

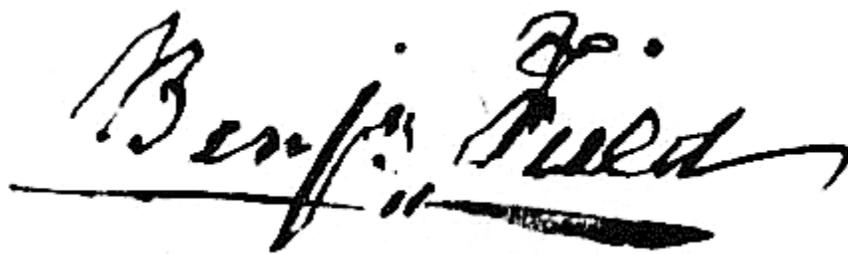
Appointed as Ensign as above stated. That some time in the fall of 1780 he returned to Virginia with Col Clarke who during that Winter was appointed Brigadier General in said line. That in the Spring of 1781, he repaired to Red Stone for the purpose of descending the river to join his company at the falls, where he was overtaken by Genl Clarke [George Rogers Clark] when Major John Crittenden handed him his commission as Captain before stated. That upon the reception of his said commission he commenced recruiting his company, and by the time Genl Clarke and Col Crockett were prepared to descend the river in the winter of 1781, he had raised his troop, and descended the river with them to the falls. That in descending the river, he came from Red Stone old Ford to Pittsburgh where Col Gibson and Se^s Knights were stationed, whom he knew. That at Pittsburgh, he left the boats and traveled across the country with his troops by a place called Catfish where Washington in Transylvania is now situated, and joined the army again at Wheeling at which place it was decided that Col Loughery of Pennsylvania Militia would also join the army with his command, but failing to do so, and arriving at Wheeling a short time after Gen Clarke had left, he attempted to descend the river in pursuit of the army in which attempts he was met by the Indians near the mouth of the Big Miami and defeated. That at the Falls of the Ohio river, he knew Brigadier Genl George R. Clarke and Major John Crittenden,

[p8]

his aide- Col. Joseph Crockett, Major George Walls, Capts. William Cherry and Thomas Young, Lieuts. Peter Moore, Hugh McGavock, and others of said regiment. Col Montgomery, Major Thomas Quirk, Capts. Isaac Taylor & others of the Illinois Regiment and also Capts. John Regus of Cavalry. That in September 1781, he lost almost the whole of his troops in an engagement with the Indians 18 or 20 miles above the falls at what was called Floyd's defeat, commanded by his Lieutenants, not being present himself on that occasion. That he continued in actual service as Captain until the army was disbanded in December 1781, when he retired as a supernumerary Captain and remained as such until the end of the war.

He hereby relinquishes 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Field". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the bottom.

We John S McFarland and Philip Triplett residing in Daviess County and State of Kentucky, hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with Capt Benjamin Field, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be seventy six years of age. That he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

P. Triplett

John S. McFarland

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[p9 routine county certification Abney McLean, John S. McFarland, clerk]

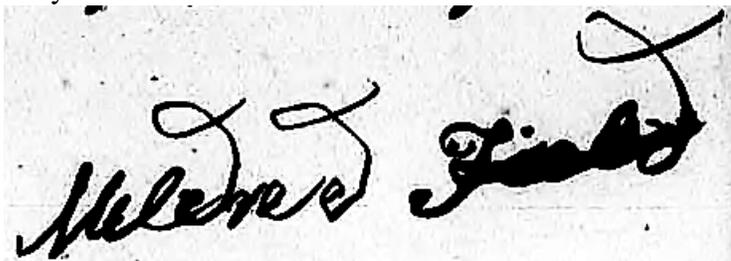
[p11]

