

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Record of Hodijah Baylies BLWt96-400
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn2Mass.
8/5/10

Mass. Baylies, Hodijah B. L. Wt.96-400-Major
 Issued Feby. 16, 1795
 No papers

[I have included this record in our database because James Briggs S15344 states in his application for a pension that Hodijah Baylies (who was the Judge of Probate Court sitting in Dighton Mass, before whom Briggs gave his testimony in supporting of his pension claim) served as aid to General Benjamin Lincoln at the time Lincoln commanded the Southern Department of the Continental Army in the defense of Charleston, SC, the spring of 1780. The portion of Briggs' application in which he made reference to Judge Baylies' services under Lincoln was lined out of Briggs' application. My guess is that someone—probably Judge Baylies himself—decided it was unwise for the judge before whom an application was made to also be a witness for the applicant. In any event, the portion of Briggs' application referring to Judge Baylies' services reads as follows (with the lineout deleted):

“He has obtained a certificate from the Honorable Hodijah Baylies who was an aid to General Lincoln during the siege¹ and at the time of the capitulation. Mr. Baylies has no knowledge of your applicant, neither have your applicant any knowledge of him. He has furnished your applicant with a certificate of his belief that he was there at the siege and capitulation, from the relation he has given him of events which took place, which he could not have done, had he not been there. At Charleston, your applicant, he thinks, served about three months.”

Unfortunately, if Judge Baylies gave testimony in support of Briggs' claim, that affidavit was not preserved in Briggs' file. Also unfortunately, all papers relating to the bounty land warrant issued to Judge Baylies for his services as a major in the Army were lost in the fires which consumed Washington in 1800 and 1814. An entry in Wikipedia reads as follows,

[Hodijah Baylies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%27s_Aides-de-Camp) joined Washington in Newburgh in the spring after Yorktown. Back in 1777 Baylies graduated Harvard, was commissioned a lieutenant in [Jackson's Additional Continental Regiment](#), appointed as aide-de-camp to General Benjamin Lincoln, and was promoted to major. He was captured by the British at the siege of Charleston. Exchanged in November 1780, he returned to Harvard for a master of arts degree. He was appointed May 1782 and served until December 23, 1783 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%27s_Aides-de-Camp [viewed 8/5/10]

¹ The siege of Charleston in the late winter and early spring of 1780 which resulted in the surrender of Charleston on May 12, 1780.