

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Francis Barret S12961

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Sc't.

Cumberland County }

On the 13th day of August 1832 Francis Barret personally appeared in Court, then sitting aged 70 years old 20th Feb'y last; who first being duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress past June 7th 1832

That he entered the Service of the United States under Capt. Obediah Smith, of Chesterfield County, as a Vollenteer Horse man, I think in the Fall of 1779 destin'd for the South States We were quartered some time in Manchester for Training. We set out of the Carolinias. We were about Charlotte Town, Salibury [sic: Salisbury], Guilford Court House, and Hillsborough [all in NC]; at which place Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates rendisvoused after the defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. I having a good running Horse I was commonly sent in front of the Troop while Reconitering. I was taken prisoner by two men in homespun dress, each with a pistol, one holt of my Bridle, the other in a few feet, presenting their pistols and demanding me to surrender a prisoner of the Brittish; I saw no way to escape and yielded, The one holt of my Bridle directed me to deliver my pistols I put my hand in my Holster with that intent, A thought entered my mind to Cock and fire as I drew it out, which I did, at the one holt of my Bridle, he firing at me at the same time (I suppose heard my pistol cock), he missed me, but burnt the Scirt of my Coat in a Crisp, he fell the other snapt and I escap'd, for which I had the thanks of Gen'l. Gates on Parade. I was sent as an Express to carry papers to Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] in the south state. I was in no engagement, but we surprised and took between 15 and 20 Tories who had collected together, being furnish'd arms by the Brittish. We lost between 15 and 20 Horses fom Troop in one night which we never recovered.

We served out the Tower for which we engaged, Returned to Richmond Virginia, was there discharged, it was for 9 months, as well as I recollect. I suppose Capt. Smiths Roole [sic: muster or payroll] is in the War department by which it can be ascertained.

Soon after my return to Virginia the Brittish came up James River in their fleet molesting the inhabitants, and committing depredations I joined a Core of Horse, I do not recollect the Capt. name, we set out from Richmond, joined the Army at Holts Forge, I think in New Kent County, from there we went to Bacons Ordenary, we were in the night reaching there, there came on a sever thunder shower. the rear of our Army consisted of Malitia, there was an allarm. The Malitia run, several Officers were tryed by a Court Martial and as well as I recollect Capt. Phil Pentleton [sic: Philip Pendleton of the Berkeley County Militia] was broke of his Comm[an]d. We watched the movements of the Fleet, and continued down the River to the mouth, and went below Hampton; Our Troops were quartered in Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], under the Command of Gen'l. [Thomas] Nelson. How long we were in that Troop I do not recollect I think on our return to Williamsburgh Gen'l. Nelson chose 16 of our Troop as a life guard. I was one among them, we continued there until the Malitia was discharged.

I suppose the Roole may be found in the War department and my name there; there was no other Company of Horse in that quarter at that time.

In the Spring of 1781 when Gen'l. Phillips and Arnold [William Phillips and Benedict Arnold], Came up to Petersburg, I joined a Vollenteer Troop Commanded by Rob't. Barret [Robert Barret] We were about Chesterfield, Petersburg and reconitering, until the Enemy went back to their Shiping. When Cornwallace came from the South and was in that quarter [sic: Cornwallis, beginning 8 May 1781]. The Chesterfield Militia Commanded by Cl'n. Rob't. Good [sic: Robert Goode] were stationed at Sudsbury in Ches'ld [sic: Sudberry's, 3 mi from Chesterfield]. Tarlton surpris'd and took many of them [sic: Lt. Col.

Banastre Tarleton's Legion, 23 May], we were near there but not with them. We continued in James River with the Army Commanded by Barren Stuban, and Mulinburgh [sic: Baron von Steuben and Peter Muhlenberg], crossed James River above Richmond. When Cornwallace went through Henricko [sic: Henrico] and into Hanover Counties, when he was quartered at the Court House, I was taken when reconitering by Cl'n. Simcos [sic: John Simcoe's] Troop, Our Army retreating and the Enemy following after. It being the first of may, was not exchanged until late in Sept. a little before Cornwallace was Captured at little York [19 Oct 1781]. I think I was in the Army in the different Towers, together with the time I remained a prisoner Eighteen months or more.

I was in no general engagment, a few skirmishes, we took a few stragellers and a small picket guard below Petersburg; was often chased by Tarlton and Simcos Troop. I was paid for my Horse which convinces me the Roole of Capt. Barret is lodged in the War department

I hereby relinquish every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension Roole of the agency of any State.

I was raised in Hanover County Virginia, after the war moved to Charlotte County, from there to Fredrick [sic: Frederick], from that to Fayette in Kentucky, and been living in Cumberland about thirty years

[signed] Francis Barret

State of Kentucky Green County Sct.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Francis Barret, who being duly sworn deposed and says, that by way of amendment to his Declaration he makes the following statements, viz. –

1st. The he was born in Hanover County Virginia on the 20th day of February 1762 that he has a record of his birth in his own Bible, taken from the record of his father which last record is not in his possession. If he ever received a discharge, he has no recollection, what he has done with it, it is lost or mislaid. he is acquainted with John Baker, William Baker and James Baker who were my neighbors, and who have testified in the original declaration as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution which persons I have been acquainted with for the last thirty years.

At the time of making out my original declaration for a pension I resided in Cumberland County Kentucky where said Declaration and proof was made, and had resided there for upwards of thirty years previous, since which time I removed to Green County Kentucky where I now reside, and where this amended declaration is made.

This affiant has no dockumentary evidence in his possession, nor does he now know of any person by whom he can prove his services – he relies upon the rolls of the war department for proof of the same. By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades – he entered the service as a volunteer under Capt Smith in September 1779 and served nine months as orderly sergeant

In July 1780 he entered service as a volunteer Light horse, and served in the corps of horse, and as one of Gen'l. Nelsons life guard, seven months as a private. In the 1st of March 1781 he joined Capt. Robert Barrets corps of horse as a volunteer, and served as orderly sergeant –was taken prisoner on the 1st day of may the same year, and was not exchanged until the latter part of September, he was sick while a prisoner, and continued so, until after the surrender at York, he was not in active service after his exchange, but was not disbanded until several days after the surrender of Cornwallis making seven months and a half, having served altogether sixteen months and a half as orderly sergeant and seven months as a private, and for such service I claim a pension – [signed 15 Jan 1833] F. Barret

[Certified by John Barret, Clerk of Court.]