

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Kerr R5890  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah Kerr  
rev'd 10/20/09 & 11/5/13 & 10/30/21

f65SC

[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.]

[p 3]

State of South Carolina Abbeville District

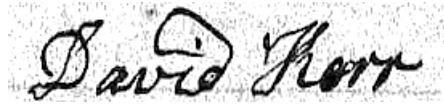
On this Eighth day of June 1833 Personally appeared before Josiah Patterson Justice of Quorum for Abbeville District David Kerr a resident of Abbeville District South Carolina aged Seventy six years being first duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he volunteered as a private and entered the Service in the year 1774 or 1775 in Abbeville District South Carolina under the command of Captain McCall [James McCall] in the militia of the United States from this period until 1780 he was in actual Service to and from different places in South Carolina at least one year and six months and was at the Siege of Ninety Six<sup>1</sup> under General Williamson [sic, then Major Andrew Williamson] & Colonel Pickens [sic, then Captain Andrew Pickens] that he signed an article of Association that bound those who subscribed to repel by force and pledging their lives and fortunes to secure their country's freedom. In July 1780 he again volunteered as a private in the US militia under Captain McCall in Abbeville District South Carolina went out and met with Col McDowell [probably Charles McDowell, but possibly his brother, Joseph McDowell] at Broad River was with him some time and joined the troops of Col Shelby [Isaac Shelby] & Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] was with them at the Battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780] where the declarant received two wounds from Balls that he was in a skirmish at Wafford's [sic, Wofford's] Iron Works [August 8, 1780] on Pacolet with a part of Ferguson's [Patrick Ferguson's] men from there to Thicketty Creek West side Broad River where they took a Fort [July 26, 1780] occupied by Tories. He was now under Captain Samuel Kerr and that Col Shelby & Col Clark [sic, Elijah Clark or Clarke] were with them at this time having volunteered as a private during the war he served under Captain Carruthers [MAY be Robert Caruthers] and Genl. Pickens guarding the Indians line, that they took two towns Shataw and Chota in the Indian Territory where they were killed to thirty six Indians and took a number of women and children prisoners. He was also at the Siege of Ninety Six in 1781 [May 21-June 19, 1781] this Siege was conducted by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. During this period of service commencing as before Stated and terminating with the war he served at least two years & six months. That he never received a written discharge and as he believes all the officers with whom he served are dead and it is not possible for him to secure such voucher now nor does he believe it practical from the same cause

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1 Applicant appears to be referring to the so-called First Battle of 96 fought November 18-21, 1775.

to procure one credible witness who would be able to certify in detail to his personal knowledge of the services rendered by the applicant. He states that he was not engaged in any other pursuit during the last term of two years & six months. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State only on that of the Agency of the State of South Carolina. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ David Kerr



Before S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ

[Moses Waddel, D. D., a clergyman, and Major T T Hamilton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Answers to the Interrogatories proposed<sup>2</sup>:

1. In Augusta County Virginia in the year 1756
2. I have seen a record in the Family Bible but have it not
3. In Abbeville District South Carolina where I now live
4. I volunteered
5. Captains McCall, Kerr, Baskin & Carruthers, Col Pickens, Anderson, Williamson, McDowell, Shelby, Cleveland, Clarke and Greene
6. I never received any discharge
7. Alexander Hunter Esq. Edward Tilman, Andrew Giles Esq. & Josiah Patterson

S/ David Kerr

A Statement Showing the Service of David Kerr

Period when the service was rendered	Duration of the Claimant's Service in Years Months Day	Rank of the Claimant	Names and Rank of the Company officers under whom he served	Names and Rank of General & field Officers	Battles in which the applicant was engaged	Country through which he marched	Place of abode when he entered the Service & age at the present Period

