

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Kerr R5892

f40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/30/09 & 4/9/16

[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.]

[p 3]

State of Indiana, Dearborn County

On the twenty first day of February A.D. 1835 personally appeared before me one John Livingston Judge of the Probate Court of Dearborn County William Kerr a resident of Laughery Township in the County of Dearborn and State of Indiana aged seventy nine years on the 2nd day of June next, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on this oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated that he entered the Regular Army in the North Carolina State troops as a substitute for his brother David Kerr the year and month he cannot at this time recollect, that he entered the regiment commanded by Col. Alexander Martin, Major Anthony Sharp, and company commanded by Capt. Patrick McGibbony and Lieu. William Dent, that he was also acquainted by one Capt John Nelson, who belonged to the same Regiment. That he served in said company as substitute as aforesaid the full period of eighteen months. That he entered said service in said company at Guilford Courthouse was marched from there into the State of Virginia and from there into South Carolina to Charleston, and was discharged in S. Carolina he thinks on the Pee dee [sic, Pedee River] - that he was in no battles or skirmishes during said service of 18 months and had a regular discharge which he lost. That at the time he entered the service he resided in Guilford County N.C.

That after a short time after he returned from the 18 months, he volunteered against the Tories but the year and month he cannot recollect, that he was in a volunteer company commanded by Capt. Arthur Forbes [Arthur Forbis], Lieu. William Wiley and ensign William Gilmore, that the company with several other volunteer companies met in Anson County, N.C. and was commanded by Col. James Martin. And as he thinks Major John Nelson that he volunteered for a tour of three months, but did not have the whole time was left out six weeks at least, and perhaps eight weeks—that he was marched from his place of rendezvous in Anson County into South Carolina was in no battles, was acquainted with no regular officers this tour, was marched back to North Carolina where he was discharged regularly but has lost his certificate of discharge and that he was discharged in Guilford County, N.C. but the year and month he cannot recollect.

That the next fall after his last mentioned tour but the year & month he cannot recollect he was drafted in the N.C. militia for three mo. at Guilford Courthouse that he was commanded by Gen. Griffith Rutherford, Col. John Pasely [sic, John Paisley], Capt. Arthur Forbes, Lieu

William Wiley and Ensign William Gilmore. That he was marched from Guilford to Charleston S.C. from there to Augusta on the Savannah, where he remained until his time was expired when he returned to Salesbury [sic, Salisbury] Roan [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina where he was discharged by Gen. Rutherford but has lost his certificate that he was in no battles was acquainted with no regular officers and served the full period of five months but cannot recollect the time when he was discharged.

That a short time after his last mentioned discharge he turned out as a volunteer during the War of the Revolution and met at Salisbury aforesaid. the day and year he cannot state. was Sergeant in a company of horse commanded by Capt. John Gallasby [sic, John Gillespie?], Lieu. Daniel Gallasby [sic, Daniel Gillespie?],- Major White, Col. Wm R. Davey [sic, William Richardson Davie] and Gen. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] that he was marched to S.C. was in a skirmish on the edge of S.C. with the Tories in Wahab's [or Wahub's Plantation] land where they took 90 horses and 80 prisoners from the Tories where the British army appeared in sight before they left the ground—shortly after which skirmish he was marched back to Guilford that he served in this tour in the capacity of Sergeant 5 months.

That in a very short time after his return from the above tour he was again called out, served in the same company, where Capt. Gallasby became Col., Lieu. Gallasby was made Capt., George Parks Lieu. and he was made cornet, left Guilford Courthouse went to Salisbury, thence to Macklenburg [sic, Mecklenburg] County, thence to Camden, thence to Charlotte Courthouse where they joined the regular army as near as he can at this time recollect under Gen. Morgan—that during this time he was in the battle at Guilford Courthouse was acquainted with Gen. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] of the regular army that Gen. Davidson was killed at the Shallowford [sic, Shallow Ford] of the Adkin River [sic, Yadkin River]¹ where he fell under the command of Col. Washington [William Washington], that he was in the battle of Cowpens [January 17, 1781], and Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], that he was in a skirmish with the British at Charlotte, where Col Davie [William Richardson Davie] was his commander—that after the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] he marched under Gen. Greene into Virginia, and was at the Surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], though not in the battle. That after the surrender of Cornwallis, he was marched back to North Carolina and discharged, but cannot recollect the name of the Gen. who gave him his discharge. That during his last tour he served as volunteer in the capacity of cornet for the period of six months, that at this time he cannot recollect any of the periods when he entered or left the service that he resided in Guilford County, N.C. during all the time he was in the service, and since then until 1816 when he removed to Dearborn County and State of Indiana where he has since lived, that he was born in the year 1756, that he has a record of his age now in his possession- that he had a commission when he was cornet which was signed by the then Governor of North Carolina which has since been destroyed or lost, that he is acquainted with Davis Weaver, William Glenn, Robert Moore, Jacob Harwood & others of his present neighborhood who are acquainted with his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution. 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.

S/ William Kerr, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

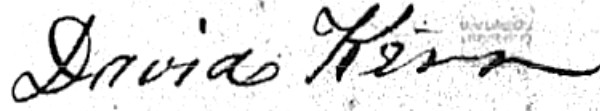
[Alvah Churchill, a clergyman, and Davis Weaver gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1 General William Lee Davidson was killed at the Battle of Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River, not at Shallow Ford on the Yadkin as stated by this applicant.

[p 12]

State of Indiana Dearborn County: Before me Daniel L. Major Notary Public duly qualified and commissioned personally came David Kerr who being duly sworn deposes and says that he a short time since called upon his father who is now applying for a pension to wit William Kerr to take him to Court to make his Declaration but that he was unable from bodily infirmity to bear the fatigue of going. And further deponent saith not.

S/ David Kerr

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Kerr". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

[p 20]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that the name of William Kerr is not to be found on the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, or any other document affording evidence of service in said line, neither is the name of David Kerr found on any such document.

Given under my hand this 24th day of March 1835.

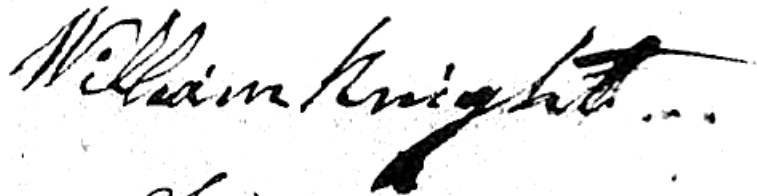
S/ Wm Hill

[p 39]

State of Indiana Dearborn County

Before me Daniel L. Major Notary Public by law duly qualified and Commissioned personally came William Knight² of lawful age who being duly sworn deposes and says, that he is now a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States. That he was personally acquainted with William Kerr who is now applying for a pension before he entered the service of the United States. That he was also personally acquainted with him in the Revolutionary War, that he saw him while in the Army at Hillsborough Orange County North Carolina, also a few days before the battle of Cowpens, also at Charlotte, also at Salisbury. That he was with him under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], in marching from North Carolina to Virginia before the Surrender of Cornwallis. That he also saw him after the surrender on his return home that he has a perfect knowledge of him and his service, cannot state the length of time he was in the Army but something more than one year he knows of his being in the service.

S/ William Knight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Knight". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

[Facts in file: the veteran's application was rejected for failure to prove the required 6 months service.]

² [William Knight S31800](#)