

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Absalom Baker S35181¹

fn41NC

Transcribed by Will Graves 6/17/06

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]

[fn p. 9]

I Absolum [Absalom] Baker was an inhabitant of North Carolina and had a wife and two infant children at the commencement of the revolutionary war my circumstances were comfortable and my family dear to me notwithstanding the zeal that I felt in the glorious cause of liberty induced me to enter the continental [Continental] Service which I did in the month of May 1775 and continued regularly in the Service of my Country until in the Spring of 1781 a term of nearly Six years the battles and skirmeges [skirmishes or scimmages] that I was in were as follows, the battle at ramsours mill [Ramsour's Mill], eutaw springs [Eutaw Springs] near[?] [,] baconsbridge [Bacon's Bridge] [,] Stono ferry[,] hanging rock [Hanging Rock][,] Sumters defeat Camden district[,] Buford defeat[,] kingsmountain [King's Mountain][,] gateses [Gates'] defeat where I got wounded in the right ankle and Guilford courthouse[.] [T]he sufferings and privations above mentioned is [are] not all, I lost a waggon [wagon] and team that cost me eight hundred dollars and two likely negroes which cost me one thousand dollars taken by agnew [Agnew] a tory [Tory] officer[.] [T]o compleat [complete] my misfortunes[,] twenty one thousand seven hundred dollars of continental money perished in my hands twenty one hundred of which I had exchanged gold and silver for. [T] the fore going is to inform your honourable body of my term of Service in the revolutionary war, the battles I was in and the loses I sustained during the period, now if your honours do beleave [believe] that an old revolutionary veteran who is tottering as it were on the brink of the grave and who knows that he must shortly appear to give an account of the deads [deeds] done in this life, I if your honours do beleve [believe] a man under such circumstances is capable of speaking the truth you may rely on the foregoing statement as being authentically true.

S/ Absolum Baker

[no date]

[fn pp.6-7]

The following Statement Gentlemen are facts[.] I entered under Capt. John Brannon N. Ca.—the first action was at Ramsowers [Ramsour's] Mills lincon [Lincoln] County N. Ca. Commanded by Major James Retherford [Rutherford?][.] 2nd Action Com'd by the same at Autaw [Eutaw] Springs Santee S. Ca.

¹ Confusion reigns with reference to the number assigned to this file. While the cover sheet and the internal letters from the War Department refer to the file as "S35184," the file is indexed by both Footnote.com and HeritageQuest.com as "S35181." That number also appears to be the file designation used by the National Archives when it microfilmed the records. I have decided to use the National Archives' file number.

3rd Action Com'd by Genl. Lincon [Lincoln] Stonee [Stono] Battleaderster [?] River near Charleston S. Ca. and at the Sieadge [Siege] of Charleston taken a prisoner and kept under a strict gard [guard] for thirty days until exchanged[.]

5th Action Bluefats [Buford's] defeat near Camden S. Ca.

6[th] do Genl Sumters defeat Hanging Rock S. Ca.

7[th] do Genl Gates [Defeat] near Camden S. Ca. whare [where] I was wounded in my right ancle [ankle] [and I] was sent the Hospittle [hospital] and thare [there] remained. When Cornwallace [Cornwallis] Crossed the river of Cortober [Catawba]—I was Commanded by Genl. Davis [sic, William Davidson] who was killed during the time of the enemys [enemy's] crossing—Then Genl. Green [Greene] tooke [took] Com'd and followed the enemy with speed to Guilford Coty [County] North Ca. whare [where] they had a very severe time which was the last engagement I was in and the last that Cornwallace [Cornwallis] had in America. Genl. Green [Greene] followed them to York whare [where] I took the small pox and returned home.

Gentlemen I do this to let you know what I have suffered—If you please Judge for yourselves and say whether or not I deserve any aid. If I do in the name of god let me have it[.] [Y]ou see my situation, you must know I need it and I assure you it is Justly due me—Your very obt. Humble Servt.

