

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Baylis S12953

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Feb 2017.

District & State of Virginia, Frederick County Sct

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 1818, before me the Subscriber, sole and presiding Judge of the Superior court of Law for the said County of Frederick and in the State aforesaid, Personally appeared William Baylis aged fifty nine years resident in the said County District & State, who being by me first duly Sworn, according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act 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 the said William Baylis engaged in the County of Frederick, in the State of Virginia in the month of April, in the year of 1777 as a Cadet in the Company commanded by Capt. William Voss [sic: William Vause] of the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, That in the course of that year, he was appointed a Lieutenant, in the said Regiment, and continued to serve in that capacity until the month of July or August in the year 1780, when he resigned his Commission at Fredericksburg in Virginia. That he was in the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], The affair at Powles Hook [sic: Paulus Hook, 19 Aug 1779], near the City of New York. That he has no other evidence of his said services except the subjoined affidavit of Doct’r Cornelius Baldwin [BLWt255-400] – and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of his Country’s aid for a support.

Made oath before me the subscriber Judge aforesaid Doctor Cornelius Baldwin of the aforesaid County of Frederick. That he served through the greater part of the Revolutionary War as a regimental Surgeon in the Army of the United States. That his first appointment to that office was in the spring 1777 as Surgeon of the fourth Virginia Regiment then at Middlebrook, which was attached to the same brigade with the twelfth Vig’a. Regiment that he was well acquainted with said applicant, and knows that he was an officer in the said 12<sup>th</sup> Reg’t., but cannot say how long he remained in the service

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Union County towit

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1821 personally appeared in open court being a court of record towit a County Court held for said county of Union at the Courthouse in Morganfield in the Commonwealth aforesaid and on the day aforesaid William Baylis aged sixty two years resident in the County of Union and District of Kentucky who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows he entered as a Cadet and left as Lieutenant, he served in the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. James Wood, Capt. William Vass’ company, and of the Continental line – that his original declaration was made on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 1818, that he is place on the pension list roll of the Virginia agency at the rate of twenty dollars per month by certificate No 8578 and has received his pension under said certificate up to the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1820

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

That he unfortunately in the year 1817 had his property including three negroes destroyed by fire and now has no property neither real nor personal – that his occupation is the cultivation of the soil, and his age and infirmities prevent his being of much service in the cultivation of the soil. That the number of

his family is four, his wife aged 57 and three daughters Susan 18 Maria 15 & Eliza 12 —

Richmond Dec'r. 24<sup>th</sup> 1830

Sir [Chittenden Lyon, US House of Representatives] I take the liberty to commit to your care a letter to Capt. Baylis in answer to one which you had the goodness to enclose to me.

Capt. Baylis wishes me to state his services in the war of our revolution so far as they came within my observation. I was intimately acquainted with him during the campaign of 1777 - 8 & 9 through which he served with fidelity. He was a brave and faithful officer and I do not believe that he lost a days duty during the three campaigns. After the close of the campaign of 1779 when we came into winter quarters at Morristown in Jersey, the remnant of the Virginia line consisting of a very few soldiers enlisted for the war, were sent into Virginia, and the officers who had no command came into the state to remain on furlough till men should be raised for them. Capt. Baylis and myself with four or five other officers walked in together. I do not know how he left the service, probably by resignation as he married in the year 1780.

I am Sir very respectfully/ Your obed  
[John Marshall, pension application S5731;  
Chief Justice, US Supreme Court]

Happy Creek December 26<sup>th</sup> 1830

I hereby certify that Capt William Baylis formerly of Frederick County Virginia, but now of Kentucky, commanded a company of militia from the county of Fauquier at the siege of York in Virginia, and continued to command it and perform the duty of a Capt. until after the surrender of the British forces under Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]

[James M. Marshall, pension application S7173]

State of Kentucky } Ss  
County of Union }

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared before the county court of the county of Union, William Baylis a resident of said county of Union in the said State of Kentucky, this day aged seventy four years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That in the Spring 1777 he entered the army of the United States, as a Cadet, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. James Wood, and was attached to the company commanded by Capt William Vause – that in May or June of that year he marched with a portion of Capt Vause's company from Winchester Virginia and in the month of July joined the army under the command of Gen'l Washington at Morristown New Jersey – that some short time thereafter, he was appointed by Col Wood Paymaster of the Regiment with the rank and pay of a Captain – continued with the main army under Gen'l Washington during the subsequent operations of that campaign, was actively engaged in the Battle of Brandywine, and wintered with the army at Valley Forge – and in that year also he received the commission of Lieutenant, and acted under that commission as well as under the appointment of Paymaster of the Regiment. In 1778 he was in the battle of Monmouth, marched afterward to the White Plains in New York, and in the fall of that year was ordered to West Point and was engaged in finishing the Fortifications. At West Point, he was ordered by Col Wood and did take command of Capt Presley Nevels [sic: Presley Nevill BLWt1596-300] company in Woods Regiment (Capt Nevel having been

