

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Betsill (Bedsell) S39194

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Nov 2012.

District of South Carolina. In the District Court.) Ss.

On this first day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court, for the above mentioned District John Betsill, aged fifty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and the 1st May 1820; That he the said John Betsill, enlisted in Col. George Baylor's Regiment of Cavalry for the term of three years, on the first day of January 1779 in the State of Virginia, in the fifth Troop in said Regiment, Commanded by Capt'n. William Barrett in the Line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps under Lieutenant Col. William Washington, untill the end of the war, when he was discharged by the said Col George Baylor, after the said Baylor was exchanged – he having been a prisoner of war during all or the greater part of that time [having been wounded and captured at Old Tappan NJ, 28 Sep 1778]. The said discharge the said John Betsill, through imposition [fraud] in selling his land right, gave it over to Ephraim Owens, who purchased his land; & it was left in the Auditor's Office in Virginia; which prevents the said John Betsill from affixing it hereto. He however, affixes hereto, Wm. Dangerfields [William Daingerfield's VAS253] affidavit, as proof of his having belonged in the said Baylors Third Regiment of Cavalry or Light dragoons: Also a letter, from Col. William Washington, which goes to shew the confidence & knowledge he had in him: Also, a Certificate from William Drayton, Late Colonel of one of the United States Regiments of Infantry – which tends to support his present claim – and that he the said John Betsill is really & truly what he pretends to be. And the said John Betsill further on his oath States, that to the Best of his knowledge & belief, all the Officers who held Commissions in the said Regiment residing in this State, are now dead – for which reason, he cannot have the benefit of their certificates on this occasion: and is reduced to the necessity of obtaining Wm. Dangerfield's Certificate, who served in the said Regiment as Serjeant Major. The said John Betsill further swears, that he was at the two surprizes at Monk's Corner, and Lenuud's ferry in South Carolina, in 1780 [sic: skirmishes at Moncks Corner, 14 Apr 1780, and at Leneud's Ferry, 6 May 1780] , & at Tarleton's defeat at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]; at the battles Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina [15 Mar 1781], the Siege of Ninety Six [22 May – 19 Jun 1781] & the battle of Eutaws in South Carolina [Eutaw Springs, 8 Sep 1781]; after he was sent, by Captain [William] Parsons of the Regiment with dispatches to Virginia to Major [Richard] Call, who was then recruiting. And that he has no other evidences in his power to produce.

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820, 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. viz

my working tools as a millwright but seldom can work through bad health – one horse, a gun, cloaths & bedding for self, wife & family: My wife is named Sarah, & my three Children are named, Charity, Sarah & John Madison: I live in Christ Church parish [now in Charleston County], on a small pine land Tract of Land, belonging to my wife, & settled upon her before marriage. The little articles of house Furniture in the house generally belong to my wife: And that I have no other property – There are two Negroes also made over to my wife before marriage; one of them ninety years old & the other about forty, also six or

seven Cows & Calves but they are not my property [signed] John Betsill

Rantowle's Bridge June 25th 1807

During revolutionary war a number of Negroes were taken by the British & Tories from the Estate of the late Charles Elliott whose only Child & Daughter is my wife. Among other Negroes which were stolen from the Estate there is one in particular named July who is now in the neighbourhood of Louisville, in Georgia, as I have been creditably informed. I do hereby authorize Mr. John Betsill to apprehend the said Fellow July and any others belonging to the said Estate either Male or Female provided he delivers them safely to me. W. Washington

Witness Adam F. Pitsinger

July is about forty years of age, his Father's name was Isaac & his Mother Bikah[?], his uncle's name is Jonas & his aunt's Harriet and his Grand-Mother's name Franky. W. W.

Charleston 31st May 1820.

I certify that I have seen a paper subscribed by General William Washington, deceased (with whose handwriting I am well acquainted) setting forth, that John Betsill of Christ Church Parish in the State of South Carolina, was a private or non-commissioned officer (I think the latter) in the corps of cavalry in the service of the United States, which was under the command of the deceased General Wm.

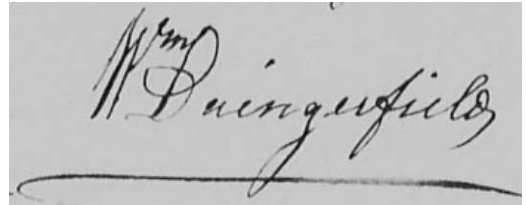
Washington, during the revolutionary war. Wm. Drayton

I do certify that John Betsill served with me as a trooper in the third regiment of light dragoons during the revolutionary war for three years and always Behaved in a brave and Courageous Manner and to my knowledge was honourably discharged by Col'n. George Baylor of the said regiment

The truth of the certificate was Sworn to before me }

this 24th of July 1820 by William Dangerfield. }

Peter Sanders J.P. }

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Dangerfield", with a decorative flourish underneath.

NOTE: A note on the application states that Betsill's name on military rolls was spelled Bedsell.