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[ To be continued in the Spring, 1996 issue]

**PETITION OF THE HEIRS OF  
BENJAMIN BELK, WAR OF 1812 SOLDIER**

To the Honorable The President and Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina

The petition of Jeremiah Belk of Darlington district in the said State Respectfully sheweth that he is the Guardian and Grand Father of Jensey Ann Belk and Castus Salana Belk whose father Benjamin Belk died in the Service of the United State during the late war in the year 1814 having been Called out as a Militiaman in the said Service in the Company commanded by Captain John K. McIver. And your petitioner further shews unto your Honorable body that in pursance of the Act of Assembly for the Year 1815; he received from the Treasury, the pension allowed to the said Children for one year, but was afterwards informed that provision having been made by Congress, his application must be made there. He accordingly after much difficulty and delay in ascertaining and procuring the necessary evidence presented his claim, but was informed that the Act of Congress made no provision except for the widow And your petitioner futher sheweth that at the death of their father the said Jensey Ann Belk was little more than two years old, she having been born on the 9th of May 1812 & that Castus Salana Belk was born on the 4th of August 1814.

And your Petitioner further shews that the father of the said Children at the time of his death was possessed of no other property than a small tract of \_\_\_\_\_ land not worth more than two hundred dollars; two indifferent horses, seven sheep & furniture worth on the whole not more than two hundred dollars more, of which the widow was entitled and received one third part. And your petitioner further shows that the claim of two wards to the pension made by the bounty of the Legislature has been delayed by his ignorance of the law and the uncertainty of the source to where his application should be made He therefore hopes that this circumstance will not prejudice the claim of his grand children and that your Honorable body will order and direct the payment of the arrears of the pension due to them and he will ever pray &c.

Jeremiah Belk

South Carolina )  
Darlington District )

Jeremiah Belk made oath that Jensey Ann Belk and Custus Safana Belk were the legal \_\_\_\_\_ children of Benjamin Belk and that the facts stated in the above petition are true.

Sworn to before me  
the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1827

Jeremiah Belk

Josiah J. Evans

South Carolina )  
Darlington District )

I Harriet Stokes formerly Harriet Belk and widow of Benjamin Belk do Solemonly Swear that the said Benjamin Belk was a private in a detachment of Militia called into the Service of the United States in the late war between the United States and Great Britain under the Command of Capt. John K. McIver and that the said Benjamin Belk died as she is informed and believes whilst he was in the said service And that the said Benjamin Belk left two children the oldest of whom <sup>was</sup> a little more than two years at the time of the death of the said Benjamin Belk.

So help me God )  
Sworn to before me )  
the 27 day of October )  
1827 )

Harriet Stokes

Middleton DuBose, J.P.

We do certify that the foregoing affidavit of Harriet Stokes is to the best of our knowledge & belief correct. Given under our hands Seal this 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1827.

Ed<sup>wd</sup> Woodham, J.P.

Spencer Harrell, J.P.

I John K. McIver late a Captain of a Militia Company in the Service of the United States, do hereby certify that Benjamin Belk was a private in my company & that he died whilst in the said service sometime in the Fall of the year 1814.

Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1827

Jn<sup>o</sup> K. McIver

[Reference- S.C. Department of Archives, General Assembly Petitions, N.D., No. 618]