State of Kentucky
Ohio County

On this the 27th day of June 1840 personally appeared before us James Newton & Henry Stevens acting justices of the peace in and for the county of Ohio State of Kentucky Mrs. Mildred Fields a resident of the said county of Ohio aged upwards of seventy five years and who is by reason of bodily infirmity wholly prevented from appearing in open court and she after being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 7th day of July 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows, to wit: That she is the widow of Benjamin Field deceased late of the County of Daviess, State of Kentucky and who was a Captain and Major in the Army of the Revolution and belonged to the Virginia State Line and Illinois Regiment and served many years commanding as an officer as she verily believes and became entitled to Land Bounty for his service as an officer from the State of Virginia and did receive or was allowed in the year 1802 Bounty Land for three years service as captain in quantity 4000 acres and was allowed thereafter as declarant has been advised a quantity connected with the above quantity that was to equal 5000 and which was made to him as a Major, and her said husband was allowed in July 1808 his half pay for his service in said state line of Virginia in said army and which was granted him at the rate of \$200 per annum commencing 22nd day of April 1783 and to the evidence upon which the aforesaid Bounty in Land was granted and the service upon which the allowance of said half pay was granted, she presenting the whole to be under the immediate inspection of the proper officer, will refer for the character of the service performed by her said husband, its duration & the officers under whom it was performed together with such other facts as may be contained in said [p12] evidence in proof of her claim. She further declares that she has no documentary evidence in favor of her claim. She further declares that her said husband resided in the state of Virginia when he entered the service and thinks in Culpeper County. She further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Field on the 19th day of August Seventeen Hundred and Ninety 1790, That her husband the afd Benjamin Field died on the 3d day of January 1842. That she was not married to him prior to his entering the service but the marriage took place prior to the first day of January 1794 viz at the time above stated.

Sworn to and subscribed before us the day

s/ Mildred Field

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mildred Field", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

and year above written.

[routine county certification:

James Newton, JP

Henry Stevens, JP

Ch Henderson, clerk

[the file of 190 pages contains papers to and from the War Department by various Daviess County officials, attorneys, and congressman on the issues of half pay for life in addition to the pension, of the widow's pension, and of a claim by the heirs of Benjamin Field.]

Addendum to Benjamin Field W3009

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 2 Feb 2014.

[The following are from [Revolutionary bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#). Most of the online images are illegible.]

[The quality of the online image is poor.]

State of Kentucky } Sct

Daviess County }

I Benjamin Field aged seventy four years past do upon oath testify and declare, that in the year 1780 I entered into the service of the State of Virginia, upon the State establishment, as Ensign, under Col. George Slaughter, commandant at the falls of the Ohio (then in Virginia) that I continued in the service of Virginia as Ensign in same corps untill I received a commission of Captain, dated the 28th day of May 1781 in the forces of the same State of Virginia – and that I continued in the service as such, untill the end of the war – when I was regularly discharged. I further state I have never received a warrant for any bounty land from the State of Virginia – nor have I ever assigned or transfered my claim in any manner [two illegible words]. Nor did I ever receive any pay from the State of Virginia for the time I was actually in her service.

Given under my hand this 18th day of June 1831



[To Gov. John Floyd]

Auditors Office [of Virginia] 21 April 1832

Richard Elliot of Kentucky who was in this city some months since left in my care the accompanying papers (except the depositions which I have just received from Kentucky) in support of the claim of Capt Benjamin Field for Land bounty Field's own deposition which is supported by the depositions of [John] Allen and [Joseph] Saunders shows that he entered the service as Ensign in 1780 and served at the falls of Ohio under Col. Geo. Slaughter. (Slaughter was the second in command to [Joseph] Crockett). It appears also that in May 1781 he was appointed by Mr Jefferson captain of a troop of Horse and the original commission is produced. Allen deposes that he served with his troop of horse, with Crockett's regiment at the falls of Ohio – and that part of his troops was engaged with the Indians under Col [John] Floyd (probably yr Father) – Allen also testifies that Field was neither superseded or cashiered nor did he resign, but that he continued to serve until Crockett's Regiment was discharged If you do not think the testimony sufficient to establish the claim to Land bounty I have promised Mr Elliott to write to him for additional proof – which he may possibly be enabled to procure.

