

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Beasley (Beasly) W3757

Rachel Beasley f45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/23/07 rev'd 9/2/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia Grayson County, to wit

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Grayson now sitting Benjamin Beasly [sic] a resident of the County of Grayson aforesaid, aged seventy 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States a year or two before the capture [October 19, 1781] of Cornwallis, being then a resident of the County of King & Queen in the State of Virginia, under Capt. John Pollard of the same county in regiment commanded by Col Lynes [perhaps William Lyne] of the same county. He was drafted into the service and marched to Williamsburg in Virginia, was in a Skirmish with the British in the County of Gloster [Gloucester] near Little York. He served three months on this tour. He was again drafted some time after and marched under Capt. James Fogg & Col Coleman both of King and Queen County of Virginia where he still resided to Hampton in Virginia & was in a skirmish with the British at that place. He served three months more on this tour. He was again drafted a short time before the capture of Cornwallis and marched under Capt. Pollard again from the County of King & Queen where he still resided. He was at Little York during the whole siege of the place saw Genl. Washington when he arrived and took command and heard one particular order given by the General when the surrender took place, that the Americans should behave with moderation and not manifest any triumph. He saw General Lafayette at that place. He was not personally acquainted with any of the regular offices his acquaintance being confined principally to the Militia. He was three months on that tour. He has therefore served nine months in all during the revolutionary War. He cannot remember dates so as to tell the times when he was drafted exactly. He received no discharge after either tour, as the way in which the Militia to which he belonged was discharged was by the proclamation of the commanding officer. He has no documentary evidence of his services and no witness to prove them within his reach. He remained in King & Queen three years after the War, when he removed to Stokes County North Carolina where he resided until last year when he removed to Surry N. Carolina where he remained until last March when he removed to the County of Grayson Virginia where he now resides.

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Benjamin Beasley, X his mark

[p 6]

Patrick County Virginia to wit

This day Benjamin Beasley appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County of Patrick and State aforesaid and in order to amend his declaration hereto annexed after being duly

sworn deposed and saith that he cannot swear positively as to the periods of the war when he served but to the best of his recollection he served the first three months tour in the year 1779 and that he performed the second tour in the year 1780 and that he performed the third and last tour in the year 1781 he further swears that he was born in the County of Caroline in the State of Virginia the \_\_\_ of February 1760 according to the record of his age left by his father but the record of his age being in possession of some other one of the family he cannot say positively as to the day of the month when he was born – he further states that there are persons residing in the County of Patrick whose affidavits he wishes to procure and cannot get them to the County of Grayson therefore to avoid trouble and expense has appeared before me in the County where his witnesses live to amend his declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833

S/ Martin Cloud, JP

S/Benjamin Beasley, X his mark

Patrick County State of Virginia

This day Thomas Beasley of the County aforesaid a credible person personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he is well acquainted with Benjamin Beasley who has subscribed to the above declaration he being his Brother, and that this deponent was born about the time of the revolutionary war and therefore knows nothing of the said Benjamin Beasley's Services in the Revolutionary war, but has always understood and been informed by their father[,] the rest of the family and others that said Benjamin Beasley was a Soldier of the revolution and that he fully believes he was. I further certify that the above named Thomas Beas [sic] is a man of honest reputation and that his statement is entitled to credit. Sworn to and subscribed this day the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833

S/ Martin Cloud, JP

S/ Thomas Beasley, X his mark

[p 6: On May 9, 1833 in Patrick County Virginia, James Miller who signed his affidavit with his mark gave testimony that he knew Benjamin Beasley while living in King & Queen County Virginia and that it was reputed in the neighborhood that Benjamin Beasley was a soldier of the revolution.]

