

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abraham Keller<sup>1</sup> R15580

f20VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

11/8/13: rev'd 2/27/24

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

The affidavit of Abraham Keller taken in Jefferson County Kentucky on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 1846. Deponent states that he is now in his 65<sup>th</sup> year of his age and is now living in the vicinity of his birth and states that he is one of the sons of Isaac Keller who was killed by the Indians on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1786 in company with Colonel Christian that Captain Abraham Keller of the Illinois Regiment was this Deponent's uncle, the brother of Deponent's father, that deponent's mother long survived her husband, and deponent states that he was not old enough to know anything of his uncle Abraham, but was in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of age & recollects the morning his father left home to go against the Indians when he fell, Captain Abraham Keller as this deponent has always understood – was wounded by the Indians, and so soon after his partial recovery as he could ride he came to the house of Deponent's father at or near the present residence of Deponent where he remained and in the winter & spring of 1784 deponent's father collected a lot of furs & peltries & furnished a horse and loaded him with Beaver & other skins & Captain Keller set out to Richmond Virginia with the furs & was killed by the Indians at the Cumberland Gap in the spring (the exact time not recollected) of 1784 as Deponent is informed about two years before the fall of Deponent's father. Captain Abraham Keller left a widow he thinks Mary – that she misses Keller had a daughter, that was born after the death of Captain Keller, that the child of Captain Keller & Mary died soon after its birth, that Mary Keller the widow intermarried with William Lynn who lived many years at Shipping post, and then removed to Missouri as Deponent is informed where said land & his wife had a large family of children – that Captain A. Keller left Jacob Keller his eldest brother who son Abraham died in Bourbon County Kentucky a few years ago – Deponent states that he is uncertain from information whether Jacob Keller the elder brother of Captain Abraham Keller died before, Captain Keller or not, but certain it is that Jacob Keller left and only son Abraham who died leaving a family in Bourbon County Kentucky a few years since, Deponent states that he has got the information as to the time of Captain Abraham Keller's death by conversations that he has had with his mother and other persons who knew the fact. And he has never had different impression touching the fact, and he is now of opinion that Captain Keller fell as before stated in the spring of 1784 at the Cumberland Gap – further Deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed

S/ Abraham Keller

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<sup>1</sup> VA. Half Pay N. A. Acc. No. 874 See 050 096 Half Pay Abraham Keller

*Abraham Kellar*

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

At a Court held for Jefferson County May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1786

Present

William Pope, George Windsor [?], Richard Taylor & Robert Breckenridge Gentleman  
Sufficient satisfaction being made to the Court that Mary Kellar, widow of Captain  
Abram Kellar, an officer in the Illinois Regiment, & who died while in Service of his Country, is  
in indigent circumstances, being reduced to the necessity of working for her support by hard  
labor, ordered that it be certified as the Opinion of this Court, that the said Mary Kellar comes  
with propriety under the pension Law: and it is also certified that the said Abram Kellar hath no  
heir alive.

A Copy

Test:

S/ Will Johnston, Clk

I certify that in May last, when I left Kentucky, Mary Keller [sic] widow and relict of Abraham  
Kellar deceased was then alive. 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1788

S/ Ro. Breckenridge

The above mentioned Mary Kellar was alive and a widow when I left Jefferson County in  
September last Richmond 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1788

S/ Dan Broadhead, Jr.

I do with the advice of Council hereby certify, that Mary Kellar widow of Abraham Kellar who  
was a Captain in the Illinois Regiment and died in the service of this State is entitled to the sum  
of Fifteen Pounds yearly; which allowance is to commence on the first day of January 1788

Given under my hand as Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at  
Richmond this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 1788