Elliott is prosecuting also the claim for half pay. I shall be under the necessity of asking that the commissions and depositions may hereafter be withdrawn for the purpose of sustaining the application.

With great respect/ your obedient serv't/ Jas E. Heath

NOTE: The file includes a copy of the commission of Benjamin Field as "Captain of a Troop of Horse in the forces of this Commonwealth," signed by Gov. Thomas Jefferson on 28 May 1781.

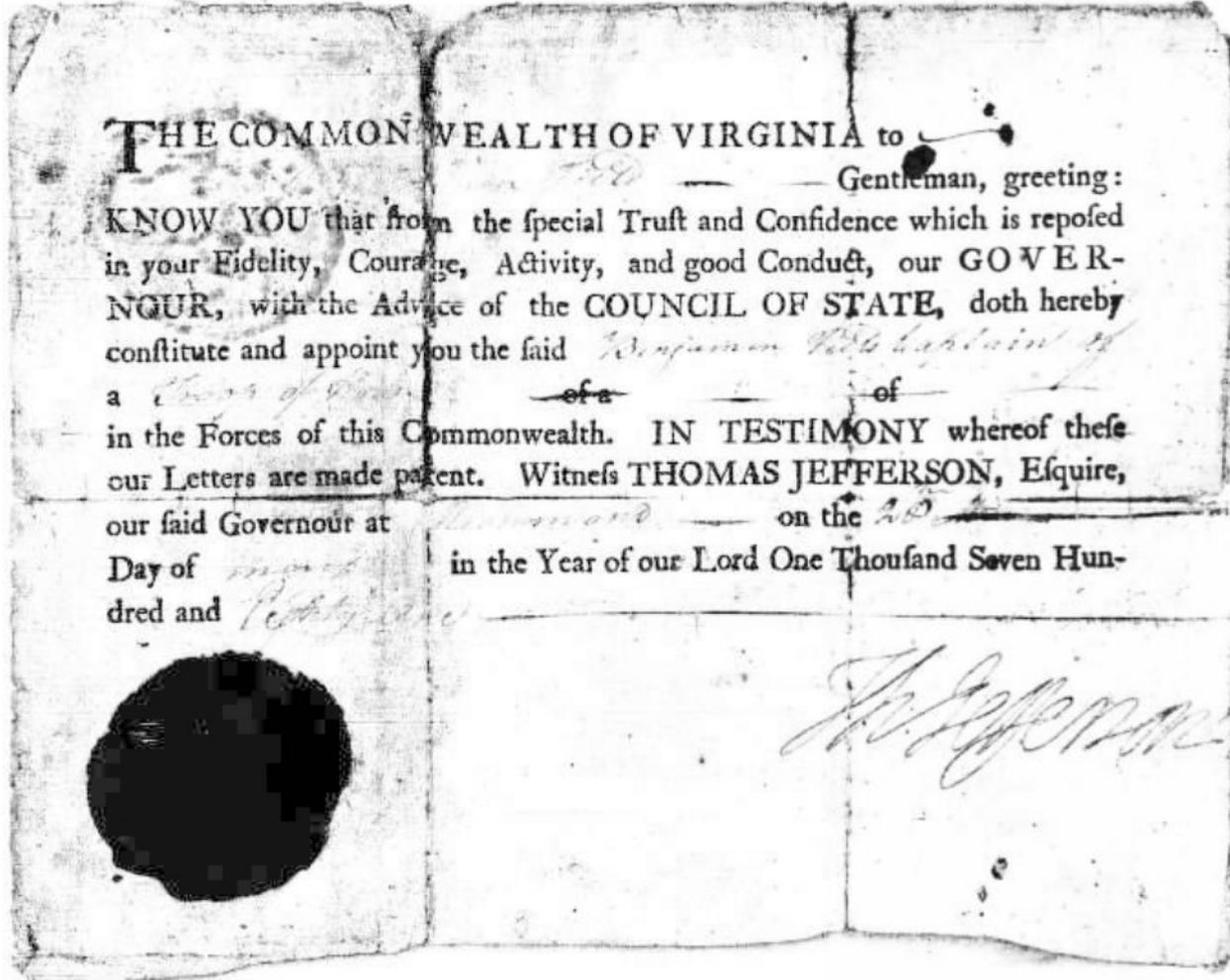
[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Addendum to Benjamin Field W3009

