

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of William Beasley (Beaseley, Beesley)W9352 Elizabeth fn38NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Butler County Set

On this 11th day of April 1825 personally appeared in open Court (being a court of record for the County aforesaid William Beasley resident of said County aged 63 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 18 March 1818 and the 1st May 1820, that he the said William Beasley enlisted for the term of one year, in 1779 or '80 in the State of North Carolina, in the 2nd Regiment said State, on the Continental line which Regiment was commanded by Col. Benj. Litel [sic, Archibald Lytle?]- Capt. Samuel Jones was the commander of the Company in which he served - that he continued to serve in said Corps until his said term of one year expired - when he was discharged from said service in South Carolina near Charleston - he served two other terms in said war one of two months as a volunteer & one of three months as a drafted man - he gave his discharge to an officer of the Army many years since & he has not seen it since that time - 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an 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" 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

Between 30 & 40 sows, pigs & shoats some of which are wild - one horse 25 years old two cows, two calves, one heifer & one yearling six yews & lambs & three acathers [?] 200 Acres of very poor third rate land

S/ William Beasley, X his mark

The reason I have not sooner applied for a pension is that I knew not to whom to apply for it living remote from any place to obtain proper information on the subject And a wish to be of no expense to my Country - but I have now become crippled with the

rheumatic pains & am unable to support [myself] without assistance = I have not disposed of any property or received any money except to a very small amount since 18th March 1818 my dealings being small & only for the little necessities of life, it is impossible for me now to recollect so as to give a particular narrative of each little trade – my circumstances have always been very limited & my trading for the smallest sums – my family consists of myself & wife & six grandchildren my wife is older than I am sickly & infirm. My oldest grandson is crippled & not able to do much – my next grandson is about 14 years old & not able to do much, the rest are young & not able to do anything of consequence for their support – these children may be taken away from me at any time.

State of Kentucky, County of Butler

On this 8th day of October, 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the County Court of said County, now sitting, William Beesley, a resident of the County of Butler & State of Kentucky, aged 70 years, who first being duly sworn according to law, doth, in this make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of The Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was drafted for three months, but can not recall the precise time, but recalls distinctly that he had served two months and 18 days at the time of General Gates' Defeat at Camden [Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780], South Carolina; that he resided in the State of North Carolina when he was drafted and served under Captain David Roach (who was killed at Camden), Lieut. Francis Lamar (or Delamar) & Ensign William Becksley [?] in Col. Benjamin Ackson's [sic, Benjamin Exum's] regiment, Lieut. Col. Richard Caswell and Majors Griffin (or Griffer) & Nichols. That he rendezvoused at a ferry on Neuse River about forty miles from New Bern and marched to Deep River and remained there a short time and then marched across the Yadkin River, up Rocky River by Anson Court House and by the Cheraw Hills on PeeDee [PeeDee] River to Camden and joined Genl. Gates about a week before the battle, and continued in the service thereafter, in all five months—having served two months & 18 days before he crossed on the line between North & South Carolina, and served thereafter 3 months including the 18 days.

That he afterwards volunteered in a Company of light horse under Captain John Stevenson and marched to near Wilmington and joined Col. Richard D. Spratt's and continued until his thirty days for which he had volunteered expired, when he was discharged.

That in February 1781, he enlisted for twelve months under Captain Samuel Jones, Lieut. Stephen Slade [?] and Ensign Clarke—[the regiment was] commanded by Col. Benjamin Lytle [sic, Archibald Lytle?], Major John Griffin McCree [sic, Griffith John McRee or McRae] which he believed was in the Continental Service and has always been under that impression, but he was young at the time. That he has resided in Craven County, North Carolina, when he entered the service and rendezvoused at Wilmington. From Wilmington he marched across the Black River and PeeDee River and crossed Santee River at Nelson's Ferry and marched across the head of Cooper River to Pon Pon [River]<sup>1</sup> in South Carolina. That he marched from thence to Ashley River on Bacon

Bridge, then down the river to Ashley Hill, within seven miles of Charleston, where he continued until his service was out, when he marched back to Wilmington, and was discharged there. That at the Pon Pon [River], he joined the army under Genl Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and marched with him as stated to the place he remained until his time expired.

That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his service but Joseph Taylor and Willis McCoy of Butler in this state know that he was in the service but were not with him. That he was born in Craven County, North Carolina, on the 25th day of April, 1762, but has no record of his age. That he continued to live in Craven County until about 35 years ago when he moved to Warren County, Kentucky, where he lived about twenty years and then moved to Butler County in said state, where he now lives.

That he is acquainted with Rev. Paul Abney and Jacob Smith of his present neighborhood, who can testify as to character for veracity and their belief as to his services as soldier of the Revolution.

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

Subscribed & Sworn this day and yare aforesaid.

S/ William Beasley, X his mark

[fn p. 25, Paul Abney, a clergyman, and Jacob Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 28]

State of North Carolina Secretary's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the Revolutionary war that William Beasley a private Soldier in Capt. Jones's Company of the 10th Regiment was mustered on the 2nd January 1782 for 12 months. There is no remark opposite his name, it is therefore believed he served the term for which he enlisted.

Given under my hand at office in Raleigh this 30th May 1825

S/ Wm Hill

[fn p. 27]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary War, that William Beasley a private in Capt. Jones's Company of the 10th Regiment, enlisted on the 2nd day of January 1782 for the term of twelve months, that nothing more is said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 6th day of April, 1833.

S/ Wm Hill

[fn 7, On July 3, 1851, in Butler County, Kentucky, Elizabeth Beasley, 90, made application under the 1848 act for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of William Beasley deceased, a pensioner for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$60

per annum; that she married him in February 1784 in Craven County North Carolina as evidenced by the copy of the marriage bond presented with her application; that her husband died September 26, 1847 and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 10: marriage bond issued February 3, 1784, to William Beesley and Moses Taylor in Craven County North Carolina for the marriage of William Beesley to Elizabeth Taylor.]

[fn p. 15: on August 8, 1856 in Butler County Kentucky, Elizabeth Beesley, 97, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Beesley.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for one year and six months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> The modern era name of Pon Pon River is the South Edisto River (thanks to John Robertson for this information)