

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Isaac Beesly R710

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation and capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Virginia } SS

County of Lewis }

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me the Subscriber [David W. Sleeth; see endnote] one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for said County of Lewis and State of Virginia Isaac Beesly a resident of said County of Lewis and State of Virginia aged 80 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in Monongahalia [sic: Monongalia] County Virginia in the month of March 1778 affiant was drafted as a private and malitiaman for a period of six months was placed under the Command of Capt. Dudley Evans Lieutenant Charles Stewart - was attached to a Regiment Commanded by Colo. Gibs[?] [probably John Gibson] was marched from Monongahalia County Virginia to Fort Pitt the place where Pitts Burg [sic: Pittsburgh] now stands, their joined Genl [Lachlan] McIntosh; from Fort Pitt Gen'l. McIntosh Descended the Ohio River with his regulars and malitia men to the mouth of big Beaver a Creek discharging itself into that River from the North West [at present Beaver PA], there Gen'l. McIntosh erected and garrisoned a Fort, called Fort McIntosh, and mounted a Six pounder for its defence. This was a Favorable position at which to station the troops, to affect a partial security of the Frontier Settlements by intercepting parties of Indians on their way to the same, on the opposite side of the river, and by pursuing and punishing them, while engaged either in committing havoc or retreating to their towns after the consumption of there horrid purposes. Affiant continued there in the service until September following at which time he was discharged by his Capt. Evans. from the Frequent Irruptions of the Savages upon the settlement that year, Affiant was induced to volenteer his services as a private and malitia man in the same month in which he was discharged, namely September 1778 for a period of six months again. was placed under command of Capt. Morgan and attached to Col Gibson Reg't. again. Shortly afterwards in the fall of 1778 Gen'l. Mcintosh proceeded against the Sandusky Towns with one thousand men he penetrated the country of the Savages as far as Tuscarawas [River] where from cold weather he concluded to build and garrison a Fort on the Banks of the Tuscarawas which he did and it was called Fort Laurens. affiant helped to build said fort. Gen'l. McIntosh returned to Fort Pitt with all his troops but one hundred and fifty men who were left under the command of Col. John Gibson at Fort Laurens, who remained in fort until spring of 1779 among whom affiant was one. in the month of January 1779 after night a party of Indians came near Fort Laurens, caught and unbelled some horses that belonged to the people within fort, carried the bells to the upper end of a prairie, and in the morning commenced ratling them. 16 men were sent out for the horses and proceeding towards the bells found themselves surrounded by Indians 14 were killed, and the other two made prisoners of. in the evening of that day between eight and nine hundred Indians marched in single file on an eminence within view of the camp on the opposite side of the river and remained there for upward of six weeks, got out of provision and had to retrace their steps to their towns. - during their stay Col. Gibson dispatched a Friendly Indian with intelligence of the fact to Genl McIntosh and requested him to hasten to his relief. in a few days after their departure (the Indians) Genl McIntosh arrived with a considerable supply of troops and provision. the salute was fired by Col. Gibsons men on their approach scared the horses that was packing the provisions and they broke and run all over the woods, tearing off bags of flour ripping them open, and waisting wherever they went. Genls. McIntosh left Major Vernon affiant thinks with a fresh detachment to garrison the Fort in lieu of Col. Gibson and proceeded back to Fort McIntosh, at which place affiant was discharged in the month of April 1779 by his Capt. Morgan then he proceeded to Monongahalia County Virginia, and in the month of June he volenteered as a private and Indian Spy under Capt. Springer was attached to a Regiment