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 14 Dec 2023.

[From [Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com](#). Not all the 164 pages are transcribed.]

[Field's commission as captain of a troop of cavalry signed on 28 May 1781 by Thomas Jefferson]



The deposition of Joseph Saunders [S11347] taken in the town of Shepherdsville, in the County of Bullitt and State of Kentucky, on the 13th day of February 1832, to be laid before the Governor, and Executive Council of the State of Virginia for the purpose of procuring the land to which Benjamin Field is entitled, for services rendered to the said State during the Revolutionary War. This deponent being of lawful age, and first duly sworn, deposeth as follows,

Question – Did or did you not, serve as Lieutenant in the year 1780, in the service of the state of Virginia in the State Line, and if so, please to state in what corps, and where stationed?

Answer – I did. I served in Capt. Mark Thomas' [R18446] company, in Col. George Slaughter's [W8729] Corps, attached to Col. Crocketts [Joseph Crockett S46377] Regiment, and was stationed at the Falls of Ohio, now Louisville.

Question – Do or do you not, know Benjamin Field; and if so, state what you know of his service in said

Corps?

Answer – I do. I have not seen him for many years, until today; but knew him very intimately at that time. He was appointed Ensign in the summer of 1780 in Capt. Thomas' company, to which I belonged; to succeed, I believe, Ensign Asher [William Asher VAS2306], who was killed by the Indians.

Question – Do, or do you not, know that the said Field did not resign, was cashiered or superseded?

Answer – Neither, during my continuance at the Falls, until the next year. In the spring of 1781 I was sent by the commanding officer to Richmond, and did not return until the next winter. Before I left as above stated, he served with much honor to himself and credit to the service!

Question – Do, or do you not believe, if said Field had been arrested, resigned, or superseded in your absence, that you would have heard of it on your return?

Answer – I do; but heard nothing of the kind, and verily believe from my knowledge of him, that he acquitted himself as a faithful Officer.

Question – Do, or do you not know that said Field was promoted to a Captaincy in a troop of Horse, in the service of Virginia in 1781?

Answer – I left the Falls, in the spring of 1781, as above stated, and did not return until the next winter; and consequently, being absent that year, know nothing upon the subject of my own knowledge.

Question – How old are you?

Answer – I am seventy-five years old past.

Question, by Benjamin Field – Do, or do you not, know, that I am the same Benjamin Field, mentioned in the foregoing deposition?

Answer – Yes. I know that you are the same identical Benjamin Field of whose service as Ensign I have mentioned.

And further this Deponent saith not. Joseph Saunders

The Deposition of John Allen [S30818] taken in the Town of Versailles, in the County of Woodward, and State of Kentucky on the 20th day of February, 1832, to be laid before the Governor and Executive Council of the State of Virginia, in behalf of Benjamin Field, for the purpose of procuring a warrant for the Land promised by said State for his services rendered during the Revolutionary war. This deponent being of lawful age, and first duly sworn, deposeth as follows.

Question – What age are you?

Answer – From all the information which I have always received, I am in my 80th year since January last.

Question – Were, or were you not, stationed at the Falls of the Ohio River in the year 1780, with Col. George Slaughter's corps of Virginia Troops?

