

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Kerr (Karr) R5888 Ruth Kerr VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 Dec 2014.

State of Illinois Wayne County SS.

On this Sixth day of July 1843 personally appeared before the Probate Justice of peace, being the Judge of a Court of Record, Ruth Kerr a Resident of Wayne County State of Illinois aged seventy eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows

That she is the Widow of James Kerr who was a private soldier through nearly the whole of the Revolutionary War. he resided in the State of Virginia Bedford County, and left his Father and went into the service when he was a little under fifteen years of age and served a tour of three months against the Indians – after which his Father bound him to the hatting trade to one James Shankland. he shortly afterwards enlisted in the Regular service and served under Capt. Watkins, she thinks six months. after which he enlisted and served a nine months tour under Capt Bluford [Buford] after which he was a minute man, and served in the militia when ever called on untill the end of the War. he served in all seven tours as much or more then than three years in all of actual service. he was in the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] one of his Colonels was named Linch [sic: Charles Lynch] under which he served. his services were performed in the state of Virginia

She further declares that she was married to the said James Kerr in the month of December 1783. that her husband the aforesaid James Kerr died in the year 1818 on the 30th day of September. that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 (viz) at the time above stated, and that she has remained a Widow ever since that time that she has no documentary evidence to support or prove the services of her husband. But has to prove her marriage

Sworn and subscribed the day and year above written Ruth herXmark Kerr

Bedford Sc

I do hereby Certify that James Kerr hat taken & subscribed the oath of Allegiance & Fidelity as directed by an Act of General Assembly intituled an act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this State above a Certain age to give Assurance of Allegiance to the same & for other purposes.

Witness my Hand & seal this 13th day of Sept. 1777 – John Callaway

Botetourt 2^d Aug't 1779

Received of Patrick Lockhart C.Q.M.S.D

The sum of Twenty nine pounds Four Shillings in full for my wages as a Drover under John Gordon Master Drover on the Expedition Commanded by Gen'l. [Lachlan] McIntosh for the use of James Kerr pr his order

Test

Pension Office,

February 6th, 1850

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that, the certificate of the Register of the land office in Virginia, showing that a land warrant was issued to James Kerr, on account of his services in the Revolutionary War, transmitted by you in the case of Ruth Kerr, widow of James Kerr, has been received and filed with her other papers.

Mrs Kerr, in her declaration claims for a tour of service of three months, and one of nine months in the malitia of Virginia.

James Kerr, to whom the land warrant referred to, in the Register certificate, now issued, belonged to the Continental Line, and served under Capt Biggs [Benjamin Biggs, pension application W1366] of the 7th Virginia Regiment, to the conclusion of the War.

It does not appear from any evidence now before this office, that Mrs Kerr's husband ever was a Continental Soldier. The warrant to Kerr, was located in Ohio in 1809. Claimant was at that time living with her husband. If she really be the widow of that Soldier, that fact is susceptible of very high proof, from the records of the County in which the land is located.

She should show that the land is now in the possession of the family, or that she was a party to the Deed of transfer.

I have the honor to be, Very Respectfully Your Ob't. Sv't. J. L. Edwards [Commissioner]

NOTE: The file contains a copy of a bond signed in Bedford County VA on 13 Dec 1783 by James Kerr and Bartholomew Gaddy for the marriage of Kerr to Ruth Gaddy. Also in the file is an affidavit dated 6 July 1843 in Wayne County by Benjamin and John Kerr, children of James and Ruth Kerr, stating that their sister Anna was born 11 June 1784.