

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Bazle (Boswell) Castle S15369
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

VA

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Kentucky }
County of Lawrence }

On this 2^d day of Feby. 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the county of Lawrence, now sitting Bazle Castle resident of Kentucky in the county of Lawrence, and State of Kentucky aged seventy three 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated under Colo. [William] Preston. Capt. Lewis. Lieut Robinson in the state of virginia in the county of Fincastle [sic: divided in 1777 into Kentucky, Montgomery, and Washington counties] in the month of April 1779 as an indian spy for one year. he left the service after this engagement April 1780. he was a drafted man – he was in no battle or battles during this years service. indian Spies was not so organized as to engage in battles. there was some small engagements but none denominated battles – the cuntry through which he marched was the head of holstein river [sic: Holston River], on Blue Stone [sic: Bluestone River] that empties in to new river [in present Summers County WV] – he is not certain [page ends here; one or more pages may be missing]

1781 in the State of Virginia in the County of Mongomery [sic: Montgomery] he entered the service as a volunteer for six months in the millitia of the state line under Col Sayers. Capt. [James] Newell, and Lieutenant McGavock. he left the army in July 1781. he was a volunteer for six months – he was in the battle of the Reedy fork of Haw river – he was in the battle of Guilford in Carolina [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and in the Skirmish at Whetsils mills [skirmish at Wetzel's Mill on Reedy Fork of Haw River against British regulars under Cornwallis and Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, 6 Mar 1781, possibly the "battle" already mentioned], he marched through Pyttsylvainia [sic: Pittsylvania County VA], and stoped at the court house thereof from there to the little Banister river [sic: Banister River] in Halifax County. at this place the company remained until Gen^l. [Nathanael] Greene retreated into virginia [14 Feb] and from this place he marched to Guilford Court house in North Carolina. from this place he returned and recrossed the Dan and through Pyttsylvainia, to Campbel [sic: Campbell] Court house, at a place called New London and then returned to Campbel Court house. from this place he marched to Charlottesville in virginia at the barracks [Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville] and was there disbanded and received his discharge from the service for six months in July 1781. he knew Col Buforts [sic: Abraham Buford's] Continental regt. Col Johnstons. Col. Birds [possibly Francis Otway Bird's]. Col Davis [probably William Davies]. Col May. Col Hanry. Col. Hungerford. Gen. Layfayette [sic: Lafayette]. Gen. Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. Gen [Robert] Lawson. Col Johns. Major Johns. Leutenant Burkes. Major John Bartes. Leutenant Charles H. Allen. Maijor Henry George. Col. William FitzPatrick Col. Alex. Wilson [Alexander Wilson]. Capt H. S. Fountain Col. Robinson [possibly James Robertson]. Capt Prior were millita officers in the service during the six months tour aforesaid. after his engagement for the six months aforesaid he marched fourth as before stated to Pyttsylvania court house. Gen Greene was then retreating from Lord Cornwallias and Col Tarleton, and great number of millitia was collecting and marching to join Gen Greene on the borders of North Carolina and about Haw River the tories were collecting in great bodies and a skirmish took place between the American troops and the Tories and the tories were all cut to pieces [see endnote] – he marched to the batle of Guilford in March or April 1781 and was in that battle and was there wounded and which has occasioned the great disibility under which he

now labours – it did not lay him up for any time, as it was in his arm, but for many years it has increased untill it has entirely disabled him along with old age. he states that he has long since lost his discharges for it has been so long since he does not know what has become of them. he served the whole time as a soldier in the State troops of Virginia (not the Continental service) he has no documentary evidence in his favour but believes he is enabled to prудuce evidence of his services by surviving soldiers at least of the service of an indian spy and circumstantial testimony as to the last service

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Lawrence County Sct. [certified 11 Feb 1834]

Joseph Davis [pension application S15399] aged seventy years states on oath, that he knew Bazle Castle in the year 1779 or 1780, he was then engaged as a Soldier in the service of the State of Virginia dureing the Rev'y. War against the indians. that knew for a grat while since the termination of the war. that he served for between one and two years as he allways understood but he can only speak knowingly only of his first year service against the indians in Virginia he may have served longer but the deponant does not know of it and he could only speak of the residue of his service by report and heasay and further this deponant saith not.