Answer – I was.

Question – Did or did you not know Benjamin Field?

Answer – I did. I knew him intimately.

Question – Did, or did he not, serve as Ensign in Capt. Thomas' company, in the said Col. Slaughter's Corps?

Answer – He did. He received the appointment some time in the summer of that year, and continued in the service as such to my knowledge, until I received leave of absence the next Fall, to return to Virginia. And I have understood that said Field also returned to Virginia the same Fall.

Question – Do, or do you not know that said Field served as Ensign, without being cashiered or superseded, & without resigning?

Answer – I do believe he did. I never heard but what he acquitted himself with honor, and if it had been otherwise, I do believe that I should have heard of it.

Question – Did, or did you not return to the Falls of the Ohio, the spring of 1781?

Answer – I did. I came down the River with Col. Crocketts Regiment.

Question – Did, or did you not, meet with the said Benjamin Field, in the Red Stone Country [possibly area of Redstone Fort at present Brownsville Pa], in the Spring of 1781?

Answer – I did. and understood that he had been promoted to a captaincy in a troop of Horse, in the

Virginia State service.

Question – Do, or do you not know, that he raised his company of Horse and if so, state what you know of his service?

Answer – He did. He raised his company of Horse, in which Thomas Ravenscroft [Thomas Ravenscraft S1248] was an officer, and, I believe Lieutenant. They came to the Falls of the Ohio River, now Louisville, in the Spring, or early in the summer of 1781, perhaps in June, with Col. Crocketts Regiment, and was stationed there. I believe part of his troop was at some of the stations near the Falls. Part of the troop was under Colo. Floyd when defeated by the Indians in September of that year [defeat of Col. John Floyd at Long Run Creek 16 mi E of downtown Louisville, 14 Sep 1781]. And I understood that Thomas Ravenscroft with others were taken prisoners; and Robert Ravenscroft [Robert Ravenscraft] was killed.

Question – Is, or is it not possible, that you may be mistaken in said Field commanding said Troop?

Answer – I know that I am not, but I never saw his Commission.

Question – Why do you recollect him so distinctly?

Answer – I was raised near him in Virginia and we were well acquainted from boys, which made me take more notice of him, perhaps, than I should have done; I knew him in the spring of 1780, before he was appointed Ensign, after he was appointed in Capt. Thomas Company as well as in 1781, while he commanded the troop of Horse.

Question – Do, or do you not, know that he served as Captain of the Troop of Horse, without being cashiered, superseded; and without resigning?

Answer – I know that he did, until Col. Slaughter's Corps was disbanded, and never heard to the contrary afterwards, and do not believe otherwise than he discharged his duty with honor.

Question, by Benjamin Field – Do, or do you not, know that I am the same identical Benjamin Field, that commanded the troop of Horse, mentioned by you?

Answer – Yes. I know that you are the same.

And further this Deponent saith not.

John hisXmark Allen

The deposition of Benjamin Whaly [Benjamin Whaley S31472]. Taken in the town of Maysville and state of Kentucky, on the 23rd day of July 1832, in behalf of Benjamin Field, as evidence of his service in the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary war. This deponent being of lawful age, and first duly sworn, deposeth as follows.

Question. How old are you?

Answer. I am seventy two years old past.

Question. Were or were you not acquainted with Benjamin Field in 1781, and if so, state what you know of his services?

Answer. I was. He and myself received Captain's commissions from the State of Virginia in the Spring of 1781, in her State line. He, in a troop of horse, and I in Infantry. I know that he recruited his troop, for I was enlisting my company at the same time. He descended the [Ohio] River with his troop in the spring of 1781, with Gen'l. Clarke [sic: [George Rogers Clark VAS269] and Col. Crockett's Regiment, and was stationed at the Falls of the Ohio, (now Louisville.) In September of that year, he lost the greatest part of his troop, at what was called Floyd's defeat.

