

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Kearsey (Cersey) R5801

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' 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.]

[p 5]

State of North Carolina, Cumberland County: Superior Court of Law Spring Term A.D. 1834

Honorable Henry Seawell Judge, Presiding

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May A. D. 1834 in Open Court George Kearsey or Cersey a resident of the County of Cumberland State aforesaid aged about Seventy Seven years appeared and being first sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to entitle himself to the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he entered the American Army during the Revolutionary War and served as herein after Stated. He entered the Army by enlistment in Bladen County North Carolina under Captain William Baker for sixteen months or during the War as a private Soldier, that he was marched by Captain Baker to the Town of Wilmington in this State where he was transferred to Captain Elias Fort's Company of which \_\_\_ Clinton was Lieutenant from Wilmington he was marched to the Town of Newbern [sic, New Bern] to the Town of Halifax where the troops rendezvoused & was marched thence to the South by the Hanging Rock – Town of Camden South Carolina thence to Augusta Georgia thence to Briar Creek where we had a fight [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]<sup>1</sup> with the British and were defeated. General Ashe [John Ashe] of the North Carolina line Commanded at Briar Creek from Georgia he retreated into South Carolina & was marched thence to Charleston S. C. where he was stationed under Captain Fort up to the Siege of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780]<sup>2</sup> where he was taken prisoner & confined on board a Prison Ship until the Small Pox broke out when he was landed & he in company with John Witherford and Isaac Witherford made his escape & came into North Carolina where he joined the American Standard in Captain John Baxter's Company who had retreated from South Carolina & Joined Colonel Thomas Brown's Regiment in this State. After remaining a short time in North Carolina Captain Baxter marched back to South Carolina and joined Colonel Culp who joined General Francis Marion. After a few months service under Colonel Culp, he Colonel Culp returned home and was killed by the Tories said to be commanded by Mike Gowen and Thomas Gibson. Captain Baxter immediately went in pursuit of them, we found Mike Gowen at Cade's Mill in Robeson County in this State & he was shot. We again returned into South Carolina & marched to the fork of Black River in pursuit of the Tories Commanded by Colonel Gaston or Gaskins where we found them and defeated them Gaston or Gaskins was killed in this fight. General Marion commanded us [word obliterated by ink blot] then went to Laurel Hill & in pursuit of the British who retreated to Georgetown & took shipping to Charleston from Georgetown we then

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

went to Scotch Lake Fort<sup>3</sup> which we captured I believe the Fort was commanded by Captain or Colonel Tynes in this fight John McDaniel a true Whig was killed for which some Tories were executed. Colonel Peter Oree [sic, Peter Horry] & Colonel Mayham or Moan [sic, Hezekiah Maham] was under General Marion in this battle. This place was also called "Rebel defiance" from this place we marched up the Country towards Camden South Carolina for the purpose of joining General Gates [Horatio Gates], before we could get to him he was defeated [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], after learning his defeat, we returned down the Santee, and continued to scour the Country under General Marion until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] arrived in South Carolina and took the Command of the troops. General Marion joined General Greene and I was under him in Captain John Black's [sic, probably Captain William Black's] Company in Colonel Horry's Regiment. Shortly after this, the Battle at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]<sup>4</sup> was fought and I was in it. General Greene commanded our troops and Lord Rawdon commanded the British I believe we took two or 300 prisoners in this fight Colonel William Washington was taken by the British. The British retreated towards Charleston and we went in pursuit of them, as far as Laurel Hill South Carolina where we were stationed at the time we heard the news of Lord Cornwallis Surrender at Yorktown Virginia [Battle of Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. After which the troops were discharged. He enlisted under Captain Baker in the month of August 1777. Before he enlisted under Captain Baker he served a tour of one month under Captain Shipman [James Shipman] as a volunteer. He served as a regular soldier four years.

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.

The following Answers were returned to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department:

1<sup>st</sup> I was Born in Bladen County State of North Carolina on the first day of September 17\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> I have not.

