

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Kerr (Karr, Carr) R5891

f21SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 10/20/09: rev'd 4/9/16 & 4/14/23

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8th 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.]

State of Tennessee Bradley County}

On this 7 day of August [1837] personally appeared William Karr in open Court before the County Court of Bradley County now sitting William Karr a resident of Bradley County and State of Tennessee Aged 73 years who being 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 the service of the United States under Colonel John Moffett in the month of March 1779 and was employed as spy and pilot being about 15 years of age declarant joined Colonel Moffett Company in York District South Carolina at the head of Bullets Creek. I was sent to spy Col. Floyd's Regiment of Tories lying at the mouth of Bullets Creek in York district as soon as I entered the camp I was suspicioned to be a spy and was stripped of my clothes and shoes & scarthed [sic] I returned to Col. Moffett and told him Floyd was too strong to be attacked and he retreated into North Carolina. I was then sent by Major Meek [Adam Meek?] to Union District to find where Col. Branun [sic, Thomas Brandon] was and to know what coarse he was going when I reached Col. Branun he had received news that Col. Floyd had been reinforced from Lord Cornwallis. I was then sent by Col. Branum to watch the movements of Col. Floyd troop. I propeest [sic, proposed?] to have descriptions of stray horses when I came up to the Troops I was charged on by the dragoons and taken prisoner and searched Col. Floyd asked my business I showed papers description of stray horses [I was] kept prisoner two days Col. Floyd wanted to release me but Col. Hook [sic, Capt. Christian Huck] a British officer opposed it. I was taken back to the guard house and detained ten days then put at liberty. I returned to Col. branun. We then retreated into York District. I then was sent with scouting Companies and marched to Chester District. I then piloted Col. Branum to a Ford on Broad River at lockard Shoals [sic, Lockhart's Shoals?]. We marched from the Ford to Brown's Creek in Union District. We heard that there was a company of Tories collecting on Brown's Creek [August 12, 1780].¹ We marched to surprise them. When we came up there was some firing took place the Tories was disbursed. We marched to Thicketty Creek where Col. James Steen lived. We staid there several days. We heard that there was several Companies of Tories coming to surprise us we started about midnight and I piloted the Company across Broad River at Smith's Ford. I then was ordered by Major Meek to Allison's Creek York District near Hill's Iron works. The Tories had been informed that I was acting as a spy. They determined to kill me on-

¹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_browns_creek.html

sight. I then kept with the Company having served eighteen months as a spy and pilot which time I was not employed in any civil pursuit. My mother had her horses and other property taken by the Tories. I then entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in a company of Calvery [sic, cavalry] for nine months on the first day of September 1780 under the command of Captain John Thompson in Col. Moffett's Regiment South Carolina in York District. The Tories having the ascendancy we marched towards the Catawba River Colonel Ferguson [sic, Patrick Ferguson] a British officer having marched and taking ground on Kings Mountain giving the Tories an opportunity to collect to him we marched in pursuit of a Company of Tories who were going to join Colonel Ferguson. But learning that they was three hours ahead we halted in six miles of Kings Mountain we heard the firing of the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780].² We staid there till the Battle was over we laid all night without fire or any food. The next day we started not learning the result of the Battle we overtook fourteen Tories and made them prisoners who had escaped from the Battle. From them we learned the British was defeated we took their arms and paroled them having no provisions for prisoners nor ourselves. We marched to Hill's Iron works. We then scouted towards Sandy River and routed several Companies of Tories. I was put in the advance guard of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] to pilot his Army across Broad River. After that I returned to Captain Thompson. We was then joined by a Whig company and was ordered to march and joined General Morgan's Army. Before we reached Morgan the Battle of the Cowpens was fought [January 17, 1781].³ We marched to Union Court House and was dismissed for further orders having served seven months. I again was called up and served two weeks again I was called on and served eight days having served seven months and twenty two days in actual Service. The remainder of the nine months I was at home in readiness and was dismissed from the service at which time I was not employed in any civil pursuit. I was only a private soldier declarant has no Documentary evidence and that he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

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 reason that I have not applied earlier I never knew the Act of Congress provided for any but those who served on the Continental Line.

Sworn to Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Carr, X his mark [sic]

[Henry Price, a clergyman, and Alexander A. Clingan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

³ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁴ Here the veteran begins to answer the 7 interrogatories promulgated by the War Department to be put to each applicant for a pension. Those 7 interrogatories were as follows:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

5th 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.

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

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your

Ques 1 I was born in the State of Pennsylvania near the City of Philadelphia in the year 1764

Ques 2nd I have a record of my age in a large family Bible

Ques 3. I was living in South Carolina York District I removed to Tennessee McMinn County I now live in Bradley County Tennessee

Ques 4. I was a volunteer

Ques 5.. I was with Colonel Moffett Colonel Branium General Morgan

Ques 6. I never received a discharge -- we were dismissed

Ques 7 I am acquainted with Henry Price a clergyman and Alexander A. Clingan

[p 8]

William Kerr Tennessee Rejected

did not serve 6 months in a military capacity