

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Knight R6030

Sarah Knight

f71NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/2/09 rev'd 7/28/14¹

[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.]

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Commonwealth of Kentucky Christian County

On this 9th Day of September 1842 personally appeared before the undersigned William A. Sims, a Justice of the County Court for the County aforesaid which is a Court of record Sarah Knight of the County of Christian, and Commonwealth aforesaid aged about eighty-nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July fourth 1836 -- that she is the widow of John Knight, who was a Captain in the Militia Service during the Revolutionary war, and that he continued in the Service from the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] until the close of the war, he was in that memorable battle -- Colonel Washington being his commander on that day -- during the time of his service he was engaged in sundry battles with the Tories, in the State of North Carolina more particularly at a battle fought at a place called John Needham's under the command of Colonels Colyer [probably John Collier] & Belford [probably Andrew Balfour] & __ Dugan [probably James Dougan] being Major & at another engagement at a place called Mike Lawley's under the same officers and again at Caraway River in N. Carolina -- where he received a wound in the face through which a silk handkerchief was drawn.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Knight during the War perhaps in the Year 1773 [last digit unclear]² -- that her husband the aforesaid John Knight, left the State of Kentucky in the year 1825 for the purpose of visiting his friends in the States of North & South Carolina & Georgia, during which visit he departed this life, and that she has remained a widow ever since -- that period -- as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before

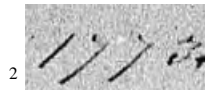
S/ William A. Sims, JP

S/ Sarah Knight, X her mark

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Be it remembered that on this 9th Day of September 1842 came Joseph Newton³ aged eighty-

¹ With corrections suggested by Hershel Parker



³ [Joseph Newton R7635](#)

two Years who deposeth & saith, that he was well acquainted with Captain John Knight, that he was in the War of the Revolution with the said Knight, that he resided in the same neighborhood of the said Knight in North Carolina and was present at the time of his intermarriage with Sarah Wade who is now the widow of the said Captain John Knight, &c -- that they were married during the War.

Sworn to and subscribed to before made this 9th September 1842

S/ William A. Sims, JP

S/ Joseph Newton, X his mark

[p 4]

Be it remembered that on this 9th Day of September 1842 came William Crabtree⁴ aged about 85 Years -- who deposeth & saith that he was well acquainted with Captain John Knight in the State of North Carolina -- that they entered into the Service of the United States during the Revolutionary War, that this deponent was a Sergeant in said Knight's Company, that while in the Service the said John Knight intermarried with Sarah Wade & this deponent, had to leave the Company to wait upon the said John Knight at his wedding, that he saw the marriage ceremony performed and that the said Sarah is now the widow of the said Captain John Knight.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 9th September 1842

S/ William A. Sims, JP

S/ William Crabtree, X his mark

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Commonwealth of Kentucky Christian County

The deposition of William Crabtree aged 85 years taken for the purpose of procuring a pension of Mrs. Sarah Knight widow -- and relic of Captain John Knight Deceased, this deponent being first sworn deposes & saith, that he entered the service of the United States, during the Revolutionary War in the state of North Carolina that he joined the company of Captain Knight as a Sergeant, that he was with the said Knight at the battle fought at John Needham's with the Tories, he was also with him at the battle at Mike Lawley's where we took three Tory prisoners -- and again at a battle fought on the waters of Caraway River where the said Captain Knight was dangerously wounded in the head at which engagement I had a brother taken prisoner by them whom made his escape & in the escape was wounded. We were commanded by Colonel Colyer & Belford & Major Dugan, that the said Captain Knight was in the service as the deponent well knows of his own knowledge, from the time of the battle of Guilford Court House North Carolina to the close of the war, they were in many [word obscured] engagements than those above stated as the State of North Carolina was greatly harassed by the Tories, which made the service very severe upon all those who were engaged in that war.