<sup>2</sup> The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

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

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

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

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

1775	2 [months]	Private	Capt. Joseph Hamilton & Capt. McCall	Genl. Andrew Williamson & Genl. Andrew Pickens Major Samuel Taylor	Ninety Six	From Rocky river to & from 96 SC	76 years Ninety Six now Abbeville District
1776	2 [months] 15 [days]		In Capt. William Baskin		In Garrison at Bull Town Fort actual service guarding the Cherokee line	Abbeville Dist. SC	
	3 [months] 15 [days]		Capt. William Baskin		[ditto]	SC	
1777	1 [year]		Capt. Baskin		Actual Service Building a fort or Block House &c on the Cherokee Line	SC	
1778	8 [months]		Capt. Baskin		Actual Service To & Fro in SC	SC	
1779	10 [months]		Capt. Baskin		Actual Service as above SC		
1780	6 [months]		Capt. McCall	Col. McDowell Col. Shelby Col. Clark	Kings Mountain Waffords Iron Works	From 96 now Abbeville District to Broad River	SC

						Thicketty Creek SC	
1781	1 [year]		Capt. Samuel Kerr Capt. Curruthers	Genl. Green Genl. Pickens Col. Clark	Siege of 96 Choto & Shawto Indian Towns	State of Georgia Cherokee Nation	

State of South Carolina Abbeville District

These are to certify that David Kerr applicant for a pension in the annexed declaration did this day appeared personally before me and upon oath did declare that the above Statement of Services rendered by him a private Volunteer in the Service of the United States is correct to the best of his knowledge and belief. Sworn to this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August A.D. 1833.

S/ Josiah Patterson, JQ

S/ David Kerr

[Contributor Fred Weyler adds the following in italics:]

[p55]

*State of South Carolina*

*Abbeville District S.S.*

*On this second day of October 1833 before me Jams A. Black a Justice of Quorum in and for the District of Abbeville and State of South Carolina personally appeared David Kerr a resident of the State of South Carolina & District of Abbeville aged seventy six 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 as a volunteer militiaman in Captain James McCall's company of infantry in Colonel Andrew Perkins Regiment of South Carolina Militia on the tenth day of September 1775. That they rendezvoused near the place where Abbeville court house now stands when they were joined by Col. Perkins and marched to ninety six and continued in actual service until the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November following when they were discharged & suffered to return home. That he was out in actual service on this occasion two months and ten days and was under the command of General Andrew Williamson. That during the time of this service they had several attacks by the tories under the command of a Robert Cunningham as he thinks.*

*That he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain William Baskins and entered the fort at a place called Bulltown Fort where he acted as a guard for the protection of the frontier settlement who were mostly driven in by the Indians and tories. That he entered the service on the first day of July 1776 and after acting as a guard for the fort for eleven weeks they then sallied out to the Cherokee line where he continued in actual active service for the term of one year.*

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*That he believes that Captain Baskin was subject to the command of General Williamson and Colonel Perkins. That this company to which he was attached was known by the name of the Rangers for the defender of the frontiers. That he was out all the time in actual service on this*

*occasion until the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1777 making altogether while in the forts and on the frontier fourteen months and twenty days.*

*That after the City of Charleston was taken and South Carolina considered as a conquered province and all hope of the state lost that he again volunteered with 26 others under Captain James McCall's on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 1780 and set out to join a Colonel Charles McDowell then in camp on Broad River near the Cherokee Ford where they joined him and during the time they staid there they took a fort on Thicketty. That from there they marched into Roan [Rowan] County in North Carolina where he was put under the command of Captain Samuel Kerr who marched and joined Colonel Shelby's Regiment and went with him and was in the Battle of Kings Mountain on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 1780 where he was severely wounded in the arm & breast. That he was carried into North Carolina Roan County where he lay with his wounds until the first of May 1781. That he was out in actual service on this occasion three months and lay with his wounds about seven months more (for which he thinks he should be allowed).*

*That he again entered the eservice on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May as a volunteer soldier under Captain Samuel Kerr & was transferred to Captain Robert Carruthers company of infantry and joined General Green at Ninetysix and was with him through the siege. That after the siege was raised*