S/ T. Meriwether

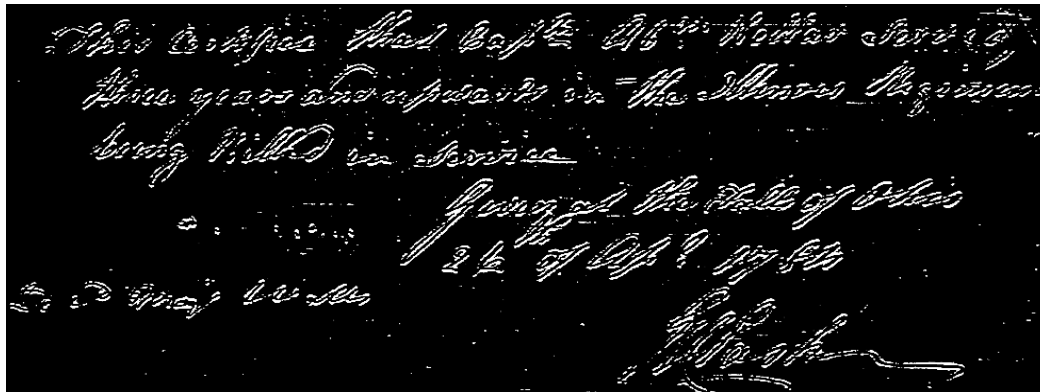
S/ Beverly Randolph

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

This certifies that Captain Ab<sup>m</sup> Kellar served 3 years and upwards in the Illinois Regiment being  
killed in service.

Given at the Falls of Ohio 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1781

S/ G. R. Clark [George Rogers Clark]



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[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com)]

[ <https://www.fold3.com/file/616518785/keller-abraham-us-virginia-half-pay-pension-application-files-1778-1875> ]

[p 3: Summary]

Keller, Abraham

Captain, Virginia State Regiment.

The Regiment was disbanded in December, 1781.

Keller was killed by the Indians in April, 1786, and on December 13, 1844 William R Todd of Arkansas was appointed administrator.

In 1833 Colonel Benjamin Whaly [sic]<sup>2</sup> stated that Abraham Keller was wounded at a place called Snipping Post, below the Falls of the Ohio [River], for he dressed his wounds with his own hands.

[p 4]

Abraham Keller

his heir at law died in Bourbin [Bourbon] County, Kentucky in 1834

Children.

Jacob

Elizabeth, married John Edwards, Senior

Solomon

Rebecca, married John Snell

Abraham

Linerva, married of John Keysar died leaving and only child, Margaret.

Margaret, who married John Edwards, Junior

Nancy, who married William H Thomas

Joseph

Isaac

Noah

John

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<sup>2</sup> [Benjamin Whaley S31472](#)

The deposition of Bland W Ballard<sup>3</sup> of Shelby County Kentucky, taken on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1844

Affiant being in the 85<sup>th</sup> year of his age and during the Revolution was a private Soldier in Captain Roberts Company of the Regiment commanded by Colonel George Slaughter and Stationed at the Falls of the Ohio during the year 1780, 81 & until November of 1781, that during the Continuance of this affiant's Services in said Company & Regiment, he was very often detailed to do duty in hunting a wild meat for the Army, that he often in the Service at the Falls saw Abraham Keller who was an officer of Clark's Regiment, or Department and whether he Captain or otherwise office affiant does not now distinctly recollect but certain this deponent is that Abraham Keller was an officer in Command and this affiant Saw him on duty very often and said Keller was recognized as an officer during the year 1780 & until the month of November 1781 when this affiant thinks said Keller was deranged out of the Service as was nearly all the Regiment of General Clark, that Colonel Slaughters Corps was deranged & went out as Supernumeraries, and so was Captain Abraham Keller, that this affiant had no further recollection of Captain Keller until the Indians again broke out in 1786, and this affiant under the command of Colonel William Christion [sic, William Christian] and said Captain Abraham Keller pursued a party of Indians across the Ohio in the month of April 1786 and killed them & while the Indians were in the agonies of death, there was but two guns with them & they were discharged with Success by the wounded Savages, and one killed Captain Abraham Keller and the other Killed Colonel William Christian, or were rather wounded them & they died each before they reached their friends on the East Bank of the Ohio, There was but a small party of the Indians, and all of them were killed or died of wounds, That this affiant never knew but one Officer by the name of Keller in the Illinois Regiment or Department, that said Abraham Keller left relatives in Kentucky, to mourn his loss, this affiant States that he fired among the 1<sup>st</sup> of the company that killed the Indians aforesaid. Sworn to and Subscribed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1844

Blan W Ballard



[p 8: unsigned and undated memorandum]

Abraham Keller [presumably the relative of the veteran of the same name] departed this life in 1834 in Bourbon County Ky & left at his death Jacob, Elizabeth, Solomon, Rebecca, Abraham, Minerva, Margaret, Nancy, Joseph, Isaac, Noah and John his children, that Elizabeth intermarried with John Edwards Senior Margaret married John Edwards Junior that Nancy married William H Thomas, Rebecca married John Snell, Minerva died the wife of John Keylar, and left only child Margaret.]

[p 10]

state of Kentucky Bourbon County Sct.

