

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Humphrey Bates W25204
Transcribed by Will Graves

Rachel fn44NC

State of Kentucky, Rockcastle County

On this 26th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justice[s] of the Rockcastle County Court being a Court of record, Humphrey Bates resident of said County and State aforesaid aged 67 years, who 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 passed 7th June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He volunteered in the County of Burke North Carolina in the year 1781 under James McFarland Captain, George Walker Lieutenant, Peter Rust, Ensign. He was first marched to Davis' Station on the head of the Catawba River where we remained, spying and scouting on French Broad, Swannanoa & the aforesaid Catawba [rivers] until we were discharged having been in actual service three months.

He volunteered again in the same year under the same Captain against the British and Tories – marched to Sherrill's Ford on the Catawba River and near there joined Colonel Charles McDowell's Regiment and marched through the country between Salisbury and Charlotte & joined General Rutherford's Brigade – then marched through North Carolina and crossed the Pedee [River] at the mouth of the Hughwond [?], so-called, then proceeded to N. West Cape Fear [River] then to the Raft Swamps – and then were Stationed a while we were particularly in pursuit of Colonel Fanning & Col. Elrod – we next marched to N. E. Cape Fear and on the way we joined the Governor Martin. We were stationed at N. E. Cape Fear until Cornwallis was taken & until the British left Wilmington. We then guarded the wagons home & were discharged; this tour was for three months and he served it out in actual Service. In the latter part of the summer of 1782 he volunteered again under Captain John Watson against the Cherokees – Joined Colonel Miller's Regiment & marched to the West side of French Broad & remained there until joined by Colonel McDowell's Regiment then we marched to the Nation on the Tennessee River & through to the Middle Settlements – then turned to the head of the River & traversed the Country until we were discharged having been in actual service three months or upwards.

In answer to interrogatories put by the court he says-- first he was born in Lincoln County North Carolina the 13th day of January 1765 according to information of his parents (having no record of his age). His father moved from there to Burke County same State when he was very small and applicant lived there when he entered the Service. He afterwards moved to Rutherford County – and from there to Garrard County Kentucky where he lived upwards of 30 years & from there to Rockcastle County State aforesaid – where he now lives. He received three discharges, but they are all lost. He served as a volunteer each tour. He was not acquainted with any of [the] regular officers.

He has no documentary evidence of his Service, nor does he know of any person living by whom he can prove his service except what he has proven by General Keneday [sic, Thomas Kennedy]¹ whose affidavit he well here annex.

He is well acquainted with the Reverend James C. Barnes and Colonel Thomas Buford, who can testify as to his Character. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity, except the present, & declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State whatever.

Sworn to & subscribed the date aforesaid. S/ Humphrey Bates

[James C. Barnes, a clergyman, and Colonel Thomas Buford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[On October 10, 1853 in Garrard County, Ky., Rachel Bates, 86, made application fall of a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Humphrey Bates, a deceased pensioner of the United States for

1 [Thomas Kennedy S31185](#)

his services during the revolution, pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum; that her name at the time of her marriage was Rachel Mitchell; that she married her husband in Rutherford County, NC in 178__ [blank in original]; and that her husband died March 23, 1853.]

[facts in file: fn p. 16 marriage bond dated September 29, 1788 issued in Rutherford County, NC, for the marriage of Humphrey Bates to Rachael Mitchell; Goinn Erwin, co-bondsman

State of Ky., Garrard County

This day came before me Nelson Burdett a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid General Thomas Kennedy and made oath that he knew Humphrey Bates now of the County of Rockcastle Kentucky, upwards of 50 years ago. That their Fathers lived near neighbors in the County of Burke North Carolina. That he has known him in the State of Kentucky also upwards of 30 years, most of which time said Bates has been one of his tenants. That he knows said Bates volunteered in the service of the US in the said County of Burke in the Militia for three months under Captain James McFarland, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell afterwards General McDowell but he does not remember the year. That he marched to Wilmington, and was attached to the Brigade under General Rutherford. That he believes he served out his engagement faithfully. That this affiant has always understood, and has no doubt of the fact, the said Bates served another tour of three months under the same Captain near the head waters of the Catawba River, but he does not know to this of his own knowledge. He will add also said Bates was always considered an active good soldier.

Given under my hand & seal this 8 September 1832.

S/ Nelson Burdett, JP