

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Kelly R5838

Transcribed by Will Graves

f18NC

rev'd 3/30/16

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Buncombe County

On this the 23rd day of August 1850 AD personally appeared before me the undersigned gentleman one of the acting Justices of the Court of Record in the County and State as above mentioned, Benjamin Kelly, a resident of Honmmary [sic, Hominy] in the County of Buncombe and State of North Carolina aged eighty nine 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he entered the service afore said as a private under one Captain Parrish [Shadrach Parish], belonging to Colonel Farmer's Regiment of North Carolina Militia who was called out by order of the Government for the period of three months, in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, (he thinks this is the year though he cannot say positively). That he lived in Granville County, and State of North Carolina when he first entered said service, and was marched from that County through Orange Co, and Randolph [County] in said State, and along on the Adkin [sic, Yadkin] River, and hearing of Cornwallis approaching their course was then directed backwards not long after this their periods of service expired, and received a discharge, which has been for many years lost. He says that he cannot remember the month he entered, for that reason he cannot mention who else left the same, but that it was three months from the time he entered the service.

He further say that this Regiment of Militia in which he served was drafted for the period of service as above stated. He says they were under General Davison [sic, William Lee Davidson?] until he was killed by a body of British Dragoons, and after these occurrence, they were part of the time under General Buttle [sic, John Butler?] and part under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], and he further says that he was acquainted with Colonel Moor [sic, William Moore] from (he thinks) Caswell County, and that Col. Farmer's Regiment was discharged but a little while before General Greene fought the battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781].

The applicant says that he remained at home after this discharge, he thinks about 12 or 18 months, when there came another draft, and he was drafted for the period of three months as before. That the men who were drafted in Granville County marched in small companies into Orange County where they were placed under the command of one Captain Parrish – whose company belonged to Colonel Taylor's [Joseph Taylor's] Regiment of North Carolina Militia, he further says that they were during this period of service engaged in no battle, but was the most of his time of this period, at Burtonboro in said County, and some times out after parties who came into the neighborhood stealing and robbing. He further says that he was acquainted or became acquainted with Colonel Washington [William Washington] of the light horse, and Major O'Neal, besides several other officers of a lower rank. He further says that he was drafted in the

spring of the year, and that it was in the spring for Cornwallis surrendered at little York in the fall [October 19, 1781]. What year this was in, he saith he well not swear, as his memory does not at this time served him. He further says that when the three months was out for which the Regiment was drafted, that Colonel Taylor discharged said Regiment verbally, and that none of the soldiers who [served] under the said Colonel during this period received a written discharge, but were all dismissed as above mentioned. He further says that during the period of service, he knew of one Captain Greenwood but does not know who commanded him as he was a Captain of a Dragoon Company, and he thinks belonged to the state troops, he further says that he knew one Adjutant Little who he thinks commanded the troops of two or three counties. He says that these two periods of service made when together fully six months and that was all he served in said war: and that he has no documentary evidence in support of his claim, nor does he know of anyone now living who can testify to his service, as his brother who served with him is now dead; and all others so far as he knows.

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 interrogatories were asked the applicant and answered as the law directs:

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the year A.D. 1761, and in King and Queen County in Virginia.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

A: There is a record of my age in the Parish Church in King & Queen County, Virginia.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

A. He was living in Granville County North Carolina & has lived in Mecklenburg County Virginia, and Warren County North Carolina, and is now living in Buncombe County North Carolina

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

A: His is that he was drafted in both services, and for three months.

(He has made a full statement of the remainder of the Questions in his Declaration.)

The following gentleman are acquainted with the said Benjamin Kelly, Alexander McAfee, Esq., Enoch Morgan, George Candle, Esq. Russell Jones, in Asheville; James W. Patton, James M. Smith, N. Woodfin and J. W. Woodfin, Esqrs. And also that David L. Swain [David Lowry Swain] formerly Governor of North Carolina is acquainted with him.

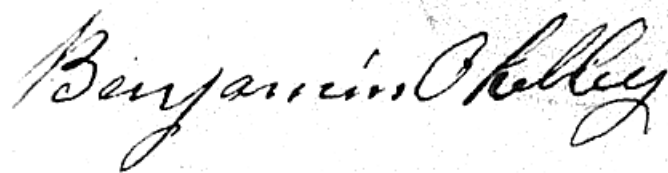
S/ Benjamin Kelly, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above written.

S/ Wm Morgan, J. C. B.

[E. K. Hutsell, a clergyman, and Henry Miller gave the standard supporting affidavit]

[In 1853, claimant's son, gave a power of attorney in which the son signed his name "Benjamin O'Kelley" and he referred to his father as Benjamin O'Kelley



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