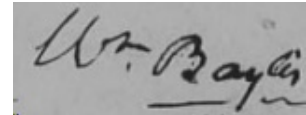
appoint Aid to Gen'l LaFayette and absent from his company on that duty) – and he continued in the command of Nevills company until in the month of December 1779 – the winter 1778 was passed in the huts at Middlebrook New Jersey – whilst in the command of Nevilles company, he commanded one of the detachments in attacking and taking Paulus Hook in which he was slightly wounded. After the army went into winter quarters in 1779 he went home on furlough. Shortly after he went home Col Woods Regiment with most of the Virginia troops were ordered on to Charlestown South Carolina and when his furlough expired Charlestown was so closely invested that he could not rejoin his command and by the Capitulation of Charlestown [12 May 1780] the regiment became prisoners of war – being then an officer without troops and there being many supernumerary officers of the Virginia line, and not wishing the country to pay without his being in a condition to render services adequate, in the month of July or August 1780 he resigned his commission having belonged to the army from the Spring 1777 till the time of his resignation – holding for a considerable part of the time the appointment of Paymaster to Col Woods regiment with the rank and pay of a Captain – having been commissioned a Lieutenant in 1777, and commanded Capt Nevills company from the fall 1778 to the time he was furloughed in December 1779

In 1781 the Governor of Virginia at the instance of Gen'l Washington called upon the militia under this call a company was raised in Fauquier county and the command thereof was given to him – that he immediately marched with his company and joined the American Army at Williamsburg, proceeded to the siege of York and remained there actively engaged in the service of his country until the surrender of Cornwallis, marched with the prisoners from York to Frederick County Virginia where the Virginia Militia were discharged, having been engaged in this service more than three months

At the time he entered the army in the spring 1777 he resided in Frederick County Virginia

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is only on that of the agency in the State of Virginia and regularly transferred to the Kentucky Agency.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



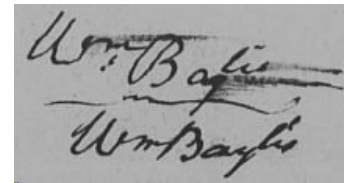
Morganfield 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug't 1832

Sir [Lewis Cass, Secretary at War] With this you will receive my declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832, certified and supported, I trust, in the substance and form of your requisition and accompanied also by my pension certificate

The reasons for forwarding to you this declaration instead of this letter alone, are – that I conceive by the act of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, as well as by your construction of it, I am entitled to the pay of a Captain. You will see from my declaration as well as from reference to the army rolls of that state, that I was Paymaster to Col Woods Regiment (12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Reg't continenal establishment) – that I commanded Capt Presley Nevills company – and also was a Captain of the company of Militia marched from Fauquier County Virginia to the Siege of York. In addition to the declaration and proofs therein made, I beg to refer you also to the enclosed statements of Chief Justice Marshall and of his brother James Marshall – from an examination of my case I hope and confidently trust it will be found by you that I am entitled to the pay of a Captain, and that the proper authority will be forwarded to me directed Morganfield Union County, Kentucky, to receive the same

I have the the Honor to be

Respectfully yours



Capt Baylis, is almost entirely blind is the cause of his name being written the 2<sup>d</sup> time. Sam casey

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as “Baylie, William.”]

I do hereby Certify that Lieutenant William Baylis entered into the Service of the United States in April 1777 and Continued until July 1780, and that he acted the greater part of said time as Regimental Paymaster to the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regim<sup>t</sup>.

Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> June 1784

James Wood Late B.G.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Wood". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. Below the signature, there is a thick, dark horizontal line, possibly representing a seal or a signature strip.

NOTES:

According to a note in the file, “The rolls show that Wm Bayless was appointed Paymaster 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1777, & continued in that Capacity to 1<sup>st</sup>. Dec 1778 – 15 mo 3 days.”

On 23 March 1821 William Baylis applied to have his pension transferred to Kentucky having moved to Union County. On 4 Sep 1837 Baylis applied to have his pension transferred to Missouri having moved from Union County to Rives County for “the advancement of his own and childrens interest, and the unhealthiness of the section of country from which he removed.”

A letter in the file states that William Baylis died “on a visit to see his daughter.” In Franklin County KY on 16 Sep 1850 it was shown that Baylis, formerly of Union County MO, died on 17 June 1844 leaving the following living children: Mrs. Mara L. Tutt of the State of Missouri; Mrs. Lucy Buck of the State of Mississippi, “who had not been heard from for some time.”