

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Cornelius Beazley R678

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of alabama } SS

Marengo County }

Personally appeared before me Cicero L Kirksey an acting
justice of the peace in & for this County State of alabama

Cornelius Beasley a Citizen of this County aged about Ninety years in sound mind who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist, States that he is a native of Charlotte County Va. and as well as he can recollect & understand is almost ninety years old that near the close of the Revolutionary War he joined the army as a private in Capt Wm Morton Company & was Commanded by Colonel Ephraim Bolling, but does not recollect the names of the Lieutenant of said Company, But his Company marched through Halifax town on Roanoke & reached Guildford Court House before the Battle [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] he was as well as his Br Wm [see below] detached & put in the Baggage guard, his Br Wm Beasley was in the battle & was killed in that Battle, That after the Battle the Brittish pushed on for York & the american army followed & soon closely invested them [illegible word] army on one side, Genl Washingtons army on the other & the french fleet in front. [see endnote]. this deponent remained there untill the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct], his Br Wm Beasly [William Beazley] was ordered to march & guard the prisoners but this deponent was disbanded & returned with Capt [illegible, but presumably same captain as above] to Charlotte County where he remained & then removed to Geo after remaining some time in Geo he removed to Tennessee & again returned to Geo & thence removed to Alabama, that he never applied for a pension before but he is now old crippled & poor & prays the extension of the pension laws to his case & as in duty ever prays &c

Sworn & subscribed before me this 5th day of February 1844

[signed] Cornelius beazley

near Demopolis Al [illegible word] 21 June 1844

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

Mr. Cornelius Beasly has called to hear your report on his application for a pension, Mr Dallett[?] had sent me your letter disallowing his application The old gentleman is very old & infirm & his memory nearly gone, he says does not know that he can add any new light to his case he knows that he had six Brothers all in the service one of them was killed at Guildford Court House his name was Thos. [Thomas Beazley]. he himself was one of the waggon guard on the whole rout, But how long he was called out for & served he has no recollection of. he says he is now 90 or 92 years of age is in indigent circumstances but if he had not been justly entitled to it he would never have applied for it, he says he will think over his services of those days & if his mind will settle satisfactorily on his servis he will again make another effort I have myself no doubt of his having served as a soldier of those time as I have had much desultory conversation with him on those times & [illegible word]

With great respect your obt ser't. Jas. B Nogan[?]

[Unrelated PS]

[The following is almost illegible because the ink has bled through from both sides of the paper.]

State of alabama

Marengo County Ss Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for said County Cornelius Beasly and old man [illegible] he thinks ninty years of age, and for six years a resident of this County & previous thereto a resident of Georgia & for some time before a resident of Tennessee & previous thereto a resident of Georgia from where he went to Tennessee & then back to Georgia This deponent being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of almighty God states that he is an applicant under the Law of the US for a pension as an old Militia soldier of the Revolutionary War, that he made application last winter to the Department of war & has heard for answer that his application is disallowed owing as stated to the inaccuracy of his statement of his services; that his memory at the time may have been such as to throw doubt on his

narative of events now upwards of 60 years past. That all he can now add is the fact that he served but one tour of three month, that he first joined the american army at Guilford, but turned out for three months under Captain Wm Morton & his Colonel he thinks was Ephraim Bowling but he is not certain of Bowling being at the time his Colonel, that within a few days after his company reached Guilford the battle was fought & his Brother Thos Beasley was killed, and after the Battle we followed Lord Cornwallis' Army for a while, was then halted, in my former statement I said we marched after Cornwallis to Little York but I did not mean to say we went to Little York, but followed him, who was said to be going there but we halted first near Reedy Fork [of Haw River] where we staid some days & then pursued the Brittish army out again stopped at the Iron Works and after marching for some distance returned toward the south

But his recollection as to precise dates & places [several illegible words]. he states further as far as his memory goes that he was discharged [several illegible words] after the war he resided near the residence of his old Captain Wm Morton he states further he is now so [two illegible words] unable to work & if he can obtain [the rest mostly illegible] Sworn & subscribed Before me this [illegible] of November [?] 44 Cornelius hisXmark Beasley

NOTE: Following his victory at Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis did not go immediately into Virginia, but went first to Wilmington NC. The Southern Army under Gen. Nathanael Greene rendezvoused at Speedwell Iron Works on Troublesome Creek. Greene then pursued the British as far as Ramsey's Mill on Deep River, then in early April turned toward South Carolina. Cornwallis did not enter Virginia until May and did not arrive at Yorktown until August. Washington began the Siege of Yorktown on 28 Sep.