January court 1833

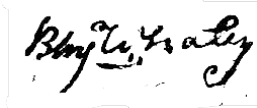
This day personally appeared in open court Colonel Benjamin Whaley [sic, Benjamin Whaley] Age 72 years being first duly sworn, Saith that he knew in the year 1781 Captain Abraham Keller who at that period was Acting in the Illinois Regiment as an officer until he was

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<sup>3</sup> [Bland W. Ballard W20655](#)

killed by the Indians or the termination of the War, And in September 1781 or in the fall of the same year said Captain Keller was wounded for I dressed him with my own hands at the place now called Shipping Point below the falls of the Ohio. Captain Keller was universally esteemed as a gallant useful officer. And I know of my own knowledge that he was a Captain and was constantly employed in that capacity and further Saith not

Benj. Whaley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benj. Whaley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 14: Power of attorney dated January 7, 1833 given by Abraham Keller of Bourbon County Kentucky to William H. Todd in which Keller describes himself as the heir at law of Captain Abraham Keller deceased a revolutionary Captain in the State line of Virginia in the Illinois Regiment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "A Keller". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 18] Richmond Virginia May 17<sup>th</sup>

Extract of a letter from the Westin country to his Excellency the Governor dated Lincoln County April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 1786

“The Indians have been very troublesome this spring and of late have invaded the County of Jefferson and are almost every day committing depredations there. Our Spirited generous hearted Colonel William Christian and Captain Keller have lately fallen a Sacrifice to their barbarity, and it is to be feared if measures are not Speedily pursued for the Support and defense of that part of the Country will break up and of course the people be greatly distressed. The Indians that invade Jefferson live on the Waubash [sic, Wabash] And not more than 150 miles from the Ohio, and might be attacked with Success. We are not troubled with the Wabash Indians but with the Chicamagus [sic, Chickamaugas], apart of which have lately Settled over the Ohio, on a Creek called Point Creek. They are Said to be about 70 warriors, who have stolen almost all the horses from Limestone and Licking Settlements, Those on the Tennessee disturbed our Eastern & Southern frontiers and about 10 days since have killed Colonel Donoldson [sic, Donaldson?] on his way to Cumberland from this County. Several Settlements are vacated in this County with the loss of different people. There is a compact between the Southern & Western Indians and it appears they intend to cut off this country. All the Indians on & about the Wabash are for war, and news is just reached that there is several hundred of them at this time out at war which is highly probable, from the circumstances of their living at this time in almost every part of our Southern & Western frontiers. They have been frequently on bargrass and Colonel Christian in order to induce others to go in pursuit of them has upon every occasion gone himself, and last week he went with about 20 men across the Ohio and overtook three Indians whom they killed but his men not rushing upon them altogether as he had ordered, he with three others came up with them. It is remarkable there were only two guns remaining to the Indians both of which did execution, although one of the Indians was shot through with three balls, and was at the time offering his gun at Keller lying on the ground totally disabled in one arm and unable to rise up

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The United States

Dr

To Abraham Keller deceased  
Captain of Infantry in the  
State Troops of Virginia

for his Half pay from December 31, 1781  
to April 1, 1786, the day he was killed being  
4 years 91 days at \$240 per annum

\$1019.84

Allowed by decision of the Secretary of War  
dated March 26, 1845

Act to provide for liquidating & paying Certain Claims of the State of Virginia Approved  
July 5, 1832

Dollars 1019.84

Treasury Department  
3<sup>rd</sup> auditor's Office  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1845  
Stated by  
J B Kirkpatrick

[p 28]

