

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Key R5895

Elizabeth Key

f97VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/20/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Sumner County: SS Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the Term of November in the year of our Lord 1832

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices sitting as a quorum to wit Thomas Anderson, John L Swaney and William Edwards justices of the said court of Sumner, William Key a resident of the said County of Sumner in the State of Tennessee aged seventy-one years the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October last who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he did as near as he recollects in the month of April or May 1779 entered as a volunteer in the service of the United States in the company commanded by Captain William Lewis for the time of three months in the County of Dunwoody [Dinwiddie] in the state of Virginia and he thinks it was the Seventh Regiment of Virginia Militia commanded by Colonel Ralph Faulkner, & Major John Holt and in the Brigade commanded by General Stephens [Edward Stevens] who he thinks was a subaltern officer and General Steuben was the main commander. Applicant further states that after he joined the Regiment he thinks in the summer he marched down James River to guard the military stores and import towns. That he remained there about three months & was stationed part of the time at Hoods Fort and part of the time at Sandy Point. After which time he returned back Dinwiddie County & remained there he thinks the best part of the ensuing winter and then in the early part of the year 1780 he entered upon another three months tour under captains Scott Coleman and marched down James River again with the new recruits under the same officers except the Captain as before stated & was stationed & nearly the same places & for the same purposes. After this second tour of three months expired on his return home at Petersburg he came across a Captain Cook of the Marines who was recruiting and he enlisted for an additional term of [indecipherable word probably intended for the word "six<sup>1</sup>"] months and he thinks in the summer of 1780 he entered on Board a Schooner he thinks named Nancy at Manchester and went down James River after the British to the public places for the purpose of guarding the River. That he remained in the Marine service his term of six months during the whole of which time the said Captain Cook commanded and that he left the schooner at Jamestown & received no discharge neither did any of those whose time expired and he thinks there were eighteen discharges at that time – this he thinks was in the winter of '80 – '81. He then returned home and remained there a month or so and in May or June

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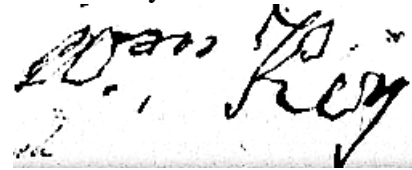
*W. Key*

1781 a William Spain employed him as a substitute for another six months tour and that he entered upon duty in Petersburg Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Baker Pegrim [Baker Pegram] and we marched from thence down James River to Hoods Fort and there we crossed the River and marched on to old Williamsburg Virginia and there we remained until we were commanded to march to the siege of Yorktown, that he went with the Regiment to the Siege of Yorktown and the same Captain commanded and he thinks a Major Duval and a Major DeCloman [probably Christian Charles de Klauman] were also in command until we joined General Washington at Yorktown & were put to work at a Bomb battery. And applicant states that he was at the siege of Yorktown & the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] which was as he believes in October 1781 and after the surrender he returned home and did not receive any discharge. Applicant remained in done witty County Virginia for several years & removed to Warren County North Carolina & remained there 7 or 8 years & then removed to Sumner County Tennessee where he now lives and has lived for about thirty-two years.

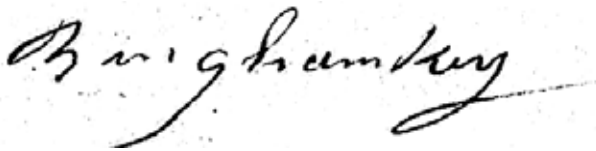
And the said William Key swears that he is not on the Pension Roll of any state or Territory and he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present.

He states that he was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1761 in the County of Chesterfield in the State of Virginia. He had a record of his age but it has been lost or mislaid. He was living in the County of done witty in the state of Virginia when he entered the service, and after the Revolutionary war he removed to the County of Warren in the State of North Carolina and then removed to the County of Sumner in the State of Tennessee where he now lives. He has no discharge and he has no recollection of having received one.

S/ Wm Key

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

[Richard Johnson, a clergyman, and Bingham Key, 70, gave the standard supporting affidavit: in addition, Bingham Key testified as follows: "that he has a distinct recollection of William T having entered and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, he states that applicant was in service from the time that he first entered until after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown – This fact is distinctly remembered from the circumstance that the duty of attending the farm for the support of the family depended on him during the absence of his Brother. At the time of the battle near Petersburg [April 25, 1781] was fought he lived with a widowed mother within 8 miles of that place and he has a distinct knowledge of applicants having been in that battle."

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

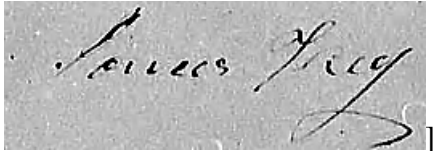
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[p 82: Mildred Key gave testimony on November 15, 1832 stating that she knows that William Key served in the revolutionary war because she was living with him at the time he entered the service and assisted in making his clothing and knapsack and after the surrender of Cornwallis at York he returned home; that he served 4 or 5 different tours but she has no distinct recollection of the length of time he served in each tour. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 12: On April 9, 1844 in Sumner County Tennessee, Elizabeth Key, about 74 years of age, filed

for a widow's pension under the 1843 act stating that she is the widow of William Key, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in the year 1793 in Halifax County North Carolina; that her husband died in the year 1834 and that she remains a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 15: On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1844 in Sumner County Tennessee, James Key, son and executor of Elizabeth Key deceased filed an affidavit stating that Elizabeth Key died July 28, 1844 leaving the following children surviving: Thomas, Peterson, Nancy Davis, James, Alfred C., Harriet Roberson and William Key

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Key". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "James" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, and "Key" is written below it in a similar style. The signature is enclosed in a small rectangular box.

[p 16: On May 22, 1854 in Sumner County Tennessee, Sarah Stone gave testimony that she knew William and Elizabeth T before they were married in Halifax County North Carolina; that they were married at John Aspley's in North Carolina; that she also knew Bingham Key and his wife Susan and Macklin Key the son of Bingham Key and his wife Susan who was a small boy not more than 6 or 7 years old at the time William and Elizabeth Key were married; that she, the affiant, had a sister named Nancy about the same age as Macklin Key; that William and Bingham Key had a sister named Mildred; that her [affiant's] brother John Gains remained in Halifax County about 7 years; that she, affiant, is the sister of Elizabeth Key.]

[Facts in file: Veteran died January 19, 1834; he was a Methodist preacher for 30 or 40 years prior to his death; veteran and his wife had a daughter (not named) who married a man named Duncan and died in the state of Illinois (date not stated) leaving 7 children 5 of whom were "of age" in 1846 – their names not given.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the Virginia militia.]