

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Barnes W2585 Elizabeth Barnes f60SC [sic, NC]

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 7/15/10: rev'd 5/11/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 5]

State of Tennessee McNairy County} SS

On this the 24th day of September in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of Our court of pleas and quarter sessions for said County now sitting William Barnes a resident of the State and County aforesaid aged Seventy years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

That he was born in the State of North Carolina in the year 1764 agreeable to the best information I have, my Father was killed by the Indians and my mother died a few months thereafter consequently I have no record of my age. Shortly after my mother's death I went from North Carolina to a place not far from the falls of Pedee [Pee Dee River], there I resided until the year as well as he can recollect 1779, when he went to Rutherford County North Carolina where he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier in the said year 1779 under Captain Nimrod Terrell for the Term of three months. Our company joined Col. Thomas Branons [Thomas Brandon's regiment of SC militia?] Regiment in Rutherford County, then we marched to near Augusta in the State of Georgia where we joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Army, from here we marched to the Saluda River in South Carolina where we made a short stay from here we crossed the Savannah River and marched directly on to Bacon's bridge here we encamped some time from here we marched to Stono River, at this place we met the British when a battle was fought and General Lincoln was compelled to retreat. This Battle was fought sometime in the year 1779.¹ Owing to old age and the consequent loss of memory cannot state the precise date, I was in this Battle, from here my Company marched back to Augusta and my time of three months being out I was discharged. I do not recollect whether I received a written discharge or not if I did I presume it was signed by my Captain and is now lost or destroyed. From Augusta after I was discharged I returned to Rutherford County in North Carolina where I stayed, until sometime in the year 1780 -- the date I cannot now recollect, when I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier in the light horse which was then called the Dragoons, under Captain Jesse Johnson [sic, Lt. Jesse Johnson].² Our Company was attached to Col. Samuel Hammonds [Samuel Hammond's] Regiment. We joined him in Rutherford County North Carolina, from here we marched to near Ninety Six in South Carolina where we joined

¹ June 20, 1779 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

² [Jesse Johnston \[Johnson\] SC4337](#)

General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army. After being in camp for some time General Greene marched up into North Carolina and fought the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]. My self Company and Regiment did not go to Guilford with General Greene. We was sent through South Carolina to watch the British and Tories. We was marching from place to place, until we heard of General Greene's return from North Carolina and after the Battle of Guilford. We again joined the General Greene's Army not far from the Eutaw Springs -- when the whole marched directly to that place here we had a Battle with the British which was in the month of September 1781³ as well as he now recollects. I was selected to guard some British Prisoners consequently I was not in the battle, a few days after the Battle our Regiment left General Greene and we marched to the River Saluda near Cook's ferry where we encamped for some time: while here information was received that the Indians called the Overhill Nation had become very Troublesome and doing all the mischief they could -- my Captain and forty or fifty others together with myself left Col. Hammonds and marched to a place called Reedy River [sic, Reedy River?] in South Carolina where we joined General Pickens [Andrew Pickens]. We marched under him directly to the nation we accomplished our business there in about one month then returned to General Pickens House in South Carolina, when we arrived there news was brought that Lord Cornwallis had surrendered [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], so I was discharged. I served in this Tour not less than twelve months the precise time I cannot say owing to old age and the consequent loss of memory. I do not recollect whether I ever received a discharge or not. If I did I presume is signed by my Captain and is now lost or destroyed. I have no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state -- Dennis Barnes has been acquainted with me for a great number of years he can Testify as to my character, veracity and his belief and the neighborhood's belief generally of my being a soldier of the Revolution -- the said Dennis Barnes can also testify that I was absent from home and it was said I was out in the service of the United States. Achilius Walker a clergyman has been acquainted with me for some time he can also testify to my character for veracity and good moral character and his belief and the neighborhood's belief generally that I was a soldier of the revolution. After my discharge I went to Broad River in South Carolina where I lived six years then I moved to the State of Kentucky lived there about four years then moved to Smith County Tennessee lived there about four years from there to Warren County Tennessee lived there about six years from there to Stewart County Tennessee lived there three months from there to Hickman County lived there two years from there to Perry County Tennessee lived there sixteen years and from there to McNairy County where he now lives. Given under my hand --

Sworn & subscribed in open court the day & date above
S/ Wm S. Wisdom, Clerk

S/ Wm Barnes, X his mark

[p 36: Dennis Barnes residing in McNairy County gave a standard supporting affidavit and adds that he knew William Barnes was absent from his residence and was reputed and believed to be in the United States service during the revolutionary war. He signed his affidavit with his mark.] [Archelaus Walker, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.



³ September 8, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html


[p 34]

State of Tennessee McNairy County: SS

On this the 17th day of November in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in Open Court before the Judge of our circuit Court now sitting for said County – Aaron Gage aged seventy six years old who being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith that he was acquainted with William Barnes who has sworn to the foregoing Declaration, during the revolutionary war, and that he is the Identical same Barnes to the best of my recollection, and that he recollects that said Barnes was under Captain Johnson and attached to Col. Hammond's Regiment, myself being in the same company and Regiment with him, this affiant also states that the different marches which said bollards has mentioned in his declaration while under Colonel Hammond he recollects of having been performed from the long length of time and old age he cannot now state the length of time said arms served, but the said Affiant knows it was a long time he was in the service. Given under my hand the date above

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the date aforesaid

S/ Aaron Gage⁴



[p 7: On June 6, 1853 in McNairy County Tennessee, Elizabeth Barnes, aged 40, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Barnes, a pensioner of the revolution at the rate of 60 dollars per annum; that she married him May 15 1834; that he died February 17 1844; that she remains his widow. She signed the application with her mark.]

[p. 10: On February 11, 1857 in McNairy County Tennessee, Elizabeth Barnes aged about 45 years, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Barnes; in this application she states that her husband died in February 1849; that they were married April 15, 18__ by one Archillis Walker, a minister; that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Bailey.]

[p 13: Copy of a marriage license issued May 13, 1834 in McNairy County Tennessee for the marriage of William Barnes to Elizabeth Bailey.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of 60 dollars per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one year service as a private in the cavalry and 3 months service as a private in the infantry during the revolution.]_____

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁵ relating to William Barns [Barnes]
Audited Account No. None

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5/11/24

⁴ [Aaron Gage S2229](#)

⁵ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

[Transcribers Note: There is no file in the South Carolina Audited Accounts regarding this veteran's service. The following information was found in South Carolina Stub book l-n:

No. 67

Lib: M

Issued the 1st of October 1784 to Mr. William Barns late a private in Lieut. Col. Saml. Hammond's⁶ regiment of State-Troops for Ninety four pounds Sterling being the Ballance of Pay and Bounty due him for Services done in that Regiment Together with Interest thereon from the 1st April 1782 to date of Indent: Agreeable to a resolution of the General Assembly of the 11th March last &c – &c

Principal	£94.0.0
Interest	6.11.7] ⁷

⁶ [Samuel Hammond S21807](#)

⁷ Men who enlisted for ten months beginning in April 1781 in the SC 10-month State Troops of Light Dragoons under Hammond were promised a bounty and wages payable in slaves taken from the Tories. Such 'pay' was known as "Sumter's Wages." When that horrific form of payment could not be made because too few slaves were confiscated from the Tories, by act dated March 21, 1784, the SC Legislature authorized the payment in pounds Sterling deemed to equal the value of the slaves not delivered (to wit, £94 Sterling for one 'grown Negro' and £47 Sterling for one 'small Negro.') That act also exonerated Sumter and the troops under his command from liability due to plundering of the estates from which the slaves were taken.