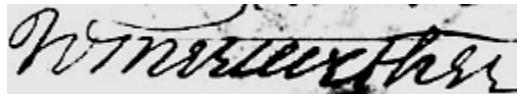
The affidavit of William Meriwether,<sup>4</sup> taken at the Town of Frankfort, on the 11th day of January 1833, to be laid before the Governor and Council of State of Virginia, or laid before any court of record in said State, or elsewhere, on behalf of the heirs and legal Representatives of Robert Todds [sic] and Levi Todds [sic], deceased. This affiant being of lawful age and first duly sworn and cautioned, charged and sworn, deposeth and saith; that in the month of August or September in the year 1779, he said William Meriwether joined Captain John Rogers' Troop of light Dragoons, which were raised in Spotsylvania and Culpeper counties State of Virginia by said Rogers, by then under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, passed in 1779: which, when raised, was to be sent to the Western Country to join General George Rogers Clarke's [George Rogers Clark's] Regiment; That by virtue of said statute John Rogers was duly commissioned Captain of said company of Dragoons, and did thereafter march to the Illinois country to join General Clarke's Regiment: that shortly after Christmas in the year 1779 & 1780 said troop of dragoons landed at Fort Pitt then called by that name: where Pittsburgh now stands. The River Ohio then froze up; so that the troop was detained there until the spring of 1780 when the ice broke up, when the Troop went down the River, to the Falls of the Ohio, and from there to Fort Jefferson a few miles below the mouth of the Ohio, on the Mississippi River, where the said Rogers Troop of Horse joined for the first time General George Rogers Clarke's Regiment. That when the Troop got there, Clarke's Regiment were on the ground. That said Troop together with said Clarke's Regiment built a Fort called Fort Jefferson: That some time before that, that is in the winter of 1779, Clarke had taken Vincennes & Kaskaskia and many other places of the British posts in the Illinois Country. That at Fort Jefferson or at the Falls of the Ohio, when this affiant's Troop joined Clarke's Regiment, he well recollects that Robert Todd and Levi Todd were there in Clarke's Regiment, and acting as a commissioned officers in said Regiment: but the precise rank they or either of them held he does not, at this distant date recollect, but that they were both commissioned officers he does not doubt, and is entirely confident that they were. He states that he cannot but believe that Levi & Robert Todd, who were brothers, went into the Regiment when it was raised, and marched from

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<sup>4</sup> [William Meriwether \(Merewether, Merriwether\) S47954](#)

Virginia in said Regiment to the Illinois country, because he knows they were with Clarke when he first joined them at Fort Jefferson or the Falls of Ohio in the spring of 1780. That the whole country was a wilderness for 400 miles distant, that he was ever afterwards acquainted with General Clarke and many other officers, who was in said in a Regiment, and he never understood anything to the contrary, but always understood that the said Levi & Robert Todd completed the entire expedition in taking the several British Posts in Illinois. That in the fall of 1780, Clarke's Regiment came from Fort Jefferson to the Falls of the Ohio, while the troop of Rogers, under the command of John Montgomery, was taking and destroying other posts of the Enemy in the summer of 1780. That the said Troop came also to the Falls of the Ohio, where he thinks he again saw Levi and Robert Todd; in the service, acting as commissioned officers in said Regiment. That in the year 1781, after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, the Regiment of Clarke was reduced, and Robert Todd went into Virginia and married in 1782, and said Levi Todd remained in Kentucky and was in the blue lick Defeat [August 19, 1782], fought in 1782, in the month of August as he understood and believes, where Colonel John Todd was slain. This affiant was confident that Levi Todd performed as much service in Clarke's Regiment as Robert Todd because they were in the same service and left the service at the same time, as this affiant believes. This affiant was not again required by General Clarke to go into the service, nor was said Robert or Levi Todd as he ever understood. That this affiant is now in the 75th year of his age and has resided in Jefferson County eight miles from the falls of the Ohio ever since that. That in said Troop of Captain John Rogers he was appointed an orderly Sergeant, and acted as such until the month of April 17[last two digits overwritten and illegible] when he was appointed and acted as Lieutenant in said Troop of Horse by said General G R Clarke in the place of James Meriwether, who had resigned in said Rogers Troop and accepted a commission in Colonel Charles Dabney's Regiment of Virginia, on State Establishment. That from examining a Memorial to the Congress of the United States made by Thomas W Gilmore, who was a Commissioner on the by half of Virginia on the 19th of December 1831, He finds that a board of Field officers composed of Colonel Muter,<sup>5</sup> Colonel Dabney,<sup>6</sup> Colonel Allison [? Lt. Col. John Allison?], Major Dick [Alexander Dick],<sup>7</sup> Major Nelson and Major Meriwether who were convened at Richmond Virginia in February 1782 & 1784 who have made a Report of the officers of General G. R. Clarke's Regiment entitled to a commutation pay under the act of the General Assembly of Virginia of 1779, is defective in this, that on said Roll, the names of Captain Edmond Worthington [Edward Worthington], Captain Keller, Captain Bowman [Joseph Bowman], Captain George [Robert George] and the said Levi Todd are not found although they and each of them to this affiant's personal knowledge were in said Clarke's Regiment, when this affiant joined it in the spring of 1780 and remained in said Regiment as this affiant believed as long as many whose names are found on said Roll; and some of the aforesaid persons remained in service longer than some whose names are on said Roll. And further sayeth not.

W. Meriwether



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<sup>5</sup> [George Muter VAS803](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Charles Dabney R13624](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Alexander Dick R13751](#)