*[p57*

*went with Colonel Pickens Regiment in pursuit of the retreating British army and pursued them down to a place called Boggy Gully where they gave up the pursuit & returned home. Where after resting a day or two he joined Captain Carruthers company of mounted Rangers and continued in actual service until July the 4<sup>th</sup> 1782. That during this service he was at the taking of two Indian towns Sato and Chota. That in this tour of service he was out including the siege of Ninety six fourteen months.*

*That he was acquainted with General Nathaniel Green and a Major Samuel Taylor, also with Col. Shelby, Col. Campbell, and Col. Cleveland. He does not recollect the name of any regular regiment. 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 (except the pension list of the state of South Carolina), That he has no documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any person now living who could testify as to his service. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me  
James A. Black*

*S/ David Kerr*

*[p 59]*

*Int. 1. Where and in what year were you born?*

*Ans. I was born in Augusta County State of Virginia on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1756.*

*Int. 2<sup>nd</sup> have you any record of your age & if so where is it?*

*I see my age recorded in my Father's family Bible which is now in Pendleton District in the possession of my sister Mrs. Robertson.*

*Int. 3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolution, and where do you now live?*

*Ans. I have lived in Abbeville District on the same farm where I now live ever since the year 1762 it has been my constant home.*

Int. 4 how were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

Ans. I was always a Volunteer

Int. 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Ans. I was acquainted with General Green & Major Taylor of the Regulars. I cannot recollect the name or Number of any Regiment as to the general circumstances of the service they are detailed in the declaration above made

Int. 6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge from the service – if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it

Ans. I never did receive a written discharge it was not thought necessary.

Int. 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are acquainted in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief as to your service as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans. I am acquainted with Josiah Patterson Esquire, Andrew Giles Esquire, Doctor A. B. Arnold, Doctor Tennent, Edward Tilman, Richard Covington, Alexander Hunter Esquire, Joseph Black Esquire & James Wardlow Esquire and Colonel Patrick Noble

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State of South Carolina Abbeville District: SS

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1835 Personally appeared before me James A Black one of the Justices of the Quorum in and for the District of Abbeville and State of South Carolina David Kerr a resident of the District and State aforesaid aged seventy-nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Amended Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein after stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer militia man on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1776 under the command of Captain William Baskins for the term of three months that March [they marched] to the Cherokee line where the [they] continued guarding the frontier settlements and building forts or block houses. That they built three temporary Fort or block houses as they were then called, that he supposes Captain Baskins acted under the command of Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] that a company under the command of Captain Anderson (afterwards General Anderson) [probably Robert Anderson] was associated with them in this service and that he was discharged on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 1776 from this service.

That he again volunteered as a militia man in Captain Baskins Company on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 1776 for the term of three months that they were engaged in actual service on the frontier and built several forts and strong places and were discharged on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1777.

That he again entered the service as a volunteer under the command of Captain James McCall for the term of three months, that he entered this service on the first of March 1777, and served out his time partly on the line between the Indian and the white settlements and partly in the Cherokee country where the [they] went under the command of Colonel Pickens and was discharged on the 12 of June 1777 being out at this time three months and 12 days.

That he again volunteered for a tour of three months under Captain Baskins Company of militia on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 1778 and served out his tour and was discharged on the first day of June 1778.

That he again volunteered for a six months tour [tour] with Captain James Baskins and took the field on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1778 and was discharged on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1778. That he again entered the service as a volunteer in Captain Baskins Company on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1779 and was engaged in guarding the frontiers and keeping the forts that he was part of this tour in Fort Independence & part of the time at Fort Charlotte on Savannah River above Augusta where he was discharged from the Service on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1779, having been out three months & 5 days in this service.

