

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of David Bayles R641

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Ohio Ss

Champaign County

On this eighteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. George B. Hold President, and James Smith and William Runkle Esquires associates, Judges of the Court of Common pleas within and for the County and State aforesaid, now sitting: David Bayles, a resident of said County aged seventy years, on the ninth day of July last past, 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 June 7 A.D. 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. As near as can be recollected by this applicant, the name of the commander of the regiment was Col. Zackael Morgan [sic: Zackquil Morgan] under Gen'l. George Roger Clark [sic: George Rogers Clark], and the captain's name was Robert Ferrel [Robert Ferrell]. He entered the service under the said officers about the first of May in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one (the precise day is not remembered) rendezvoused at a place then named New Store, but now bears the name of Elizabethtown, if this applicant is correctly informed, which place is situated on the Monongahala river about twenty miles above Fort Pitt (now Pittsburg) [Elizabeth on Monongahela River about 12 mi SSE of Pittsburgh, then considered to be in VA] entered various water crafts and descended the Ohio river as far down as the falls [at present Louisville KY] – there landed – encamped & tarried till sometime in the month of November say the 15<sup>th</sup> all the while looking well to the safety of the frontiers, that there might be no depredations commit by the ruthless Indians, when the whole company or regiment, in which this applicant was, & with whom he continually kept, took up a line of march; soon after they started on their march for the interior the news came that Lord Cornwallis was defeated & taken [19 Oct 1781], to their great joy & hearts content. They, however, proceeded on, taking Harodsburg [sic: Harrodsburg] & Powells Valley (thro' a wilderness) on their tour and finally reached Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier] County thro' great fatigue, which lies in the state of Va. Soon after the arrival of the company, at the last aforesaid county, this applicant took sick, & was there left by the company & where he remained about six months, when on recovering he left the service & went home in a legal manner; making in all as near as this applicant can possibly remember, a term of twelve months or one year. He was in no engagements while out in the service, there being no occasion therefor. He does not now recollect whether he received a written or verbal discharge, if he did receive a written one he has long since lost it together with all the knowledge appertaining thereto, & if he did not receive a written one, he believes he was verbally discharged soon after his recovery from sickness as above said. He entered the service as a substitute an the manner of his substitution an for whom was about in the manner, in substances. In those days and in the region of country where this applicant then resided, called the Redstone country [near present Brownsville PA], the men who were subject to be called out in the service of their country, were divided off into classes, each class when necessary were liable to a draft, and when so, one of the class was sure to be drafted, it was however provided, by the rules regulating those things, that peradventure any such class saw proper, previous to their undergoing a draft, to furnish a person, to go as a substitute, in the stead of the one who might chance to be drafted in the said class, they were privileged so to do. In this manner was this applicant substituted to go on the above narrated campaign. The names of all the class, who chose & furnished him, he does not now remember, three of them, however, were, Thomas Balton, James Holeslow, & Mark Hardin. He has no documentary evidence by which to make more plain his services & his claim, as those with whom he was acquainted at the time he was in the service, are spread

over the earth & into parts to him unknown, & some have departed this life. He was born in the State of Virginia, in Frederick County on the ninth day of July in the year seventeen hundred and sixty two. The Bible of his Parents in which they had recorded his age he cannot produce, it being in the possession of some on of his Brothers or Sisters who still reside, as he is instructed, in Virginia. He, however, has a copy thereof in his own Bible at home which is correct. He lived after the termination of the revolutionary war about ten years in the county of Louden [sic: Loudoun], Virginia, after which he removed to the county of Monongahala [sic: Monongalia] in the same state & settled on Sheet river [sic: Cheat River] at which place he lived about fifteen years, when he removed to the state of Ohio, Butler County, where he lived about two years. He then removed to the said County of Champaign & state of Ohio aforesaid where he has lived ever since. He can procure two persons, to wit, William H. Fyffe and William Darnell who can testify their belief in his having been a soldier of the revolution as is stated, and that he is a man of truth & veracity. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

The questions propounded by the Court, & the answers thereto by the said applicant for a pension.

Q. 1<sup>st</sup> Where, and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in Frederick county, Virginia, in the year seventeen hundred and sixty two.

“ 2<sup>d</sup> Have you any record of your age, & if so, where is it?

A. I have not the original record, but a copy thereof. The original one is in the possession of one of my Brothers or Sisters, who still live in Virginia and the copy is in my bible at home.

“ 3<sup>d</sup> Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since since the revolutionary war, & where do you now live?

A. I lived in the State of Virginia, in Frederick county, at the time when I entered the service, I remained in that state for a number of years after the termination of the revolutionary war. viz for about twenty five years, and then I removed to this state of Ohio where I have lived ever since.

