

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Best R804 Susan Best VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Aug 2017.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,
Clarke [sic: Clark] County, Sct.

On this 23 day of November 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court, in and for the state aforesaid, personally appeared James Best aged about 57 years; who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following statement and declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late law 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;” that he is a citizen of the state of Kentucky, and resident in the county of Clark; and that he was enlisted for one year and six months in Nansemond County in the state of Virginia on or about the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1778 by one Capt J. Reddick [possibly Jason Riddick] and served in the company commanded by captain Hays first and then Capt [Alexander] Parker of the first Regiment Virginia line on continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States, in the continental army, against the common enemy, until about the [blank] day of 1779 when he was taken prisoner by the enemy at Charlestown in South Carolina [surrender of Charleston, 12 May 1780] and kept by them a prisoner about fourteen months when he was exchanged at James Town in Virginia, and afterwards obtained his discharge at William Burg [sic: Williamsburg] in s’d State and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has lost his discharge; and has no evidence in his power, of his services and discharge, other than that which is here transmitted.

Joseph Wilkerson [pension application S17795] being first sworn states he was himself a soldier in the war of the Revolution That he was acquainted with the within named James Best when he said Best was in the army That he does not know the time of his enlistment but that he did march with him from Peters Burg [sic: Petersburg] in Virginia to the Sothern department he knew the said Best was in the Siege of Sevannah [sic: Siege of Savannah GA, 16 Sep – 19 Oct 1779], and that he was taken prisoner at Charleston as he has stated, for he was taken prisoner at the same time and retained with him untill both war exchanged as he has stated That He is acquainted with the circumstances of said Best, That he is a poor man and in reduced circumstances

Sworn to before me this 23rd day of November 1818

State of Kentucky

Clarke County Sct [certified 2 Apr 1821]

On this [blank] day of [blank] 1821 personally appeared before in open Court it being the Clarke Circuit Court for the County afores’d and made a Court of Record by the Statute law of Kentucky, James Best, a resident of said County in the Sixtyeth year of his age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows (towit) He served as a regular Soldier, about three years in the first Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colo Richard Parker, and was one of the Company commanded by Capt Alexander Parker of the same Regiment – and that the number of his former pension Certificate is 6956 and is in the following words & figures towit “War Department Revolutionary claim – I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 18th March 1818 James Best, late a private in the army of the Revolution is inscribed on the pension List, Roll of the Kentucky Agency, at the rate of eight dollars Cents per month to commence on the twenty third day of November one thousand eight hundred and eīghteen. Given at the War office of the united states this 12th day of February one thousand eight hundred and nineteen” and signed by the Secretary of War, and sealed with the seal of the United State of america and no. 6956 the original of which is herewith

transmitted on which is endorsed payable semi annually the first payment on this Certificate will be made on on the 4th of march next at Branch Bank US Lexington Kentucky

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day 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 person 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. James hisJmark Best

Schedule no land – no negro slaves, no Horses of any sort, two Cows worth about Twenty dollars – no sheep, about sixteen Hogs of different sizes worth about one dollar a piece \$16 – Household & kitchen furniture as follows 1 ten gallon kettle worth \$3, on six gallon pot worth \$2, one skillet worth \$1, two pair plough gears worth \$3 two shovel poughs worth (both) \$3 and two howes worth (both) \$1. (no other property necessary bedding & wearing apparel excepted) making in the whole Total \$49

James hisJmark Best

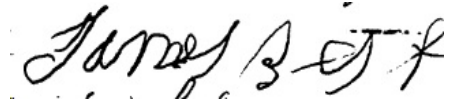
That his occupation is that of a Farmer, not able to work by reason of old age and a Rupture in his privates – that he has in family besides himself eight in number towit his wife older than himself weakly infirm, and often unable to help herself. Elizabeth one of his Children (Widow of Mathew Conner) and her six Children – the oldest ten or eleven years of age – all of whom he has to maintain himself, except the little assistance furnished by the mother of these Children – which is mostly bestowed on her own children

James hisJmark Best

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

Kentucky Fayette County, Sct.

James Best made oath before me a Justice of the peace for said County that he Enlisted in Virginia in the year 1776 for three years in Capt Reddicks Company of the 1st Virginia Regiment on Continental line Commanded by Col. Parker and that he continued to Serve in said Corps or in the service of the united states until the year 1779 at which time he was honorably discharged in Williamsburg by Col. Parker and he has lost his discharge and has never rec'd his Land warrant for said service.



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of September 1821

State of Kentucky }
Fayette County }

James Ball [W8336] appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in said County and declared on oath that that he served in the Revolutionary War with the above named James Best and knows that said Best Enlisted for Three years and served that period out as he has [two undeciphered words] in his affidavit and that said Best was honorably discharged in the year 1779. James hisJmark Ball
Sworn to and subscribed before me and I certify [rest missing from online image].

NOTE: On 21 Aug 1840 Susan Best, age 83 on the following Sep 14, residing in Jackson County MO, applied for a federal pension stating that she married James Best near Suffolk in Nansemond County on 24 Dec 1783, and he died of “bilious fever” on 10 May 1836. On 9 Dec 1840 Susan Best was said to be 84, and she stated that James Best died in Estill County KY. Zera Oldham and William Howard stated that James and Susan Best raised “a large family of children,” and that Susan Best moved to Missouri in 1837.