Floyd county Prestonsburg Ky [13 June, year not stated but probably 1834 or 1835]

Sir [Secretary of War] it is thought thare is sune gross frauds practised on your department by granting pentions to severell people in this county and the county of lawrenc and margin [sic: Morgan] in this state under the late act of Congress granting pentions to revolutionarry Soldiers it would be desireable to know what ware the claimes presented of service by Baswell Castle, Edward Darton [sic: Edward Darten (Dorton), pension application S30983], Thomas [Thomas Howard S45796] and James Howard [S31139], Joseph, Davice [sic: Joseph Davis S15399] &c as sune of those men I have knew near thirty years and from thare age it is not posable they ware ever in the war of the revolution I have Been requested repeatedly to write for information on this subject By our citizans and believing it a duty that we all owe to our country to detect frauds on our goverment it is desireable you would forward a short list of the names of those Drawing pentions under the late act the date of thare servic, proven and the name of the agents employed[?] in obtaining thare pentions in the three countys named in doing so you will much gratify the wishes of maney respectable cetizans Yours/ D. K. Harris or any other information that would be nesserry to detect fraud as thare is certinly gross error in [the rest missing]

[One or more pages are apparently missing from the following letter from the pension file of Thomas Howard S45796, probably the letter referred to as dated 18 Sep 1835 in the reply from the Pension Office.] Under the late law in the countees of floyd Margin [sic: Morgan], Lawrence Pike and Perry and a Statement of the date of thare servises and if thare has been certificates forwarded to the department of thare being unable to go before the court of examenation as I believe the law requires and the names of the agents and the names of the magistrates that have signed the cirtificates and I will be able to show and can prove the age of a grate maney that ware scarly born at the time the servises is said to be rendered. I asure you sir thare is no man in the goverment would like the soldiers of the revolution more amply rewarded than myself But when I see others under the pretence committing the worst of frauds on our goverment I feel it my duty as a citisan to asert my Goverment in detecting improper conduct if you see proper to forward to me the athority I hope of I will if living attend strictly to the business and if my servises is found to be of advantage to the department I shall expect to be remunerated for them at the discretion of the department and if not I asure you I shall ask nothing I Remain yours &c

[signed] DK Harris

[to] Geo M Crump

NB inclosed I send the statements of John Ausbourn and Rubin Marshall about the two Howards I say to you that Mr Ausbourn and Mr Marshall are highly Respectable men whose Statements are to be relyed on as much as any men in Ky DKH

in addition to the five you gave me a statement of thare age and service to my own knolledge I am of opinion that the claimes of Stepelton Marshel Wells and Porter and probably that of Brown will all be found to be improper claimes DKH

[From the pension file of Joseph Davis S15399]

War Dept./ Pension Office/ Aug. 6, 1835

Sir [D. K. Harris], Your letter of the 18th ult'o. accompanied by the statements of John Osborn and Reuben Marshall came duly to hand. These statements are herewith returned, in order that they may swear to them. The pensions of Joseph Davis, Bazle Castle, Edward Darton, Thomas Howard and James Howard have been stopped.

So soon as Lists of the Kentucky Pensioners shall have been permitted for circulation, a List embracing all the counties you mention, will be sent to you.

We will be obliged to you for any information respecting fraudulent cases which you may be able to furnish. This Dept. however, can make no compensation for such service. No appropriation by law has been made for such purposes.

[At the bottom of this page is the following anonymous note : "This man retracted his statements about Joseph Davis, see his letter dated Feb. 11, 1842 in claim of Edward Darton, S30983."]