commanded by Col. Morgan for a period of five months was stationed at Pricketts Fort [now Pricketts Fort State Park 4 mi NE of Fairmont] on the Monongahalia [sic: Monongahela] River in Monongahalia County Virginia, entered upon his Spying excursions upon the waters of Duncard's Creek, Buffalo Creek, Bengaman [sic: Dunkard, Buffalo, and Bingamon creeks] &c. heading against Fish and Fishing Creeks in the counties of now Monongahalia, Harrison and Tyler Virginia State, continuing as an Indian Spy until November of that year and was discharged by his Capt. Springer having served the period for which he volunteered. Then in the month of April 1780 affiant volunteered again as a private and Indian Spy under Capt. Springer in Monongahalia County Virginia for a period of eight months, was again attached to Col. Morgan Regiment of Virginia Militia, was stationed again at Pricketts Fort on the Monongahalia River as before in Monongahalia County Virginia, was ordered upon the waters of Duncard, Buffalo, Bingaman, Tenmile, Middle Island, Fishing and Fish Creeks in the counties now of Monongahalia, Harrison and Tyler in Virginia State. Frequent incursions were made by the Savage Indians that year upon the settlements, their havoc was great, and one occasion, in the month of July a party of Indians consisting of ten in number approached the settlement of Duncard Creek, killed two children of John Haythorns, stole some horses and commenced a retreat. they were pursued by fifteen Whites among whom affiant was one, on the waters of Fish Creek (in Tyler County now Virginia) the Indians were overtaken. Five of their number were killed the others escaped and the horses rescued. nothing else happening during that servitude that affiant was personally engaged in suffices it to say that he was discharged in November of that year having served seven months, his Capt. deeming it unnecessary to continue his spies any longer. in the year 1781 affiant raised a crop in Monongahalia County Virginia near Pricketts Fort and in the month of May 1782 the Indians pouring in numerously upon the settlement induced affiant again to volunteer as a private and Indian Spy for a period of three months. was placed under the command of Capt. Cockran, who stationed his men, Pricketts Fort, as Capt. Springer had done. affiant was ordered upon the waters of Duncard, Buffalo, Fish, Fishing, and Bingaman Creeks in the counties now of Monongahalia, Harrison, and Tyler, State of Virginia. in June of that year a party of Indians had advanced as far as Fish Creek towards the Monongahalia Settlement, a stream that empties into the Ohio River on the southeast side thereof, when affiant and John Roberts who were spying together noticed their fresh trail. affiant and Roberts hastened through the woods and gave notice of their approach to those within fort, and gathering the neighbors in, in three or four days afterwards affiant, James Curry, and Thomas Mason slipped out cautiously to make some discovery of what had become of them. they perceived where they had been, in a cornfield near watching for some persons to come out of fort until they had disappeared, and had left supposing they had been discovered. the custom of the country was for the people at one fort to apprise their neighbouring forts of the impending dangers. the Savages had learnt from experience that fact, and it accounts for their course which was directly to the Hackers Creek Settlement now in Lewis County Virginia on the head waters of the Westfork of the Monongahalia River [now West Fork River], where they made the inhabitants feel the soariness[?] of their approach at was said that their company consisted of 25 men. in August of that year affiant and James Coon was spying on Benaman [probably Bingamon] Creek when they were surprised by the report of guns from the road side. Coon rec'd a shot through the left arm, and a ball passed through affiant's hunting shirt and cut the belt thereof. affiant and Coon took to flight, Coon out ran affiant for a short distance but from the loss of blood as he bled profusely, affiant soon passed him and succeeded in making his escape. Coon was caught and killed. his body was afterward found with his scalp taken. Nothing else happening of particular note affiant suffices it to say he was discharged about the first of Sept of that year by his Capt. Cochran, which ended his services during the Revolutionary War. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services 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. Isaac his Bmark Beesly  
The said Justice of the peace then proceeded to propound to Declarant the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War department to which he answers as follows.

1<sup>st</sup>. Affiant saith, that he was born in Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Va in the year 1753.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>. he saith that he he has a transcript in his Bible taken from his father which purports to him to be that age
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Affiant saith that he was living in Monongahalia County Virginia, has lived since in Harrison, and lives now in Lewis County, Virginia
- 4<sup>th</sup>. Affiant saith, that in the first servitude he was drafted, as stated in his declaration. the remaining four tours he volenteered.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. Affiant saith that he knew Gen'l. McIntosh, Col Clarke, and Col. Gibson, Capts. Evans, Morgan, Springer, Cockran, &c and many others whose names he has forgotten from the laps of time and frailty of age, and the general circumstances of his services was as above narrated.
- 6<sup>th</sup>. Affiant saith, that he rec'd. discharges in every servitude from each Captain under whom he served as he has stated but has lost or mislaid the same, so that he cannot find them.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. Affiant saith That he is know to [blank] and [blank] who can testify to his character for varacity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution

Isaac hisBmark Beesly

[The certification by David W. Sleeth J.P. states that Beesly was not well enough to travel the 14 miles from his home to appear in court.]

