

Samuel Baker

(FPA 39169) Not every soldier had the assistance of a US President with his pension application.

In the Circuit Court of Giles County Tennessee at the Court house in the Town of Pulaski on Monday the 2nd day of August in the year 1830, **Samuel Baker**, a resident in said County of Giles aged Seven Six years who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818. That he the said Samuel Baker enlisted for the Term of five years or during the war, Sometime in the month of July in the year 1777 (as well [as] declarant can now recollect not having anything to refer to for certainty as to dates, having lost his discharge after keeping it 15 or 20 years), in the Town of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina in the Company commanded by **Captain Ezekiel Polk**, in the Regiment commanded by **Colonel Thomas Polk** in the Line of the State of North Carolina on the North Carolina Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in said Corps until the close of the Revolutionary war (declarant for the reason above stated cannot state the precise time of his discharge), -- when he was discharged from the service near the "high hills of Santee" (the County not known in the State of South Carolina). Declarant further states that while he was in Service, he was in the battle of the "Eutaw Springs" in 1781 in which by the passage of a cannon ball almost touching his head, he lost the hearing of his left ear which he has never recovered, declarant was also in the battle of Savannah in Georgia in 1778. Declarant was also at the battle of the "**Cowpens**" in 1781 in which he received a **wound in his right arm** near his wrist which shattered his arm very much & has left a large knot at his wrist; said wound was received from a gun barrel in close engagement. Declarant states that he enlisted in company with one Benjamin Rowan or Rowing - - & that said Rowan & one Jonathan Potts were two of his messmates for a long time. Declarant further states that not long after he enlisted he was marched into South Carolina where & in North Carolina he performed most of his service & passed the principal part of his time, until he was discharged as aforesaid. Declarant states that he was with his company & Corps to which he belonged took water at Monck's Corner on Cooper River & went down to Charleston where Declarant was at the siege in 1780 & where he with the remainder of the besieged was surrendered as prisoners of war in the month of April, May or June & declarant can't recollect which. Declarant remained a prisoner about three months in the barracks at Charleston and was then with a Benjamin Rowan S35049 few others exchange – the Main body of the American prisoners taken on this occasion having been sent on board the British fleet were not exchange so early. Declarant states that a year or two after the act of 1818 above referred to passed he applied to Alfred M. Harris & had a Declaration prepared for him, & sent it on to the War department, whence it shortly returned with information that declarant could not be placed on the pension roll on his own unsupported oath, but that evidence independent of his own statement must be adduced. Declarant did not then know of any person within his reach cognizant of the facts of his having served as aforesaid until about one year ago. Declarant ascertained that two of his revolutionary associates lived within 20 or 30 miles of him & sometime last winter he procured another Declaration to be made out & procured the evidence of said persons & prepared his papers for the pension office – but they have been lost or mislaid in the clerk's office of Giles County as he is informed by the clerk & have not been forwarded to Washington as declarant believes & is informed. These are the reasons why he has not applied earlier for a pension. And in pursuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of

the United States on the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of An Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me Subscribed Schedule of property belonging to Samuel Baker 2 ploughs worth together \$4.00 1 axe worth \$2.00 2 Hoes worth \$1.00 1 pair of ploughing gear worth \$2.00 4 barrels of corn worth \$4.00 100 lbs bacon worth \$8.00 no horse beast – nor horned cattle, nor sheep, nor hogs – a few oats, a small crop of corn growing \$25. a Stock of Fowls say geese, chickens & doz. Turkeys, 4 Ducks \$10. S/ Samuel Baker, X his mark Declarant states that he is by occupation a farmer, is very infirm, walks with much difficulty, is also deaf & crippled in one arm & in every way unable to pursue his occupation so as to make a support by it. He further states that a wife named Betsy & aged about 60 years, subject to Rheumatic pains-- quite infirm -- & unable to do anything of consequence supporting the family, a daughter named Nancy aged about 20 or 21 years, a tolerably healthy girl & able to do as much work as most of girls – constitutes the whole of Declarant's family resident with him, the number of the family including himself being 3. The Declarant states that since the 18th day of March 1818, the following changes have taken place in his property. List of property owned by Samuel Baker on the 18th day of March 1818 & not now owned by him, Viz.: One horse killed by having his thigh broke eight or nine years ago; between 40 & 50 hogs – some of them killed for pork but most of them died naturally or were killed by dogs – 15 head of horned cattle all died of some distemper from time to time or killed casually except about 4 or 5 eaten. Some few other articles of property not amounting as declarant believes in all to \$10: some other changes of a minor character may have taken place but Declarant does not now recollect & cannot name them, if any. Declarant states that he had a discharge from service given to him by his Captain said Ezekiel Polk at the place at which he was discharged aforesaid – and kept said discharge for 15 or 20 years – but the same is now lost or worn out & Declarant has not seen or heard of it since. Sworn to & declared on the 13th day of August 1830 in open Court before the Circuit Court of Giles County, Tennessee. S/ Samuel Baker, X his mark S/ Sterling H. Lester, Clerk &c.

State of Tennessee, Giles County This day being the 10th day of August 1830 Matthew Wood a citizen of said County & under oath in open Court, that he said affiant knows that Samuel Baker aged about 67 years & a citizen of said County belonged to the Army of the revolution in the year 1778 as well as affiant can now recollect the time; affiant states that he commanded a company in the third Regiment of North Carolina Line of the Continental establishment (which said Regiment was commanded by Colonel Jethro Sumner) – and knew said Baker – he said Samuel Baker being for some time a member of the affiant's said company & being commanded by affiant, as affiant thinks for about six months. Sworn to, in open Court the 10th day of August 1830. S/ Sterling H. Lester, Clerk S/ Matt. Wood

[p 11: NC Secretary of State, William Hill, sent a letter dated December 27, 1830 to James K. Polk stating that Samuel Baker's name was not found on the muster rolls of the Continental line in NC.]

[p 15] Washington City December 14, 1831 Sir, Enclosed I send you the declaration of Samuel Baker for a pension, accompanied by an additional affidavit of Captain Matthew Woods (a

respectable citizen of Tennessee, and now I believe himself on the pension roll) in support of his claim. Mr. Baker's declaration was once before submitted to your examination, but I must ask you that you will give it another examination connected with his new testimony now addressed, for I am impressed with the believe that he is a very meritorious old man and that his claim is well founded. I think from his own statement and the proof in the case, notwithstanding his name does not appear upon the North Carolina muster rolls, as you will perceive from the enclosed letter from the Secretary of State of that State addressed to me. When you have decided on his case advise me of it. Very respectfully Your Obedient Servant S/ **James K. Polk**

The Tennessee Pension Roll of 1835 prepared by the War Department includes:

SAMUEL BAKER

GILES COUNTY

PRIVATE

NORTH CAROLINA CONT'L LINE

\$96.00 ANNUAL ALLOWANCE

\$212.80 AMOUNT RECEIVED

DECEMBER 16, 1831 PENSION STARTED

AGE 80