Question. Were or were you not intimately acquainted with said Field, at that time?

Answer. I was.

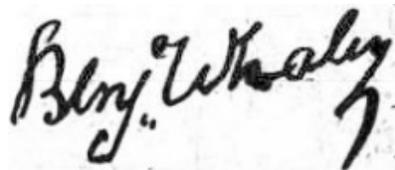
Question. Was or was he not cashiered, or superceeded, or did he not resign?

Answer. No. He was neither cashiered, superceeded, nor did he resign.

Question. How long did he continue in the service?

Answer. I verily believe he continued until the close of the war. That is, he continued part of the time in actual service up to the fall of 1781, or the next winter, and the remainder of the continuance of the war, as a supernumary Officer, liable to be called into the service at any time. In 1782, there were many officers of that class in the Virginia State line.

And further this deponent saith not.



The deposition of Thomas Young [S11921], taken at the same time and place. This deponent being of lawful age, and first duly sworn, deposeth as follows.

Question. How old are you?

Answer. I am eighty one years old past.

Question. Did or did you not command a company in Col. Crockett's Regiment in 1781?

Answer. I did.

Question. Were or were you not acquainted with Benjamin Field in 1781, and if so, state what you know of his service?

Answer. I was. He commanded a troop of horse in the Virginia State line, and descended the River with us in the spring of that year to the falls, where he was stationed. I believe he lost a large portion of his company in September 1781, at Floyd's defeat.

Question. How long did he continue in the service?

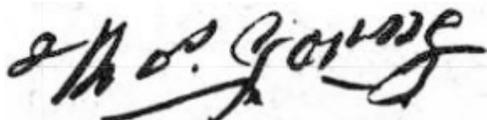
Answer. In the fall of 1781, the time of enlistment of my company expired, when I left the falls as a supernumary officer, and did not return – and suppose that in 1782, he was also a supernumary officer.

Question. Was or was he not cashiered, superceeded, or did he resign?

Answer. Neither to my knowledge in 1781, and if either had taken place after I returned as a supernumary I must have heard of it.

Question. Do or do you not believe, that said Field continued in actual service, and as supernumary liable to be called into the service until the close of the war?

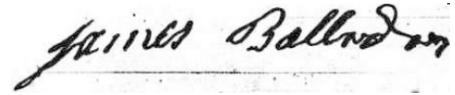
Answer. I do – there were many supernumary Officers in the Virginia State line, the last years of the war. And further this deponent saith not.



The Deposition of James Ballard [R463] taken at Shelbyville on the 13th day of Feb'y 1838 to be uses as evidence in a case now before the War department at Washington City on the behalf of Captain Benj Field.

Deponent being now in the 76th or 7th year of his age states that in the year 1779 he became acquainted with Captain Benj Field in the county of Spottsylvania or Culpeper Virginia that said Field and his deponents family came to Ky. and he thinks Captain Field acted as an Ensign in Slaughters Corps for sometime. This affiant was well acquainted with Captain Field in 1781 at the falls of Ohio, that in the spring of 1781 he said Field was in the command of a troop of horse as he understood of the forces of Gen Clarke that he Field continued to act as Captain of said Troop of horse; untill a few days before Floyd's defeat when a large portion of his troop was required to go to Boons Station [sic: Boone's Station 10 mi SE of Lexington KY] to move the families from there to Bar Grass station [sic: Beargrass Station 75 mi NW of Boone's Station; 4 mi SE of downtown Louisville], that on their way down while encamped the indians made an attack on them and killed nearly all the men, women, and children [Long Run Massacre, 13 Sep 1781] he thinks Ravenscroft Field Lieutenant was taken prisoner, that Field with the remainder of the troop was with affiant in an engagement with the same body of Indians the next day and the whites were again defeated and Fields company nearly all killed as well as the remainder of the whites That Fields was left without a command that he never heard or understood that Fields resigned or was in anyway arrested or acted as one unworthy the station he held, that he does not recollect ever to have seen

him in command after his troop was killed or taken prisoners nor does he now recollect the time of Floyds defeat, deponent believes from Fields character that he would at all times have been ready to have returned to service if required so to do. Further this deponent saith not.



