

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abner Bickham S30274

f41GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/3/07 rev'd 9/6/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th AD 1832
State of Louisiana, Parish of Washington

Be it Known and Remembered that on this thirty first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two before me, Thomas Warner, Judge of the Parish Court of the Parish and State aforesaid, personally appeared Abner Bickham a resident of said Parish and State aged Seventy Seven years 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 aforesaid and the following interrogatories being propounded (to wit):

Interrogatory 1st. Where and in what year were you born:?

Answer: I was born in the State of North Carolina July Twenty-sixth A.D. 1755.

Inter 2nd Have you any Record of your age & if so where is it:

Answer: I have the record here present.

Inter 3rd Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I lived in the State of Georgia, Burke County. After the war I remained in the State till the year 1797 and removed from there to Natchez Mississippi Territory remained there till the year 1807 and I removed into West Florida and remains at said place now State of Louisiana Parish of Washington.

Inter 4th How were you called into service? Were you drafted? Did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer: I volunteered.

Inter 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recalled and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I first entered the army under the command of Colonel John Jones and John Houston commander in Chief in the year 1778 as a militia man No. of Regiment not recollected. I volunteered the second time under the command of Colonel John Twiggs [John Twiggs] being Militia and No. of Regiment not recollected. Was driven by the enemy from Georgia to South Carolina. I continued in the Service till the end of the war under various commanders, was at the Battle of Long Lane [Long Canes December 12, 1780?] in South Carolina on Tyger River I believe that Sumter [Thomas Sumter] was an officer there but do not know whether he commanded in chief or not. I was at the Battle of Cowpens [January 17, 1781] near the Boundary line of North and South Carolina commanded by General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and Col. Washington [William Washington]. I was at the first siege of

Augusta under Colonel Clark [Elijah Clarke] and also in several other small fights such as scouting parties &c particulars not Recollected.

Inter 6th Did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has became of it.

Answer: I received a militia Captain commission in the year 1779 signed by John Houston the Governor of the State of Georgia. I do not know what became of said commissions but I know that I received and had it for years after the War but it was worn out, lost, or mislaid and I do not know what became of it.

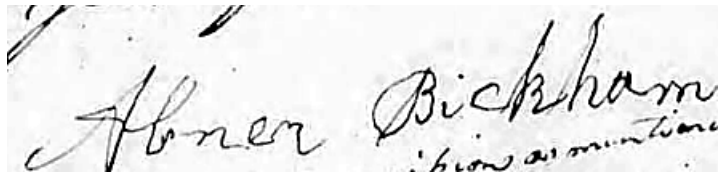
Inter 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can certify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your source as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I am know by William Fuzzell, Sarah Slocum, and Thomas Bickham, Senr. and I the said Abner Bickham on oath as aforesaid hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

S/ Thos. G. Warner, Parish Judge

S/ Abner Bickham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abner Bickham". Below the name, there is some faint, illegible text that appears to be "his as mentioned".

And said Abner further swears that he acted under said Captain's commission as mentioned in answer to interrogatory 6th from the year 1779 until the end of the said War in 1783. And that he had the command of a company of Militia Men during that time. Sworn as above before me

S/ Thos. L. Warner Parish Judge.

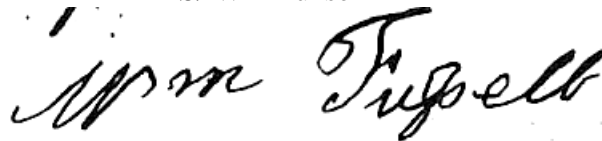
S/ Abner Bickham

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Then appeared William Fuzzell¹ and being sworn as aforesaid deposes as follows (to wit)

That he knew Abner Bickham was in the service of the United States as a militia man during the Revolutionary War that he served with him in the year 1778 in the Florida Expedition and also in part of the year 1779 that after peace was declared they lived as neighbors in the State of Georgia that in the year 1811 - this affiant removed to the now State of Louisiana Parish of Washington has lived a neighbor to Capt. Abner Bickham ever since that he believes him to be a man of veracity and that he believes the above declaration of said Abner Bickham is true.

S/ Wm Fuzsell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Fuzsell".

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me.