Q 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? An if a substitute, for whom?

A. I was a substitute. A class substituted me to go on the campaign for the one who would have been drafted provided the class would have underwent the draft. The names of all the class I do not now recollect but three I do remember and who were Thomas Balton, James Holeslow and Mark Hardin.

“ 5<sup>th</sup> 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 recollect and the general circumstances of your service

A. I recollect the General, who was by the name of Clark & I think his given name was Geo. Roger. I remember that the Col's name was Zackael Morgan & the Captain was by the name of Robert Ferrel. I remember a regiment of regulars from Virginia under the Command of Col. Crocket [sic: Joseph Crockett; joined Clark at Wheeling on 23 May 1781] & a certain Capt. Jackson. the general circumstances were such as scouting around while at the falls of the Ohio, as narrated in the foregoing declaration, and such other things as are there set forth.

“ 6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a written discharge from the services, and if so, by whom was it given & what has become of it?

A. I do not now recollect whether I received a written one or not. if I did I have long since lost it & also all knowledge respecting it. I think however that I was verbally discharged.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

A. I can refer you to Wm. H. Fyffe who has known me for this twenty years last past & also to Wm Darnell who has also known me for the same period of time, for me they can testify.

[signed] David Bayles

The State of Ohio } Ss  
Champaign County }

On this [blank] day of November A.D. 1834 personally appeared before me William Patrick a Justice of the peace within and for the County of Champaign aforesaid, David Bayles a resident of said County, aged seventy two years; who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following affidavit by way of amendment to his declaration made on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1833 to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was born in the County of Frederick in the state of Virginia in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty two & that he resided in the County of Fayette in the State of Pennsylvania [then claimed by Virginia] when he entered the service of the United States, about the first of May A.D. 1781 as set forth in the declaration to which this is made by way of amendment. This affiant further states that there is a manifest mistake in the original declaration which he did not detect until the same was returned. This happened by reason of a misunderstanding between him & the Clerk who drew up the declaration for him & he, having principally lost his hearing, chanced not to notice it when it was read to him. On the return of the paper, however, and on a minute examination of it, by this affiant, he then observed it. This is the reason why this above statement is made in disparity to the former one. This affiant further states that he lay sick at Greenbriar, as mentioned in the original declaration, so long, that, when the company, in which he was marching, arrived at their place of destination they spread the report that he fell by the way by reason of such protracted sickness, & by reason of said report this affiant believes his name was omitted to be placed on the muster roll filed in the War office as it should have been. This affiant further states that there are but few survivors of the Revolution, and but still fewer of that little band of warriors who went upon the hazzardous campaign to the falls of the Ohio, as set forth in his former declaration, & to those whom he believed still survive he has written often but has never been able to receive any word from them. The last time this affiant had any information concerning any of them was some years ago, when he was informed they resided some where along the Monongahala river, where he has not been able to go himself because of old age, affliction, & great poverty. He cannot obtain any accounts from them or any of them by writing & therefore cannot procure their testimony in his case. His almost utter helplessness has almost induced him to abandon any further attempt at endeavoring to obtain an allowance of his Claim & sink under his unfortunate situation, but having still a hope, in this effort, he is induced to make it, in order that he may be, if possible, requited for his labors in the allowance of his just claim. This affiant further states that, as he is left destitute of corroborating testimony from the mouth of others, he is obliged to rely upon his own narrative to be taken as the War department may, in their wisdom consider it, either correct or incorrect. This applicant in conclusion states that it is entirely out of his power to procure the requested testimony of persons who can testify positively to the time of his entering the service, the regiment to which he belonged or to any of the attending incidents of the campaign as narrated in his former declaration, for the reasons above described. All which he leaves to the mercy & goodness of the War Department.

[signed] David Bayles

Champaign County Ohio – April A.D. 1837  
(To the war Department Washington City)

In the year A.D. 1781 General Clark applied to the government of Virginia and obtained orders to raise an army on the western waters together with a large Redgement from the East commanded by a col. Crocket, said Redgement composed of regular Soldiers, the whole with a view of going against the Indians that troubled Kentucky a draft of the Militia was directed to be made on the Monongahalia which took place about the first of May AD 1781 and as a Class was required to stand the draft or furnish a man