The deposition of Bland W. Ballard [W20655] taken at the Town of Frankfort on the 14th day of Feby 1838 to be read as evidence in a case on the behalf of Benj Field now depending before the War department at Washington

Deponent being now in the 78th year of his age and first duly sworn states that he became acquainted with Benjamin Field in the year 1779 or 80 at that time he was acting as an ensign in Slaughters Corps of Troops which was attached to Genl Clarks regiment, that said Fields continued to act in said Capacity of Ensign in one of the Companies of said Corps untill the Spring of 1781 when he received a Commission as Captain of Light Dragoons, and recruited his Company in the County of [blank] State of Virginia and took Command of the same and so continued in the command of his company at the falls of Ohio untill provender became scarce, and he said Field retained a portion of his command at the falls of Ohio and an other portion of the same troop were sent to the Bar grass Station to the better securing of provender under the command of Lieutenant Thomas Ravenscroft of said Troop. That portion of the troop under the Command of Thomas Ravenscroft a few days before Floyd's defeat were ordered to march to Boons Station on the Ky River and assist in moving the families from that Station to Bargrass Station, and while the persons were in encampment, on their way down to Bargrass were attacked by a large body of Indians, and men women & children were slain by the savages, and nearly every man of the Troop of Captain Field was killed and taken prisoners and all the horses. Said Ravenscroft on the above occasion was made a prisoner of war. That within a day or so after this time Captain Field with the remainder of his command with this deponent was under Floyd in an engagement with the same body of Indians, in which they were again defeated, and the Indians triumphant. The remainder of Fields Troop were killed or taken prisoners and all their horses likewise.

That Field from this time was left without a Command, for want of which he retired from service and never resigned or in any other way acted unworthy of an officer in high commission, That from the general character of Captain Field he does not doubt he would have at all times been ready to enter the service again if he had been required so to do. This deponent does not recollect the time of Floyd's defeat but thinks it took place in the Spring season of 1782; history will shew more certainly. That this deponent was a private in Captain Roberts company stationed at the Falls of Ohio. That he was young at the time and frequently bore express's from one station to an other and was well acquainted with Capt Fields in Virginia before he marche to Ky with him, that he was at all times in the actual command of his Troop unless when unwell or when it was in part separated from him, as above stated up to the time when he lost men and horses, no officer was more meritorious than said Field. He is informed he now resides near the yellow Banks in Ohio County Ky. further saith not

Bland W Ballard



State of Kentucky Daviess County Sc

County Court September Term 1844

After examining Witnesses in Open Court It satisfactorily appears to said Court that Captain Benjamin Field late a pensioner of the united States departed this life on the 2nd day of January 1842 in Daviess County Ky. That he left as his widow Mildred Field who is still living as such in s'd. County. That said Field died intestate and William and John Field were appointed the administrators on his estate That since the appointment of John & Wm Field as the administrators on said estate the said John has died That William is still living and acting as administrator on said estate all of which is ordered to be certified to the War department at Washington City DC. A Copy att John T Mcfarland Ck

NOTES:

In a letter to Field's attorney dated 3 April 1838 Senator J. J. Crittenden wrote, "I knew Capt. Field, & consider him one of the best & worthiest citizens of Kent'y. On the list of his witnesses which you have furnished me, I find the names of Blan W Ballard, & James Ballard, of Shelby County, Kenty, & of the late Capt. John McKinney [R6768], I was acquainted with all of them. They were all highly respectable citizens, & worthy of confidence."

In Daviess County KY in January 1842 John Field and William Field, with Willis Field and Thomas Field as securities, obtained letters of administration of the estate of Benjamin Field.