S/ Thos G. Warner, Parish Judge

¹ [William Fysel \(Fussell\) S31046](#)

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Then appeared Sarah Slocum and being Sworn as aforesaid Says that she knows Abner Bickham Served in the latter end of the Revolutionary war, that her Brother William Young was a Lieutenant in Captain Abner Bickham's company, that this affiant was about 12 years old when peace was made but well recollects that he was called Captain Bickham. Saw him commanding a company & has lived a neighbor to said Abner Bickham many years and believes him to be a man of veracity and that his declaration is true.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ Thos. G. Warner, Parish Judge

S/ Sarah Slocum, X her mark

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State of Louisiana, Parish of Washington:

An Amendment made to the Declaration of Captain Abner Bickham of the State and Parish aforesaid which said declaration was taken and made on the 31st day of July A.D. 1832 and is hereunto annexed whereby said declarant claims a pension of agreeably to an Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

Be it remembered that on this eighth day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 Before me Thomas G. Warner Parish Judge of the Parish aforesaid Personally appeared the said Abner Bickham, who being duly Sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the Consequent loss of Memory, he cannot Swear positively 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 – to wit:

In 1777 & 1778, He served as volunteer private in the State of Georgia in Captain Moses Davis's Company & Colonel John Jones's Regiment, Militia, in this Tour he served regularly & faithfully six months, say 6 months.

In 1778, Volunteered his Services as a private Militia Man in Captain John Whitakers [?] Company of Colonel John Twiggs' Regiment, Served part of the time in the State of Georgia & a part in South Carolina, on this Tour he served constantly & faithfully eight months – say 8

In 1779, He was appointed to Command a Militia Company and was Accordingly Commissioned by John Houston Governor of the State of Georgia – That he Served as Captain regularly & faithfully under Colonel Elijah Clarke (militia commandant in said State of Georgia) part of the year 1779 & part of 1780, Served in this Tour as Captain aforesaid and a one year say 12.

In 1781 and until peace was made in 1783, He Served constantly & faithfully as Captain in the said State of Georgia from Savannah to Augusta, as ordered, first under General John Twiggs (promoted) of the Militia line, and then under General Anthony Wayne of the Continental line. In the whole of this Tour as Captain, two years say 24

			y	m
First Tour	Six Months	say		6
Second Tour	eight ditto	say		8
	As private one year & two Months			
Third Tour as Capt.,	one year	say	1	
Fourth Tour as Capt.,	Two years	say	<u>2</u>	
		Total	4	2 that is to say

I served as private one year and two months

I served as Captain Three Years—And for Such Services I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed to date above written before me

S/ Thos. G. Warner, Parish Judge

S/ Abner Bickham

And the said Abner Bickham Captain, as aforesaid further declares on Oath that he Served faithfully during the different periods and places herein mentioned & that he Served with an embodied Corps called into Service by Competent Authority, that he was constantly in the Field during his Service mentioned in the foregoing declaration, and that he was not employed in any Civil pursuit.

Sworn & subscribed to May 8, 1833 before me.

S/ Thos. G. Warner, Parish Judge

S/ Abner Bickham

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The State of Louisiana Parish of Washington: At a Session of the Hon. the Parish Court in and for the Parish of Washington held on Monday the 2nd day of December in the year of our Lord 1833 – present the Hon. Benjamin Richardson, Presiding, the following orders, attestations and declarations were made in the manner hereinafter designated. Viz.

Revolutionary Pensions

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June A.D. 1832

Be it remembered that on the 3rd day of December in the year aforesaid personally appeared in open court Abner Bickham a resident of this Parish and State aforesaid aged about Seventy Eight years, after being duly sworn according to law made the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act aforesaid and the following interrogatories were propounded answered as follows – Viz. –

Interrogatory First

Where and in what year were you born? Answer I was born in the state of North Carolina July 6, 1755.

Second

Have you any record of your age? & If you [do], where is it? Answer. I have the record here present.

Third

Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? Answer. I lived in the State of Georgia Burke County; after the war I remained in the State until the year A.D. 1791 about which period I emigrated to Natchez Mississippi Territory where I remained until the year 1807 and then moved to what was then called West Florida now State of Louisiana Parish of Washington where I now reside –

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. I volunteered.

Fifth

State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Militia Regiments as near as you can now recollect, and the General circumstances of your Service.? Answer. I entered the Army first under the command of Col. John Jones and John Houston commander in chief in the year 1778 as a militia man for six months; the No. of the Regiment not recollected, I volunteered a second time under the command of Col. John Twiggs of the Militia the No. Of the Regiment not recollected; in this tour was driven by the enemy from Georgia into South Carolina: I continued in the service on the various commanders until the close of the war: – Was at the Battle of Long Lane South Carolina Tyger River: I believe that Sumter was an officer there but do not recollect whether he commanded in chief or not; I was at the Battle of the Cowpens under the command of General Morgan & Col. Washington, I was also at the Siege of Augusta under Col. Clark; and in several other small fights, such as scouting parties &c &c particulars not recollected. Served 6 months under General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] immediately preceding the termination of the War –

Sixth

Did you ever receive a commission? & If so by whom signed and what has become of it? Answer – I received a commission as a Militia Capt. in the year 1779 signed by John Houston then Gov. of the State of Georgia I am unable to say what has become of said commission, I know that I received and

had it for many years after the termination of the War, but I think it was either worn out, lost or mislaid so that I cannot now recollect what has become of it

Seventh

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood; and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution –?

