

JOHN BAILEY (BAYLEY)

John Bailey (Bayley) also was charged with loyalism. His ancestor, John Bailey of Ballinaclough, Ireland, had received a patent on August 16, 1698, from the Lords Proprietors of Carolina making him a landgrave (though the reason for this is unknown). The patent as landgrave entitled Bailey to four baronies of 12,000 acres each or 48,000 acres, including Hilton Head Island and Raphoe Barony on the Santee River. By 1782 some of the property had been sold. The Jacksonborough Assembly confiscated the land remaining under the patent.²⁵

The Commissioners of Forfeited Estates moved quickly. On August 7, 1782, six months after passage of the confiscation act, the commissioners had the barony on Hilton Head Island surveyed. Only about a week later, 14,574 acres belonging to John Bailey were sold during a public auction at Jacksonborough to seventeen prominent individuals for a total of £100,926.5 in South Carolina currency.²⁶

More than two years after this sale, on January 28, 1784, Peter Bailey, John Bailey's grandson or great-grandson, petitioned the General Assembly for relief from the confiscation act. Bailey said none of his family had ever been in America. His father's efforts to settle him and his sons there had been frustrated by ill health and the necessary education of his sons. His family, asserted Bailey, "never opposed the Cause of this Country [and], never bore Arms" against it. In 1781 Peter Bailey had planned to travel to South Carolina. When he learned the British had taken possession of Charleston, he thought it best to remain in Ireland in order to avoid any idea that his visit meant "an Approbation of their [British] measures." When Bailey finally did arrive in Charleston, he learned the estate had been sold. Bailey concluded his petition by reiterating his family's reasons for not coming to the state earlier and giving John Bailey's ill health as the reason for his inability to support actively the American cause.²⁷

Less than a month later the committee considering Peter Bailey's petition delivered its report to the house. The committee recommended that Bailey's name be taken off the confiscation list. But since the petitioner had not "performed any ... services in America during the war" and since it

²⁵Smith, "The Baronies of South Carolina," *SCHM* 15 (January 1914), pp. 486-488; Rogers and Chesnutt, *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, Vol. 6, p. 146; and Cooper and McCord, *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 6, p. 629.

²⁶Plat of John Bailey, Aug. 7, 1782, Plats, CFE, SCDAAH; and Account of Sales, 1782-1783, SCDAAH. Included among those seventeen purchasers were Thomas Ferguson, Benjamin Reynolds, Peter Bocquet, Benjamin Garden, William Wigg, Barnard Elliott, Henry Talbird, Henry Crouch, George Morse, John Leacraft, James Davant, James Welsh, Charles Floyd, Thomas Talbird, Lewis Bona, and John Mark Verdier.

²⁷Petition of Peter Bailey, Jan. 28, 1784, Petitions, GA Records, SCDAAH.

* Dr. George Mosbe (1742-1808)

Burn, Jan. 29, 1784, Petitions, GA Records, *Journal of the House of Representatives*,

9, 1784, Petitions, GA Records, and Michael Stevens and Christine 1789-1790 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1980), 280-281, 312-315, 375. *Journal of the House of Representatives*, Vol. 4, p. 84.