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners and applicants from Lewis and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth and the endnote.]

Isaac Beesly. Lewis county. Serv'd. 2 yrs. & 3 mos. applicant.

I saw Isaac Beesly July 4, 1834 and then received from him the following statement of his age and and services as a soldier of the War of the Revolution to Wit. - he was 80 years old last March. Cant remember the date of the Revolutionary War but some time during the war he enlisted under Capt. Thomas Berry of Frederick County Virginia for two years. his company Rendevoused at Winchester staid there about 8 days then marched to James Town. from thence to the Rhoanoke [sic: Roanoke] river. staid there a while thence to Hallifax [sic: Halifax]. there met Gen'l. Lee's Army (about seven hundred men) [see endnote] from Hallifax Genl Lee marched his army to Charleston South Carolina. on arriving there it was found that the British had deserted the City. Genl. Lee returned with his army to Hallifax. remained there a while and then went back to Charleston South Carolina his tour of two years here expired. got his discharge and returned home. his discharge (which is lost) was signed by his Captain Thomas Berry. Setting out from Winchester as before stated his Lieut name was William Meade. his Ensign's John Chapman. was only in one engagement. that was at James town [possibly Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] where "he had a small [illegible word]" - John Remain [John Romine, pension application S6008] of Harrison County will prove his services. - Cant remember the name of any one of his Brother Soldiers that marched from Winchester & continued with him. - Before the R. War closed (cant tell in what year) served two years in the Militia against the Indians. commenced this service under Capt Springer at Uniontown Pen. Springer marched his company to the head of ten mile then backwards & forwards on the dendeing[?] ridge between Maddy Island, Big Whitely, little Whitely & Wheeling creek. none of the men that were with him in this service are about here. Nor can he think of one of their names. whilst in this latter service Capt Springer Commanded him the first and Capt. Samuel Lewis in the second year. (Note this latter service if done at all must have been done after the war closed. No Indian Fighter I have yet met with who has a shawdow of claim wrote their services at the places mentioned by this applicant. W. G Singleton)

Jonathan Wamsley & Johnson F. Newlan wrote his declaration they were not half as particular with him as you (WGS) have been. they only asked a few questions and a few of the officers names. he first agreed to give Newlan Twenty dollars, went to see him. not finding him at home met with Wamsley who said he could not get a pension for the sum promised Newlan. he (Beesly) then agreed to give Wamsley \$80. after this second agreement Wamsley sent him word that he must agree to give more. never saw Wamsley or Nuelan again. thought he wanted all. the latter service detailed was done since he settled west of the allegany mountains [sic:

Allegheny Mountains].

A True copy. W. G Singleton.

John Remine of Harrison County aged 72 yrs. states that he has known Isaac Beesley all his life they were boys together. - he knows that Beesly was enlisted under Capt. Thomas Berry of Frederick County V. for either 18 mos. or two years. not certain which but thinks it was for two years. he also knows that he went in service and was gone for either 18 mos. or two years. - he thinks Beesly done other service. the above statement of John Remine was taken down by Nathan Goff [Pension Agent at Clarksburg] in my presence & read to him & acknowledged to be correct

Gustavus Harrison July 9, 1834

A true copy. W. G Singleton

Note Remine is a Pensioner from Harrison County and his case has been proven to be fraudulent. he is reported as being unable to pay.

If upon comparing this statement with his Declaration you should be of opinion that Beesley is entitled, send his certificate to Nathan Goff of Clarksburg. if it should fall in the hands of the Lewis Gentry the old man will be cheated out of his money.

W. G Singleton Nov. 10, 1834

#### NOTES:

The Gen. Lee mentioned in Singleton's report on Beesly would appear to have been Gen. Charles Lee, commanding officer at the Battle of Sullivan Island SC, 28 - 29 June 1776. A Capt. Thomas Berry commanded a company of the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment at Breech Inlet during the battle.

David W. Sleeth, Jonathan Wamsley, and Johnson F. Newlan were part of what Singleton called the "Lewis Speculating Gentry," who tricked illiterate men into putting their marks on fraudulent applications then kept most of the money. The prefix R on Beesly's file number indicates that he was denied a pension.