

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Andrew Bankston ¹ W8746 Mary Sorrel (Sorrels, Sorrells)² f74GA
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/16/08 rev'd 8/13/14

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

State of North Carolina, Rutherford County

On this 23rd day of April A.D. 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Andrew Bankston a resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina aged 80 years who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832, but from old Age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positive [sic] as to the precise length of his Service nor the precise dates of his Different Tours of service but according to the best of his Recollection not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades and for such Service I claim a pension.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and Served as herein stated: he thinks that in the year 1777 he moved from Orange County North Carolina and settled in Wilkes County State of Georgia where he Resided until after peace was made. Shortly after he Settled himself he was placed on the Muster Rolls under Captain Autry [perhaps Alexander Autrey] he thinks in the year 1778 and the company was Ordered out we being a Volunteer company the full company marched under the command of Colonel Elijah Clark [also spelled, Elijah Clarke]. The Cherokee Indians had done considerable mischief and killed Several families on the frontier of Georgia we made a forced march and overtook them, we had a Sever Battle with them betwixt the Appalacha [sic] and Ocona [Oconee River] where we Defeated them, we lost Several of our men and killed a good many of the Indians we were out on the frontiers for three months before we returned home, Discharged at Washington Wilkes County Georgia. After our return I was appointed Captain and commissioned by Colonel Clarke and raised a Volunteer company we done some Scouting about but I have no recollection of any Length of Service at any particular period that we was from home until the year 178? [last digit obliterated] when I was Ordered by Col. Clarke to Rendezvous with my company at Washington, Georgia where his Regiment joined Colonel Williamson's³ we was marched from that place to the Siege of Augusta where we Succeeded in taking the place after a Sever battle, but we only was able to hold possession a short time before we had to vacate the place we was out on this tour three months⁴

Shortly after our return home I was Ordered out with my company in pursuit of the Indians that was very Troublesome on the frontiers we Routed [?] them and had several Scrimmages with them. This Order was from Col. Clarke and we was out three months, before I [word obliterated, probably "returned"]. Soon after my Return I was ordered by Col. Clark for the second siege of Augusta,

¹ BLWt26758-160-55

² Former widow

³ This is probably a reference to Lt. Col. Micajah Williamson. There is no evidence that Col. Williamson was at the first siege of Augusta in mid-September 1780, but he was present at the second siege as asserted by Applicant.

⁴ Applicant appears to be referring to the first siege of Augusta in mid-September

Colonel Clarke's Regiment joined Colonel Williamson's at Washington, Georgia we were marched to Augusta and after a Sevier Siege we got possession and held it. I was stationed at that place until the end of three months, Returned home on my return home the Indians had broke in on the Back Settlements and destroyed much property and Murdered one family entirely, we was Ordered out by Colonel Clarke to Guard the frontiers, I was out then for three months, before I Returned home after that I was out on Several short Tours but cannot say any particular length of time, I now reside 200 miles from where I resided in time of the Revolutionary War, that I do not know of any person living at this time that I can prove my Services by, at the time we of the Revolutionary War I had a good property but Owing to bad management and misfortune I am left entirely Destitute of a Support, this is a history of my Services during the Revolutionary War. If I am not entitled to Draw as an Officer without Showing my commission or proving I acted in the capacity of a Captain I know that from my advanced age and the distance to where I Resided at the time places the thing out of my power but hope I will be allowed pay of a common Soldier. This is a Declaration of my Service as a Soldier and Officer of the Revolutionary War and for which Service I claim a pension. I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension except the present and Declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any Territory or State whatsoever. Question first by the court: Where and in what year were you born? Answer: from information and circumstance I was born in Orange County State of North Carolina in the year 1754. Question second: have you any Record of your age and if so where is it? Answer: I have no written Record of my age only from circumstances of the family who kept my Father's Register of the Ages of all the family. Question third: where were you living when called into the Service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live? Answer: I was living in Wilkes County State of Georgia where I continued until the year 1812 when I moved to the County of Rutherford North Carolina where I still Reside. Question fourth: how were you called into Service, were you Drafted, did you Volunteer or were you a Substitute and, if a Substitute, for whom? Answer: in my first Settling in the State of Georgia joined a Volunteer company of Riflemen in under Captain Autry and Served a Tour of three months on the frontiers of Georgia, on my Return I was promised the Commission of a Captain if I would Raise a Company of volunteers, in a short [time] I had my company Read [obliterated text] to Col. Elijah Clark who gave me a commission and in which authority I Served [?] During the Revolutionary [War] I served four Tours of three months each under Col. Elijah Clarke as above Stated. Question fifth: State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you Served such Continental and Militia Regiments at you can Recollect and the General Circumstances of your Service. Answer: I recollect Colonel Lee, Col. Clarke & Williamson. I have given as full a history of the circumstances that took place with me during the War of the Revolution as my memory will Justify me in above History. Questioned sixth: Did you ever Receive a Discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it Signed? Answer: I do not think we ever got a Discharge but we got something like certificates Specifying how long we were out on the Different Tours, we was volunteers and bound to be Ready at every call whatsoever, our papers was they were Signed by Colonel Elijah Clarke, my papers was all Destroyed by the burning of my house. Question seventh: State the names of some persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can Testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior, your Service as a Soldier of the Revolution. Drury Dobbins, [illegible name] & Colonel Elijah Walker & Clayburn Burnett.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ T. F. Birchett, Clerk

S/ Andrew Bankston, X his mark

[Drury Dobbins, a clergyman, Elijah Walker and Clayburn Burnett gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On September 1, 1853, in Rutherford County, Mary Sorrells, 70 years old, filed for a pension stating that she is the widow of Andrew Bankston, a pensioner of the US; that she married him in 1819;

that he died in 1839; that she married Walter Sorrells in 1844; and that Sorrells died in 1846. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Andrew Bankston died April 23, 1834, in Rutherford County, NC;
Andrew Bankston married Mary Walker under bond dated November 3, 1819;
Mary Walker Bankston Sorrells died April 14, 1865 in Rutherford County, NC]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the Georgia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]