That he again entered the service as a volunteer with Captain Baskins on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1779 as a mounted militia man to guard the frontiers & keep the Indians in awe that they scoured the frontiers from Savannah to Saluda River in actual service until the first of September 1779, that on the 15<sup>th</sup> September he again volunteered with Captain Baskins for three months on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September to guard the frontier settlements served out his time and was discharged the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 1779.

That he again volunteered as a private in Captain McCall's company of infantry on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1780 and marched to Fort Charlotte on Savannah River and was attached to Captain Bowers Company of Rangers where they served out their tour and were discharged on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1780. Charleston having fallen into the hands of the enemy and the prospects of the state quite gloomy I then went to North Carolina and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September entered the service under Captain Samuel Kerr and was with him at the Battle of Kings Mountain where he was severely wounded and carried home to Rowan County North Carolina where he lay with his wounds until his term of service all which he had volunteered expired and for some time after, he considers himself entitled to at least a full tour say three months though he lost at least five months with his wounds having part of one of his ribs shot away and one arm broken with a musket ball from which he is to this day a cripple, that Colonel Shelby commanded his company on that day that he again entered the service as a volunteer militia man in Captain Robert Carithers on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1781 and served in Colonel Pickens Regiment, and was at the Siege of Ninety Six in June 1781 and was discharged on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1781.

That he again volunteered with Captain Robert Carithers and pursued the British to Orangeburg with Colonel Pickens where Captain Carithers Company was ordered back to protect the frontiers against the Indians and Tories and in which service he continued until the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1781 that he entered on this last tour on the 20<sup>th</sup> July and was out in this tour three months and 17 days, making in all the term of three years and eight days that he served much more as a mounted Ranger and on scout service but from age & loss of memory cannot define the precise time but that he is confident he served as much as above stated at least.

Sworn to and subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1835 before me  
S/ James A Black, JQ

S/ David Kerr

[p 11: on August 24, 1837 in Randolph County Alabama, John Y. Kerr, 54 the 4th day of last February, son and administrator of David Kerr, deceased, made application for the funds due his mother Sarah Kerr as the widow of David Kerr; he states that his father died December 16, 1835 leaving a widow Sarah Kerr; that his parents married February 4, 1792 "as appears from my own age and the age of my oldest sister Martha Vanlandham [sic, spelled "Vanlandingham" later in





S/ Willm Luckie, JP

S/ Thos. Ramsay  
S/ William Kerr



Personally came David Kerr Before me & Made oath that a Gun of his Property which his brother John Kerr Carried and in a Skirmish with the Enemy said John Kerr was killed and the gun Lost & further saith that he has Never Since got said gun Nor Any pay for the same. Sworn to this 16<sup>th</sup> July 1783 before me

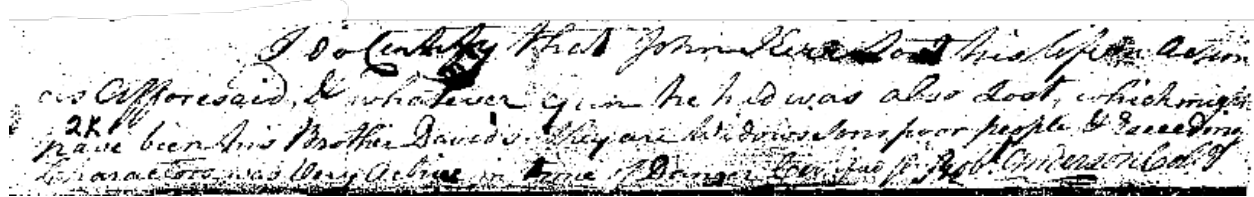
S/ Willm Luckie, JP

S/ David Ker



I do Certify that John Kerr Lost his life as Aforesaid & whatever Gun he had was also Lost, which might have been his Brother David's. They are Widows Sons poor people & [undeciphered word] Characters was Very Active in time of Danger. Certified per

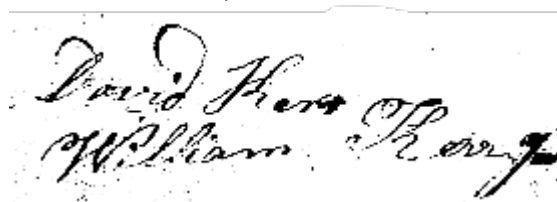
S/ Robert Anderson, Colo.