Sworn to & subscribed to before me this 9th September 1842

S/ William Crabtree, X his mark

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State of Kentucky County of Christian

Personally appeared before the undersigned, an acting Magistrate in and for the said County Sarah Knight a resident of said County aged 84 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, depose and say: -- That she is the widow of the late John Knight who was a Soldier in the Revolutionary War, from Randolph County North Carolina. That when the war first began in the South, (she is informed in the year 1779) that said John

⁴ [William Crabtree R2421](#)

Knight had some little dispute and difficulty with his family relations and he ran off from home and entered said Service at headquarters, she does not know where headquarters were, being quite young and paying no attention to such things, neither does she know the names of his officers; and continued in said service until the fall road the year afore the battle of Guilford, when he returned home. And she further saith that said Knight often told her that he was in the States of South Carolina and Georgia -- that he was sometimes at Charleston and sometimes at Savannah that he was marched about nearly all over those states and continued in that service until his return home as above mentioned. This Affiant knows nothing about this Service except what her husband told her except also that she knows of his long absence from the neighborhood and that report said he was with the Army of the South. She further saith that soon after his return from the Army of the South that he was elected or made Captain of a Militia Company in Randolph County and that he commanded said company at the battle of Guilford. That after said battle he continued in command of said company and was engaged in operating against and keeping in check the Tories in the Counties of Randolph, Guilford, Montgomery and down about Fayetteville and among the Sand Hill's. That he had three skirmishes with the Tories to wit at Caraway River, where he was wounded in the head, at a men's house named Kneedham and at a man's called Lolley's, both of whom lived down towards the Sand Hills. She further saith that she recollects the names of Captains Edward Williams, William Searcy, William York and John Hill, who were also Militia officers against the Tories from the same section of Country and who commanded separate companies and cooperated with Captain John Knight in waging war against the Tories under the command of Fannin [sic, David Fanning] and Walker and Sanders all of the latter of whom were Tory captains. She further states that said Knight was commanded by Major Thomas Dugan and Colonels Andrew Belfour [Andrew Balfour] and James Collyer [sic, John Collier]. She states further that said John Knight was engaged as above stated in defending the people from the Tories, from early in the year prior to the battle of Guilford, until the war ended in the year 1782, and that she remembers distinctly that he was out actively engaged in said service for seven different and distinct tours of three months each, making in the aggregate 21 months. She saith that her recollection does not enable her to specify the exact and precise date of any said tours. She can only say that he had command of a company some time before the battle of Guilford and he continued in said command for seven distinct periods of three months each. She further saith that she has frequently heard him say that while he was with the southern Army in South Carolina and Georgia that he was promoted from a private to a Sergeant and then a Lieutenant. She states that said John Knight and herself were raised in the same neighborhood and that he was seven years older than herself -- that she was married to the said John Knight in the County of Randolph North Carolina in the month of June subsequent to the battle of Guilford, to wit, in June 1781. There was "cider" made out of early June apples at the marriage makes her think it was June. She was married at the age of eighteen making her present age 84 years, by Captain Edward Williams, who was a magistrate in said County, as well as Captain and that she was married by the publication upon three separate days of the "Banns" by a minister of the name of Richard Shackelford at a meeting house within a mile and a half of her home. That John Knight was then commanding a company and that he had a number of his men with him at the wedding among whom were William Crabtree and Joseph Newton and that the house was well guarded during the festival which continued two days and then said Knight rejoined his Main company again. That said Knight, when his company was near, which sometimes, stealthily visited her and when he did so, at the approach of night he had to take a bed and lie in some concealed place until morning and thus he continued until the end of the war.

She further saith that some years after the war they moved to the state of Tennessee on Red River and whilst living there their house was burnt down and all their papers destroyed -- that he is Commission as Captain and the Bible record of the marriage and his other Discharges were all burnt with the house. She states she has seen his Commission as Captain and his other Discharges frequently -- that previous to their destruction her husband frequently exhibited them to the people. She saith that said Knight left this state some time twenty-four years ago to go to North Carolina and Georgia in order to hunt up evidence to establish his claim to a pension and that he died while absent. And further that she has been informed that there are contradictions in the several Declarations now on file in the Pension office touching the date of her marriage and her age. She would respectfully state that if there are such contradictions in her former Declarations, that the fault is with the persons who wrote them out -- that she has made one statement and stated the same thing every time -- that she has but little knowledge of dates and now that she is very old and infirm she can only remember when anything happened by some S/ Wm B. Clark, JP

S/ Sarah Knight, X her mark