I entered as a substitute for a class, and in a few days was received by Robert Ferrill capt, in Colonel Zacuel Morgan's Redgement, and directed to rendezvous at a place called the new Store some twenty miles above Pittsburgh before the middle of May in said year; our Redgement was raised one hundred miles or more above Pitt, and from there to the falls of Ohio, to which we was destined, is well known to be many hundred miles; Many things detained us, one thing was waiting for a Colo. Laghrey [sic: Archibald Lochry] and his Redgement which Col and all his men were killed by the Indians before they came up with the army save sixteen men [24 Aug 1781]. the army consisted of one thousand men or more when we landed at the falls of Ohio including those in skirmishing scouting and and guarding which took place about the last of July in the s'd. year. But our main campaign failed, and late in the fall perhaps about the middle of November in said year our Col. Morgan was ordered to take his Redgement and march it home and discharge his men – We then took the rounds through the wilderness, to Powells vally thence on to Greenbriar County, thence to Tygers vally [sic: Tygart Valley], so on to Monongahalia County, from which we stated, a distance of perhaps, something like one thousand miles – Shortly after we started home we met the news that Cornwallis was taken, (this may strengthen my statement,) on our return the officers and men drew provisions and gave certificates as was customary in the revolutionary war. But on our return when we arived at Greenbriar I was taken sick and of necessity compelled to stop, and remained six months before I was able to start home (that is the reason why I have asked for twelve months Pension, six months service and six months sick on expense) Whether ever Morgan made any report to the board of war or not I do not know, and if he did, likely my name was omitted, as the company expected that I was dead, when they got home. (likely when they left me on the road

The Honorable Mr. Edwards [Col. J. L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner] rejected my claim upon the consideration that expeditions against the Indians were for short tours and were not likely to have served six months. [See endnote.] there was no time mentioned as I recollect. But we expected to travel upwards of one thousand miles before we should come to an engagement with the Indians.

This wounds my feelings, to be on oath and to know what I have a right to claim and yet be rejected I was as well prepared as the law requires to satisfy the court of my own county or as well as any man could be. In addition to other testimony Honorable General Samson Mason is acquainted with me and can state my character at this time

Oct 27, 1837

[signed] David Bayles

State of Virginia      Monongalia County SS

personaly came before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in s'd County on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1837 Betsey Straight and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that she well remembers of fixen her brother David Bayls's Clothes & Recollects that it was beteen twelve and eighteen months before he returnd and was brought home by his father sick and this is the same David Bayls and deponent further sayeth not given under her hand &c

Betsey herXmark Straight

Monongalia County State of Virginia to wit

Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid this 3 day of August 1837 Haydon Bayles and after being duly sworn deposeth and saith

That he this deponent was informed by his Brother David Bayles that he the said David Bayles had enrolled himself to serve under General Clarke. the deponent thinks it was in the year 1781. deponent saith he went with his Brother David Bayles aforesaid to the widow Province's near Geneva, the place appointed for the company's Rendesvous and embarkation at which place they embarked under orders for Lexington Kentucky. this deponent also saith that as well as he can recollect the Officers in command at the place of rendesvous were Col Zaquill Morgan and Capt. Robert Ferrill. he also deposeth that his Brother David aforesaid was absent from home about 20 months and on his return home he the deponent heard his Brother say that he had faithfully discharged his duty as a soldier under the aforesaid General

Clarke

in testimony of the above the deponent hath hereunto set his hand and seal the date above written

[signed] Adin Bayles

State of Virginia      Monongalia County

This day [24 Aug 1837] personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Monongalia & Commonwealth of Virginia, one William Wilson [pension application S7907] and made solemn oath, that in the year 1781, while he the said Wilson was a private soldier in the company of Captain Robert Ferrell, which Company was a part of the Regiment Commanded by Col. Zackquill Morgan which was attached to Clarke's campaign, one David Bayles joined said Company under the command of Ferrell at McKee's Island [probably Brunot Island near McKees Rocks] about three miles below Pittsburgh on the Ohio River, and that he the said Wilson knows of said David Bayles performing military service in said company as a member of the same, for between Three & Four months – That from said McKee's Island said Company proceeded to the Falls of Ohio where he the said Wilson was discharged, leaving the said Bayles at the fall's aforesaid with the army: but how much longer the said Bayles remained there said Wilson doth not know.

And further the said Wilson saith not.

William hisXmark Wilson

NOTE: Bayles's claim was rejected because he was not thought to have served the minimum of six months required under the pension act of 1832. In 1854, L. P. Waldo, Commissioner of Pensions, gave the following explanation: "The militia of Pennsylvania did not serve in terms of six months, and the time he was sick cannot be computed." In fact, Clark's campaign was under the authority of Gov. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, and Morgan's Regiment was from Monongalia County in Virginia, not Pennsylvania. Bayles resided in what was then Yohogania County Virginia. Although the troops were recruited from militia, they were designated as Virginia State Forces while under Clark's command. From the pension applications of William Wilson, James S. Ferrell (pension application S7697), and other sources there is no doubt that the expedition lasted more than six months, not counting the time Bayles was sick.