Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Cornelius Beazley R678
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Alabama } SS
Marengo County } Personally appeared before me Cicero L. Kirksey an acting
justice of the peace in & for this County State of Alabama
Cornelius Beasley a Citizen of this County aged about Ninty years in sound mind who being duly
sworn on the Holy Evangelist, States that he is a native of Charlotte County Va. and as well as he
he can recollect & understand is almost ninety years old that near the close of the Revolutionary
War he joined the army as a private in Capt Wm Morton Company & was Commanded by Colonel
Ephraim Bolling, but does not recollect the names of the Lieutenant of said Company, But his
Company marched through Halifax town on Roanoke & reached Guildford Court House before
the Battle [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] he was as well as his Br Wm [see below]
detached & put in the Baggage guard, his Br Wm Beasley was in the battle & was killed in that
Battle, That after the Battle the British pushed on for York & the American army followed &
soon closely invested them [illegible word] army on one side, Genl Washingtons army on the
other & the French fleet in front. [see endnote], this deponent remained there until the
Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct], his Br Wm Beasly [William Beazley] was ordered to march
& guard the prisoners but this deponent was disbanded & returned with Capt [illegible, but
presumably same captain as above] to Charlotte County where he remained & then removed to
Geo after remaining some time in Geo he removed to Tennessee & again returned to Geo &
then removed to Alabama, that he never applied for a pension before but he is now old
crippled & poor & prays the extension of the pension laws to his case & as in duty ever prays &c
&c
Sworn & subscribed before me this 5th day of February 1844 [signed] Cornelius beazley

near Demopolis Al [illegible word] 21 June 1844
Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

Mr. Cornelius Beasly has called to hear your report on his application for a pension, Mr
Dallett[?] had sent me your letter disallowing his application The old gentleman is very old &
infirm & his memory nearly gone, he says does not know that he can add any new light to his
case he knows that he had six Brothers all in the service one of them was killed at Guilford
Court House his name was Thos. [Thomas Beazley]. he himself was one of the waggon guard on
the whole rout, But how long he was called out for & served he has no recollection of. he says he
is now 90 or 92 years of age is in indigent circumstances but if he had not been justly entitled
to it he would never have applied for it, he says he will think over his services of those days & if
his mind will settle satisfactorily on his servis he will again make another effort
I have myself no doubt of his having served as a soldier of those time as I have had much
desultory conversation with him on those times & [illegible word]  
With great respect your obt ser’t. Jas. B Nogan[?]

[Unrelated PS]

[The following is almost illegible because the ink has bled through from both sides of the paper.]  
State of Alabama
Marengo County  Ss  Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for said County
Cornelius Beasly and old man [illegible] he thinks ninety years of age, and for six years a resident
of this County & previous thereto a resident of Georgia & for some time before a resident of
Tennessee & previous thereto a resident of Georgia from where he went to Tennessee & then
back to Georgia This deponent being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of almighty God states
that he is an applicant under the Law of the US for a pension as an old Militia soldier of the
Revolutionary War, that he made application last winter to the Department of war & has heard
for answer that his application is disallowed owing as stated to the inaccuracy of his statement
of his services; that his memory at the time may have been such as to throw doubt on his
narrative of events now upwards of 60 years past. That all he can now add is the fact that he served but one tour of three months, that he first joined the American army at Guilford, but turned out for three months under Captain Wm Morton & his Colonel he thinks was Ephraim Bowling but he is not certain of Bowling being at the time his Colonel, that within a few days after his company reached Guilford the battle was fought & his Brother Thos Beasley was killed, and after the Battle we followed Lord Cornwallis' Army for a while, was then halted, in my former statement I said we marched after Cornwallis to Little York but I did not mean to say we went to Little York, but followed him, who was said to be going there but we halted first near Reedy Fork [of Haw River] where we staid some days & then pursued the British army out again stopped at the Iron Works and after marching for some distance returned toward the south.

But his recollection as to precise dates & places [several illegible words] he states further as far as his memory goes that he was discharged [several illegible words] after the war he resided near the residence of his old Captain Wm Morton he states further he is now so [two illegible words] unable to work & if he can obtain [the rest mostly illegible]

Sworn & subscribed Before me this [illegible] of November [?] 44   Cornelius hisXmark Beasly

NOTE: Following his victory at Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis did not go immediately into Virginia, but went first to Wilmington NC. The Southern Army under Gen. Nathanael Greene rendezvoused at Speedwell Iron Works on Troublesome Creek. Greene then pursued the British as far as Ramsey’s Mill on Deep River, then in early April turned toward South Carolina. Cornwallis did not enter Virginia until May and did not arrive at Yorktown until August. Washington began the Siege of Yorktown on 28 Sep.