

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Kenney R5871

f20SC

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

State of Alabama Morgan County:

On this 22nd day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Orphans Court now sitting William Kenney a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged sixty-four years on the 10th day of October last he 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 7th 1832.

That he entered into the service of the United States under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], Colonel Frederick Kimball, Major Thomas Thompson Captain George Dunlap; the year he entered the service he does not recollect but it was while Lord Rawdon lay encamped at Camden; in all he served something like two years; that at the time he entered the service he resided in the Waxhaw settlement now called Lancaster district in South Carolina; that he entered as a volunteer & served principally in that Country; that he was engaged in divers little skirmishes; that he served generally upon such scouting skirmishing parties and not in any regular establishment; that he has no documentary evidence of the fact of his service and knows no person living who can be produced as evidence in his favor.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

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

Ans: In the Waxhaw settlement State of South Carolina on the 10th day of October 1768

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

Ans: I have now at home and in my father's handwriting such a record

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

Ans: In the Waxhaw settlement South Carolina I resided at that time. Since the war I have lived in the State of Tennessee & year in this County where I now reside.

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

Ans: I entered into service as a volunteer.

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: The declaration above is my answer to these questions.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given

and what has become of it?

Ans: I had none

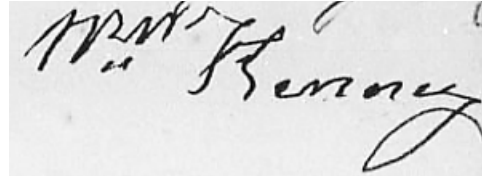
Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: I am acquainted with the Reverend James Edens & Thomas Crow Esqr. Who will testify to the above interrogatory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S. M. M. McKenzie, Clk

S/ Wm Kenney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Kenney". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[James Edens, a clergyman of Morgan County and Thomas Crow of said County gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Amended Declaration In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832

State of Alabama Morgan County: SS

On this 20th day of June 1833 Personally appeared in open court in the Orphans Court of Morgan County State of Alabama before the Judge thereof now sitting William Kenney a resident of said County of Morgan State of Alabama who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendments to his original declaration heretofore [indecipherable word] to wit on 22nd day of November 1832 filed in this court in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. In August on the 18th day in the year 1780 he entered the service under the command of the officers mentioned in his original declaration to wit his Colonel Frederick Kimbill [sic] he served as a private until peace was proclaimed to the Army which was in March 1783 and he prays this may be received as a part of his original Declaration.

S/ Wm Kenney

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ M. M. McKenzie, Clerk

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Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace in and for the County of Morgan State of Alabama William Kenney who being first duly sworn deposes 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 for two years and six months as a private and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Wm Kenney

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of June 1833

S/ Jonathan L. Owens, JP

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Amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 State of Alabama Morgan County:

On this 21st day of October 1834 Personally appeared in open court in the Orphans court of said County before the Judge thereof now sitting William Kenney a resident of said County & State who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his original declaration he [one or more indecipherable words] filed on the 22nd day of November 1832 & also to an amended declaration filed on the 20th of June 1833 in this court in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of 7th of June 1832 for the benefit of revolutionary soldiers.

He states that immediately after the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] which was in the month of August 1780 & near the middle of said month General Gates Army retreated through the Waxhaw settlements in South Carolina where he resided with his father in that part of said State now called Lancaster district some 15 or 20 of the foremost in the retreat came to his father's house & compelled him to go with them to show them the road into North Carolina which he did. On his return home he heard in a day or 2 that the Tories threatened vengeance against him for this act of friendship to the rebels as they called the Americans and he immediately went up to Charlotte to join Captain George Dunlap's company attached to Sumter's brigade of which he thinks Andrew McIlvaine was at that time Lieutenant and in which his father Alexander Kennedy had been for some time before & was then a private soldier. He entered said company he thinks certainly by the 20th of August 1780. During the time he was in it he was in several skirmishes [one or more indecipherable words] the scouting parties of his company & the Tories, and recollects particularly to have been in a skirmish with a company of Tories commanded as he thinks by a Captain Bryant near the River Catawba and that part of it which he thinks was called the Wateree where the Tories were defeated, and another one between the Waxhaws & Camden where the Tories of a Captain McCulloch's company were defeated almost without a contest. That he recollects though he did not see it himself the reports of the time about the battle of Camden [Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781] where General Greene commanded and about Lord Rawdon's burning Camden and evacuating it, during which time he was on duty in Captain Dunlap's company aforesaid in the Waxhaws about forty miles above Camden. When Rawdon left Camden & went to Charleston Captain Dunlap dismissed his man except those he drafted & those who volunteered to pursue the British which they overtook as he always heard at Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] where a battle took place but in which company he was not as circumstances kept him at home after his dismissal by Dunlap. He recollects that at the battle of Camden just before he entered the Army General Gates retreated alone through the Waxhaws and at a Major Barkley's four miles or thereabouts from his father's Gates exchanged a stud horse for another horse and the stud horse died that day & when he was opened at Waxhaw his tallow was melted.

After he was dismissed by Dunlap after the evacuation [of] Camden by Lord Rawdon which was as he thinks about the last days of April 1781 or the first part of May, said dismissal was not considered a final discharge and he remained attached to said company & considered himself a soldier of the American Army ready & prepared to do & perform military duty at any & all times until war closed which gave us independence & a national existence and that during all this period he considered himself has on duty as entitled to be so considered & although so very young he was well grown for his age able to do duty & did do it.

And he prays this may be made a part of his original declaration.

S/ Wm Kenney

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 21st day of October 1834

S/ M. M. McKenzie, Clerk