not all the while in actual service, but his Country never demanded his services when it was not readily given, he was one of the very best of husbands, a pious Christian, and she has often heard the old soldiers who were with him during the War say he was one of the very best Whigs of the day & a brave & skillful officer & soldier & rendered his Country very many important services affiant with her on hands worked to cloth & feed soldiers and ceased not to pray for the success of the American Armies. She was then & is now a member of the Presbyterian Church. She further states that her husband never received any land or pension for his services. That said John Baldrige died on the 17th day of October 1823 in the house where affiant now lives, and she has never intermarried with any other person since his

death, and is pretty certain she never will. Affiant begs leave to respectfully inform the Honorable Secretary of War & Pension Commissioner that her said husband was an industrious & frugal man & secured a decent living for himself & family after his death, they had a large family of children, who are very proud of the memory of their beloved father, and insisted that my becoming a pensioner would be derogatory to his memory & to their standing in society and persuaded me that I could comfortably live without it, which is her excuse or reason for not applying sooner: the persuasion of her children. Affiant is now very old and infirm and she is induced to ask for the liberal bounty that a generous Country considered her husband and her justly entitled to; she has heretofore enjoyed unusually good health, and has been fully able to support herself by her manual labor which she has always willingly done: but now she has become less able & she humbly prays that she may be entered on the pension agency at Nashville, Tennessee at such rates as her claim entitles her. She is compelled by bodily infirmity and old age to make this declaration before a Justice of the peace out of Court, she being unable in person to appear in open Court to do so. She respectfully refers the Honorable Secretary of War & Pension Commissioner to the subjoined affidavits, & certificates as the best evidence in her power to make, she knows of no others by whom she could prove any other important facts in her favor. She therefore in tender consideration of the premises prays to be placed on the pension list, and to be allowed a warrant for land and money as her claim in law entitles her. She hereby relinquishes all other claims but the present and as in duty bound she will ever pray &c. She has no documentary evidence of the services of her said husband.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 29th day of April 1843.

S/ Isabella Baldrige

all ever pray
Isabella Baldrige

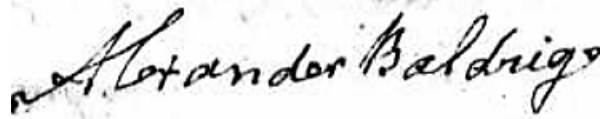
S/ James G. Harris, JP

[On May 1, 1843, Duncan Brown, 71, James Hanna, 74, and William S. Henderson, 65, all of Maury County gave a supporting affidavit as to the married status of John and Isabella Baldrige.]

[On May 1, 1843, William Davidson Baldrige, 36, and Isabella Baldrige, Jr., 47, gave an affidavit in support of their mother's application.

William D Baldrige
Isabella Baldrige Jr

[On May 1st, 1843, Alexander Baldrige, Sr., 76, a resident of Giles County, Tennessee, gave an affidavit in support of the application of Isabella Baldrige for a Widow's pension, stating that he is the younger brother of Captain John Baldrige; and he states what he can recall of his brother's services in the revolution, he states that he was aware of the marriage of John Baldrige to Isabella Luckey, the applicant; in addition to the actions mentioned by Isabella in her application, he states that his brother was in the Battle of Briar Creek and the "Battle at Punenburgh" [sic, Purysburg, sic, battle of Stono Ferry?]]



Bible record of veteran's children

Nancy Price born April 23, 1782

James L. born July 10, 1786

Jean Henderson born May 30, 1788

Catsey Rice born July 12, 1790

Alexander born July 25, 1792

Isabella born August 21, 1795

Rebecca E. King born January 13, 1798

John born February 20, 1800

Margret Black born March 4, 1802

Elizabeth E. Kenady born June 5, 1804

William Davidson born January 1, 1807

Mariah D. born November 15, 1811

Grandchildren:

Isabella Frances Baldrige born November 11, 1834

John James Baldrige born March 1, 1836

Alexander Warren Baldrige born July 28, 1837

Eugenia Adelaide Baldrige born November 7, 1838, died November 22, 1839

William Henry Harrison born December 20, 1840

Samuel Davis Bal (?) born September 13, 1842, died September 31, 1842

William D. Baldrige married, November 26, 1833, Mariana

[Facts in file: Alexander Baldrige, brother of Captain John Baldrige, was born June 13, 1766.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing September 4, 1843, for her husband service as a Captain for 2 years in the North Carolina militia.]