

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Francis Bedle S2375

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Ohio Warren County Ss:

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common pleas, now sitting in the County of Warren aforesaid Francis Bedle, resident of the said County in the 74th year of his age, who being duly affirmed, according to Law, doth on his solemn Affirmation, make the following declaration, to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832:

That he was born November 13th 1758 in [blank] county, state of New Jersey; that in the Fall of 1775 he was removed, in his father's family, into Washington County, Pennsylvania; that in the Summer of 1777 he served, for one month, as a Substitute for Nathan Hathaway, in a company of Rangers, in the service of the United States, under Capt. Craycraft in a Company called out to protect our Frontiers & stationed at Jackson's Fort; that he served out his month with Capt. Craycraft but obtained no written discharge; that in 1778 he was one of four Militia Sergeants in the County of Washington upon whom a draught for 4 months was made for one to go into the service, & this Applicant volunteered & released the other three; that he joined Capt. Cross's Company which crossed the Ohio river, & took up their rendezvous on the banks of said river, below Big Beaver creek, where they built a Fort, known afterwards, by the name of Fort McIntosh [at present Beaver PA, built autumn 1778], that Gen'l. [Lachlan] McIntosh was Commander in General, & [blank] Evans [Evan Evans] was Col. of the Regiment to which Capt. Cross's Company belonged; that Col. [William] Crawford, Brigade Major Daniel Light [sic: Daniel Leet] & Capt. Crow & his Company were also there; that Samuel Swingter was Lieutenant & Adjutant in Capt. Cross's Company, in which James Wilkie as Ensign also served; Col. Belar was also there & held his rank in the Field; that in the Fall of 1778 part of the Garrison, including this Applicant, was marched on to the Tuscarawas, which river they crossed & built Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens, 10 Nov - Jan 1779]; that the Indians met us there & held a Treaty; that some time in the winter of that year this Applicant & the rest of the men were at that place discharged & had, upon an half allowance, to make the best of their way home by the way of McIntosh That afterwards, to wit, in the summer of 1779 & whilst his residence was still in Washington County, Pennsylvania, this Applicant was called out, & as Sergeant in Capt. Enochs's Company of Rangers, proceeded to Jarret's Fort, on Big Whitely Creek; that his Company was stationed there for the purpose of protecting the Frontiers from hostile incursions; that he remained there on duty until his month's service, for which he had entered, was out, when he returned home & remained at & about home until 1782; that on or about 20 May of 1782 he again volunteered for another Campaign in the service of the United States and proceeded to the Rendezvous at the Mingo Bottom on the Ohio river, in then wester Territory, where the Company was formed & the Officers chosen, of whom Joseph Baines stood as Capt. William Bennett Lieutenant & [blank] Ensign under Colonel Crawford who commanded the Regiment; that Col. [David] Williamson & Major Brinton [sic: James Benton] were also there, acting as Field Officers; that the whole body of Troops then & there collected amounted to about 480 men who were marched to the plains of Sandusky where the Indians met us & a severe engagement ensued in the beginning of June [the 5th] 1782; that after the Battle our forces had to retreat back to the Mingo Bottom, pursued by the Indians, who killed, wounded & took prisoners many of our men; that during the retreat Col. Crawford was taken by the Indians & Major Harrison [probably Capt. William Harrison] & Capt [John] Biggs were killed; that at the Mingo Bottom the remnant of the Army dispersed & this Applicant returned home to Washington County. This last mentioned campaign lasted somewhat more than one month. The whole time of service in his several campaigns he thinks was about seven months. – This Applicant continued to reside in Washington County until 1788, thence removed to

Mason County Kentucky & remained there till the Spring of 1789. In May 1789 he removed to Columbia in the state of Ohio, & resided there till the Spring of 1790, then removed to Cawalt's Station on the Little Miami resided there that Summer & in the Fall removed to the Round Bottom on the said Little Miami resided there till 1791, on the 14 July 1792 was taken prisoner by the Indians & conducted to Detroit was sold & was purchased by Col. England an English Officer who humanely gave him his liberty & a free pass to Niagara, thence he returned home to the Round Bottom in Hamilton County Ohio – Thence he removed into Warren County where he has resided ever since. He has no record evidence of his age but he believes he is now in his seventy fourth year; that he has no discharge or other documentary evidence of his service, nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove his service – He further states that there is no clergyman near to him or to whom he is known, but that he is well known to Judge Francis Dunlavy, Ichabod Corwin and Wyly B Peirson by whom he can prove his character for veracity & that they believe he performed service in the revolutionary war. And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. [signed] Francis Bedle

Cincinnati, January 18th 1858.

Dear Sir: My father, Frances Bedle, was a Soldier in the Indian War of 1782 – was in “Crawford's Defeat,” and received the grant of a pension as a wounded or disabled soldier, having been wounded and disabled while in service of the United States. Shortly after he received his pension, or having it allowed, he joined the “Shakers;” and while being himself unwilling to receive further allowances, he expressed the wish that his children should. I am the widowed daughter of Francis Bedle; and I have respectfully to ask what were the last payments to him – He died about 1837. I will be thankful to receive instructions what proof will be necessary to draw the Pension which he neglected to apply for or draw during his life time.

Please address reply to me, to the care of Peter Zinn, Dellis P.O., Hamilton County, Ohio.

Very Respectfully Yours,/ Rhoda Mills