[From the file of Thomas Howard S45796]

Prestonburg Ky/ october 1st 1835

Sir yours of august the 6th and 29th is all to hand encloseing the statements of Ausbourn and Marshall my reson for not answering them before this time I have been absent from home I will when oportunity admits send them back sworn to &c as you request the frauds on your department are numerous and glareing such as an honest comunity is not willing to put up with without exposure. I say to you thare is no dificulty in detecting the rong if a triel is made by legal athorety

[to] The Secretery of War yours D K Harris

NB I in close the statement of ousbourn DKH

[The following is in the pension file of Edward Darton S30983.]

Prestonsburge Floyd County Ky Fbruary 11th 1842

Dear sir sume six or eight years since I wrote to the head of your department on the subject of fraudulent pentions in this section of the goverment thare was two cases that was glairing and certainly fraudulent I mean the casses of Thomas and James Howard. these two casses led to the suspetion of other to that of Edward Darton Boswell Castle & Joseph Daviss whitch ware all stoped the 6th of august 1835 I suppose from the information the department receved from me Sir the three latter casses that of Dorton Castle and Davis the men live about twenty or twenty five miles from whare I do about the last of november last I was in the nighbourhood on the hunt of sume work cattle I stoped in at the house of Darton and found him sitting in his chair a cripple not able to get about without help and his wife stone bline I thought of the subject and raised a conversation with the old lady upon the subject of the revolutionarry war she spoke sensibly of the servises of hir husband and of Castle & Davis shee thoughroly convinced me that the suspetion that was against them was rong and sir I do much regrett that it was in and through me they ware cut out of thare rights but sir I am contious that I was guided by no improper motive my father was a member of the revolution and his Blood mingled amongst the marters of that scane and I feel it a duty that I owe to my goverment to detect frauds against it and likewise I feel

it a duty that I owe to my fellow man if I have by mistaken notion or otherwise done them a wrong to rectify it. sir they do not know to this Day that I was the cause of their pensions being stopped and sir it would gratefully my feelings very much for them to be restored againe I mean the three latter cases as I do assure you that I would be the last to do an injury to a War worn patriot in his last days please let me hear from you Respectfully yours/ [signed] David K Harris

[4 March 1844] The declaration of Boswell Castle of Johnson County Ky in order to obtain a restoration of his pension which was obtained under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 granting pensions to soldiers of the revolution and which was suspended as he now recollects in the year of 1835 he declares that he served four terms of three months each as a militia soldier and indian Spy under captin Lawis and Colonel preston of virginia and one term of three months under captin Newell the above services was rendered in the western part of virginia he states that he is now about 93 years of age, as he now recollects it was in the year 1778 and 1779 that the afore mentioned service was rendered but as he has grown old he seposes his memory is failing as to time and date but he is certain that he was fifteen months in service He therefore asks for a restoration of his pension as he has rendered the service for his country in the time of perill and now old and unable to work Boswell his mark Castle

NOTES:

In the 1830 federal census, the age of Bazle Castle of Paintsville in Floyd County KY was given as 60-70. The 1840 federal census lists Bassil Castle age 70-80.

The engagement where "the Tories were all cut to pieces" may have been Pyle's Defeat on 25 Feb 1781. It is unlikely that Castle was there.]

A pension certificate for \$50 annually payable to R. M. Johnson was issued on 28 Feb 1834 for Castle's service.

On 7 Sep 1839 H. B. Mays wrote to the Pension Commissioner stating that the pension agent would not say why Castle's pension had been suspended. Mays stated that he had left Castle's pension application in Lexington KY with H. C. Harris, who had received "1 or 200\$" for getting Castle on the pension roll, and that he suspected "Mr Harris had given some information that caused the claim to be rejected."

On 29 Dec 1851 John Castle of Johnson County KY asked for his father's pension from the time it was suspended (for reasons unknown to him) until 8 Oct 1846, the date on which he died leaving no widow and himself as the only living child.