

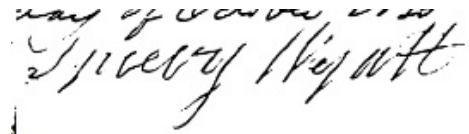
Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Best VAS2501  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I Spivey Wyatt [Spievy Wyatt S6456] of Norfolk County now Seventy one years of age do hereby certify on oath that I was a Soldier in the war of the revolution and was in sevice at Portsmouth in the year 1777 or 1778. I was well acquainted with John Best who was the ensign in Captain Wm Hoffler's [William Hoffler S38047] company which was stationed at that time in Portsmouth and I know that John Best was afterwards appointed the Lieutenant in that company upon the resignation of Thomas Hoffler, and embarked with Captain Hoffler's company from Goodrich wharf in Portsmouth in order to proceed to the North. I was well acquainted with many of the privates in Hoffler's company (the principle part of whom were residents of this county) and I know that they were enlisted for three years and that on their return in the year 1780 or 1781 Lieutenant John Best returned with them – and I have not the least doubt but what Lt Best was in sevice full three years. I recollect the names of some of the privates who returned. Those that I recollect to have gone with Hoffler & who returned were Samuel Hatton [VAS1439], John Hardy [VAS1393], Nathaniel Rose, Mr Barnes and Malachi Best, & Mr Stafford and others whose given names I forget. I further certify that John Best to the best of my belief resigned on his return from the north and did not enter the sevice again

Witness my hand this 23<sup>d</sup> day of October 1830



I Thomas Carney of Norfolk County Do hereby certify that I knew John Best who was said to have been in army during the revolution I know that he returned from the north with other persons from this county who had been in the army at the north, sometime about the battle at York (1781) [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. I recollect that he was much afflicted with Rheumatism said to have been contracted in the war. On his return from the north he settled on the farm adjoining mine. He has been dead many years. As Witness my hand this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1830 [signed] Thos Carney

Norfolk County Sct:

I do hereby certify that I knew John Best who was in Capt Hofflers company in the revolutionary war. I know that Jno Best was in the service. I have frequently heard Captain Hoffler speak of Best having been with him to the north, in the war, and did frequently hear the neighbours of John Best further tell him that his son would never return from the war, (they believing that Best would be killed)

Witness my hand

John hisXmark Powell

The above certificate was sworn

to before me this 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1830 by John Powell

Jno Hodges J.P.

John Best received recruiting money as an Ensign on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Feby. 1777 (See Executive Journal P321) in Capt Wm Hoffler's Company. Major Wyatt (who was a soldier in another company) proves that Best was an ensign at Portsmouth in Hoffler's company about the year 1777 & that he was soon after promoted to a Lieutenantcy & marched with Hofflers company to the north – and he says that Best returned in that company about the year 1781 (in which particular he is sustained by the affidavit of Mr Thomas Carney) He says moreover that he was intimately acquainted with many of the privates in that company who he knows enlisted for three years, marched away with Best & returned with him. He has named several of the men who returned with Best from the northern Campaign & I herewith file certificates to prove that

several of those very men have obtained their bounty for three years service, which proves conclusively that Best who was then officer during the period of their service, must have served also three years. The affidavit of John Powell proves that John Best was an officer with Hoffler at the north &c &c. Samuel Hatton & John Hardy and also Captain Hoffler rec'd. their land warrants

In the case of Lieut John Best, I find that he was an officer in Capt Hoffler's company in the first state regiment; which Regiment (as appears by the report of July 1782) was raised in 1777 in the month of May & on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June was ordered to the North and was ordered back to Virg'a on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1779. Capt Hoffler is reported to have become Supernumerary on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1780. Major Wyatt testifies that Best was the Ensign of Hoffler's Company & was promoted Lieut. & marched with Hoffler to the North in 1777. That he returned with Hoffler in 1780 or 1781. Maj Wyatt's evidence is strongly corroborated by the report of 1782 – which shews that the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. went to the north, and was ordered back on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Dec'r. 1779. It is probable that the Reg. did not arrive in Va until the Summer of 1780, as it appears by the Report that Hoffler became a Super'y on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1780. Maj Wyatt further proves that Best returned to Norfolk County with Hoffler & his company

J W Murdaugh