Answer. I am well acquainted with Mrs. Sarah Slocum and Thomas Bentham who can testify to my having served as a Capt. of Militia men in the Revolutionary War: and further I am well acquainted with Stephen Ellis – a citizen of this parish and Martin Gordon Penn Esq. the present District Attorney of this district residing in the Parish of St. Tammany adjoining this parish, who can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution

Sworn and subscribed in open Court on the 3rd day of December A.D. 1833

S/ E. T. Ellis, D. Clk.

S/ Abner Bickham

The said Abner Bickham being now personally present in open Court did after being duly sworn according to law declare that he is a resident of the parish of Washington and State of Louisiana of Seventy Eight years of age, doth on his oath aforesaid make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 viz. – that he entered into the service of the United States or the then Continental Army in the year 1777 as a volunteer private in the State of Georgia in Capt. Moses Davis Company and Col. John Jones Regiment militia in this term served 6 months. In 1778 served as a volunteer private in Capt. John Whitaker's company of Col. John Twiggs Regiment Militia. Served part of the time in the State of Georgia and a part of the time in the State of South Carolina. In this I served 8 months. In 1779 was appointed to the command of a company of Militia man, and was commissioned as such by Gov. John Houston of the State of Georgia, and in that capacity served under Col. Elijah Clark. In this Tour served one year –

In 1781 and until the war was terminated in 1783 he served constantly and faithfully as Capt. in the said State of Georgia from Savannah to Augusta as ordered 1st under the command of General John Twiggs (promoted) of the militia Line and lastly under General Anthony Wayne of the Continental line. In this tour served two years. And the said Abner Beckham further declares that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades – viz. – For one year and two months I served faithfully as a private. For three years I served faithfully as a Capt. and for such service I claim a pension. That he served with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority & under the command of the persons named at the time and place is mentioned in my answer to the fifth Interrogatory propounded by this Hon. Court and the 1st part of this declaration that he was constantly in the field, and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit. The said declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn and subscribed to in open court on the 3rd December, A.D. 1833

S/ Abner Bickham

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then personally appeared in open Court Major Thomas Bickham a citizen of the parish of Washington aforesaid and after being duly sworn according to law declares that he was 13 years old at the termination of the Revolutionary War, that he was at that time and is at present well acquainted with Capt. Abner Bickham, that said Abner Bickham served in the Revolutionary War as a Militia Capt., from the year 1778 until peace was declared; know that the said Abner Bickham served under the command of [text too faint to discern] under Capt. John Whitaker of Col. Twiggs Regiment; know that he was at the 1st siege of Augusta commanded by Col. Elijah Clark: know that the American troops were defeated and took refuge in the mountains, part of the troops, after having been famished [? very

faint] for near 7 days came to the house of the affiant's Father – Capt. Abner Bickham was one of the number – Affiant was young at that time yet he recollects the facts above stated perfectly well. Affiant lives near neighbor to Abner Bickham, that from his general good character for veracity, he is reputed and believed in his neighborhood where he now resides to have been a soldier of the revolution.

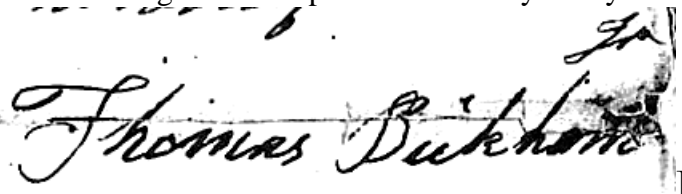
S/ Thos. Bickman

[p 15: In Washington Parish Louisiana Dicy Bickham, widow, filed power of attorney dated April 19, 1834 naming her son, Thomas Bickham, Jr. as her attorney to receive any pension due her husband. She signed this document with her mark. On the same day and in the same place, Major Thomas Bickham and William Hays gave testimony that Abner Bickham departed this life January 29, 1834 being 78 years of age.



William Hays Thos. Bickham

[p 17: In the parish of New Orleans Louisiana on April 23, 1834, Thomas Bickham, Jr., made oath that he was acting under the power of attorney solely for the benefit of his mother.



Thomas Bickham

[p 22: There is a note in the file that the pay roll of Capt. Abner Bickham's company of Georgia militia from 15 August 1781 21 February 1782 showing 5 months and 15 days service was taken from this file and filed with the miscellaneous musterrolls.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Capt. for 2 years in the Georgia service.]