3<sup>rd</sup> I was living in Bladen County. I have lived in Marion District South Carolina, for several years, was five years at Sea & the balance of the time I have lived in Robeson County in this State and in Cumberland where I now live.

4<sup>th</sup> I have already stated in my declaration.

5<sup>th</sup> In addition to those already mentioned, I would name General Lincoln who commanded at the Siege of Charleston, Doctor Piias [?] who was our Surgeon, Capt. Risboo [?], General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Col. Hicks.

6<sup>th</sup> I received a discharge signed by Col. Baxter & General Marion. I gave it to Major Thomas J. Robeson some few years ago. He has since died & I have not been able to get it again.

7<sup>th</sup> I have just a few months since removed into this County. I would refer to Warren Alfird and William Thompson Esq. of Robeson County.

S/ George Kearsey, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before

S/ Henry W. Ayer, Clerk

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State of North Carolina, Robeson County

This may certify that James Alford then of said State and County personally appeared before me Jacob Alford a Justice of the peace for said County some time last January and made

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3 Applicant appears to be describing the siege of Fort. Watson (April 15-21, 1781) also known as Scott's Lake or Wright's Bluff. [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_fort\\_watson\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_2.html)

4 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

oath that George Kirsey [sic] was a Soldier in the revolutionary war, that he was with Captain Daniel Shipman, and he further states that he afterwards went to South Carolina and it was reported that he was with Col. Baxter & General Marion and he further stated that he the said Kirsey was between 70 & 75 years of age.

Certified by me this first day March 1833.

S/ Jac. Alford, JP

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State of North Carolina, Cumberland County

This day James Hunt of the County of Robeson State aforesaid personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County and made oath that he is well acquainted with George Kearsy of the County of Robeson and State aforesaid, that he knew said Kearsy during the Revolutionary War, that said Kearsy was in the Service of the United States under General Francis Marion in the State of South Carolina, that affiant believes the said Kearsy served two years in General Marion's Corps.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15<sup>th</sup> March 1834.

S/ James Hunt, X his mark

S/ S. Deminger, JP

[p 2]

State of North Carolina County of Robeson

Personally appeared before me Thomas A. Norment one of the acting Justices of the Peace for said County James Kersey<sup>5</sup> and made oath that he is well acquainted with George Kersey [sic], that he knew said Kersey during the Revolutionary War, that he knows that he was in the Service of the United States under the command of General Frances Marion, that he knows said Kersey served under said Commander.

Sworn to this 24<sup>th</sup> November 1834

S/ James Kersey, X his mark

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State of North Carolina, County of Robeson

Personally appeared before me Jacob Alford one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County – James Alford and made oath that he is well acquainted with George Kirsey that he knew said Kirsey the time of the Revolutionary War and that he seen him in camp with a certain Captain Shipman in the Militia Service and that it was reported that he the said Kirsey was in the regular Service under Col. Baxter & General Marion.

Sworn to this eighth of June 1835.

Test: S/ Jac. Alford, JP

S/ Jas Alford

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State of North Carolina, Cumberland County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County & State aforesaid George Kearsy who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades (viz.) He served one month in the Militia Service

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<sup>5</sup> Probably the same man as [James Kersey S8788](#)

under Captain Shipman – this was in 1777 as well as he recollects – immediately after he entered the service under Captain Baker and served under him for one month, when he was transferred to Captain Elias Fort's Company and actually served under him for nine months, when Captain Fort was taken sick in Charleston South Carolina returned home and died, after Captain Fort left I was placed under the command of Captain James Gragg [James Gregg], and served several months he thinks six, when Charleston was taken & he was taken prisoner. Captain Shipman was attached to Colonel Caswell's Regiment, Captain Fort's Company was attached to Colonel Armstrong's Regiment during the foregoing services he was a private. He was frequently in the service under General Francis Marion after that time though it is out of his power to state with precision the length of his several services otherwise than he has in his first Declaration, which if not satisfactory to the Department he must abandon his claim for them, and for which aforesaid specified Services I claim a Pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1835.

S/ George Kearsey, X his mark

S/ Joseph Avey, JP