[p 8: On August 30, 1847, in Patrick County Virginia, Rachel Beasley, 78 years old, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Beasley, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Stokes County North Carolina September 30, 1791; that her husband died in Patrick County Virginia April 24, 1841 and that she remains his widow; that she has no proof of her marriage but that Sally Nunn waited on her when she was married; she also submitted her Bible record containing the ages of her several children which is always remained in her possession; that she and her husband were illiterate and unable to write; the Bible record is in the hand writing of one John B Pittman, a school master who transcribed it from the record kept by her father in his Bible. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: On September 3, 1847 in Patrick County Virginia, Sally Nunn gave testimony that she was present and saw the marriage between Rachel Beasley and her late husband Benjamin Beasley; that Rachel's maiden name was Prather; that the ceremony took place in the house of Col. John Martin in Stokes County North Carolina; that Col. Martin was a magistrate who married people. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 12: Family record [very faint]

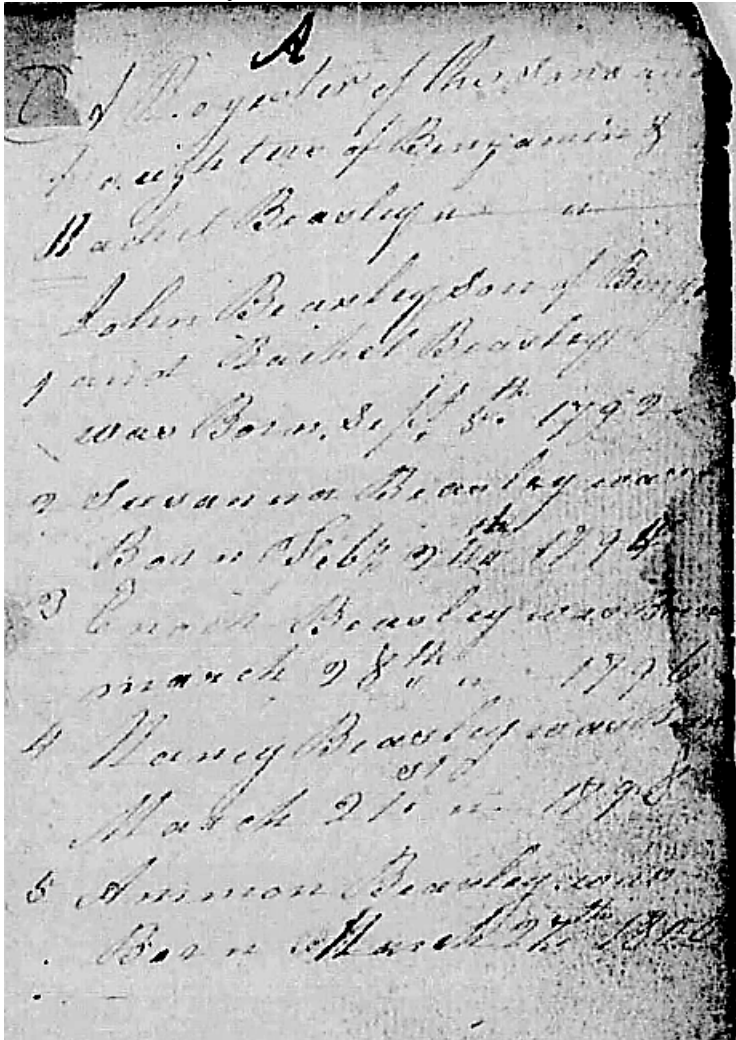
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A register of the sons and daughters of Benjamin & Rachel Beasley

1 John Beasley son of Benjamin and Rachel Beasley was born September 5 1792

2 Susannah Beasley was born February 24, 1794

- 3 Enoch Beasley was born March 28, 1796
- 4 Nancy Beasley was born March 21 1798
- 5 Ammon Beasley was born March 27, 1800



[p 26: On January 10, 1848 in Stokes County North Carolina, Hugh Boyles, 79, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Rachel Prather in her youth and when she intermarried with Benjamin Beasley; he cannot state on what date they were married but knows it was prior to the year 1794 because he, deponent, was married in 1791 and Benjamin and Rachel were married before he was.

Hugh Boyles

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]