Ninety Six District } To the public treasurers of the State of South Carolina  
Gentlemen

Please to Deliver to Mr. William Davis the intrust [sic, interest] of our indents Due to us for our Services to the Public made in Returns of Colonel Robert Anderson into the auditor's office as we have entrusted him to Receive the same for us as witness our hands this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1785

S/ David Kerr  
S/ William Kerr, Jr.



[p 5]

Petition of David Kerr

1795

24 November

General Anderson

Mr. Warren & Mr. Kony

[p 6]

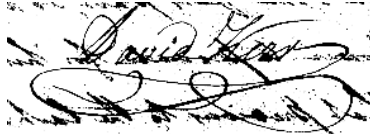
To the Honorable Robert Barnwell – Speaker, and the Members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina –  
The Petition of David Kerr of Abbeville County in the State aforesaid  
Respectfully Sheweth –

That your petitioner having been wounded, in one of his arms, by a rifle Ball, when in the Service of this State during the late War, is now, and has been some years past, so disabled, as not to have it in his power to provide for his Wife & family by his Labour. That previous to the last sitting of the Legislature he had drawn from the treasury, in the amount of about Twenty pounds; but that by a Resolution passed on the Ninth of December 1794, he is not at present entitled to any Support, as he was not on the list of pensioners before the year 1793.

Your petitioner therefore prays your Honorable House, that a resolution be passed directing that he be put on the list of pensioners, and that all annuities that are now or may hereafter be due to him may be paid him from the Treasury of this State.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray & so forth

S/ David Kerr

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Kerr", written over a horizontal line. The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized.

[p 8]

Petition of David Kerr

Mr. Nott

Mr. Bates

Mr. John Ward

Mr. Lehre

Be put on the pension list

Mr. Lewis Saxon

Mr. Waddy Thompson

Mr. Jas. Dabose [??]

[p 9]

To the Honorable Legislature now sitting at Columbia. The Petition of David Kerr of Abbeville County Showing that he is denied the Common Rights of his Country men and praying from you Redress in as much as he did on the Seventh day of October 1780 then in the Actual Service of his country receive a ball passing through his Left arm and into his Body while Under the Immediate Command of Colonel Williams [James Williams of the Little River Militia Regiment] at Kings Mountain, which wounds has rendered him incapable of Laboring to Support himself & Family in consequence of which he hopes you will Consider his Case and Grant him such Redress as Others in Similar Circumstances do get and your petitioner as in duty bound will Ever pray & October 1796

S/ David Kerr

[pp 10-11: receipts the 1<sup>st</sup> of which is dated June 3, 1819 and the last of which is dated May 28, 1829 showing annual payments to David Kerr of \$60.]

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The petition of David Kerr praying arrears of pension

Rejected

Joseph Black

Pensions

[p 13]

South Carolina Abbeville District} Your Petitioner Sheweth that he was wounded at the battle of Kings Mountain while fighting under Colonel Williams during the Revolutionary war – by a ball passing through his left arm and into His Breast which brolet [sic?] now Remains in his right side to this day, being then young and recovering of my wounds I did not apply for a Pension for many years afterwards when I was placed on the Pension [list] and has drawn My pension Ever Since. I am now seventy two years old and the effect of my wounds is daily increasing by reference to your Books you will see when I first drew my pension and I pray for the arrears of pension from the time of my being wounded to the time I first drew my pension. I was wounded on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 1780 – and that your Petitioner will Ever pray

S/ David Kerr

[p 15: The committee on pensions recommended on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1829 that the petitioner be rejected]

[p 16: Receipts showing disbursements of \$60 per annum through June 4, 1834]