S/ Absomum Baker

[no date]

[fn p. 2]

Rowan County State of North Carolina 20th August 1822

To the Senators & Representatives in Congress from the State of Illinois

We your petitioners do represent to you that we are well acquainted with Absolum Baker—during the revolutionary war in which he served five years and eight months under me John Brannon—and that to our knowledge Mr. Baker was in seven set actions besides several skirmishes in one of which Battles he got wounded in his ancle [ankle]—this we think was at Gates defeat near Camden South Carolina. [W]e state that we do not think that there was a better soldier in the war than Baker—he was always ready to go out on any dangerous service when he was called upon and always performed his duty well—As Cornwallis went through the State of North Carolina one Coln [Colonel] Agner [Agnew?] took from Baker two likely negroes which cost him one thousand dollars, a waggon [wagon] and five horses which cost him eight hundred [dollars] which Agner took to Cornwallis' Army and Baker never again got the property or any money for it to our knowledge. [T]he reason why it was [that] the Board would not allow the value, as Baker supposed, and he would not take any thing. To our knowledge twenty one thousand seven hundred dollars of Continental money fell in his hands. Twenty one hundred dollars of which he changed [into] Gold and Silver for even—this twenty one hundred dollars he gave to his Brother for the same quantity of Continental money because he thought his Brother was well inclined to the Tories, and wanted to keep him well disposed to the new government[.] [S]aid Baker was a man of good property but lost it all by the war and the Tories—and we think no man is better entitled to your notice than said Baker.

Signed

S/ John Brannon

S/ Martin Fifer²

The above is a copy of a letter from Brannon and Fifer addressed to Ninian Edwards which I have sent on to Washington to aid Mr. Baker in getting a pension.

(Signed)

S/ Wm. H. Brown

[fn p. 22]

This is to certify all to whom it may concern that the Bearer Absalom Baker he whom I am well acquainted with served under Col. John Brannon and Col. Martin Fifer officers of the American Revolution war, and to my own certain knowledge was in various engagements in South Carolina, that I myself was with him at the Battle at the Hanging Rock, Camden district, Lincon's [sic, Lincoln's] defeat, Kings mountain and at General Gates defeat the latter at which he was wounded in the ankle and various other Battles that he was then to my own knowledge -- that the said Baker served under those officers for upwards of 5 years and whatever statements the said Col. John Brannon, or Col. Martin Fifer has made Respecting the said Baker may be taken as matters of fact, as I myself was well acquainted with them and served under them with said Absalom Baker. And I further certify that the said Absalom Baker lost to Negro man which cost him \$1000, also one wagon & team which cost him \$800, which property was taken by the enemy in time of war and that the said Baker has never to my knowledge received any Remuneration for the same.

S/ William Hall

[fn p. 23]

I hereby certify that I William Mathers read and examined all the papers of Absalom Baker the bearer of these papers and in them was his regular discharge from the Continental Army of the United States in the Revolutionary war and I do certify that all these papers relative to his situation and claims have all been clandestinely taken from said Baker on the 1st day of January 1828 & illegally kept from him and that I am know [sic, knowing] to all their contents for I read every paper myself on the 7th of January 1828 to all which I am ready & willing to swear before any proper authority and under these circumstances General Clark, Major Biddle & Col. McCree all gentlemen of St. Louis advised the old gentleman Mr. Baker to go in person and throw himself on the mercy of the President & Congress of the United States to see if the [sic, they] would grant relief to the bearer Absalom Baker as you will see now labors with the infirmities of old age in the evening of life his private resources being spent he is now sent to the National Capitol as a legal Claimant for services done in the prime of life in behalf of his country & we do sincerely hope no advantage will be taken for want of form in any of his documents so as to hinder that speedy relief he ought to have I remained ever a friend to the cause.

S/ Wm Mathers

[fn pp. 24-31 are too faint to read except in bits and pieces from which I found it impossible to construct anything useful.]

² Sic, Martin Phifer FPA S7312

[fn p. 31.]

State of Illinois Madison County

I William Hall do certify that I have been well acquainted with William Poke ever since he was a boy, I knew him during the whole time of the American revolutionary war, he was a good soldier and a man of an excellent character and any statement that he has made relative to Absalom Baker Senior as to the time of service in the revolutionary war as a valiant soldier being wounded at Gates defeat near Camden South Carolina and the loss of property &c I believe to be true -- I also certify that I have been personally acquainted with Absalom Baker Senior ever since the year 1816 and I believe him to be a good I next industrious citizen. February 24th 1830

S/ Wm Hall

[Unfortunately, many of the papers in this file are too faint to be legible, at least in the Footnote.com version. Perhaps the original would be more legible.]

[On the basis of this documentation, Baker was awarded a pension of \$8 per month commencing May 21, 1830 with arrearage of \$209.03, under the Act of Congress passed May 20, 1830. Baker was a resident of Illinois when the pension was awarded.]