

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Peter Baker W277

Mary

fn75NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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 76 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 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 [sic, 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 20 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 [sic, Moultrie?] with about 300 men as a guard moved all the sick then in the Hospital down to Charlestown. Having received intelligence that the British had ascended the Savannah River to Purysburg and intruded to intercept our passage to Charlestown. General Moultrie was commander at this time of the troops in Charlestown from which he had brought the guard above spoken of – We reached Charlestown in safety – the Army from the Black Swamp was marched still further up the River and crossed over the Briar Creek 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 20 miles from Charleston between a small town called Dogister [sic, 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 at this place – where we lost of killed about 300 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 700 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 100 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 mean time 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. 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 [sic, Thomas Sumter] was the commander in chief of the Dragoons – From thence they were marched to within 3 miles of the Eutaw Springs where we joined General Green [sic, 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 was also shot dead on his horse – We defeated the British. The next morning after we pursued on after them, but meeting General Marion, Colonel Lee and Colonel Malbury [sic, Francois Lellorquis Marquis de Malmady (also Malmedy, Malmèdy)] 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 10 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 50 or 60 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 10 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 23 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 --

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

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

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 all 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 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 50 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.]

[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.]

[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, Lavisia Haster formerly Lavisia Baker about 40, Riley Baker, about 38 & Malita Baker about 40 years]