

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abram Keen S11710

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/6/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

State of Virginia: in Mecklenburg County to wit:

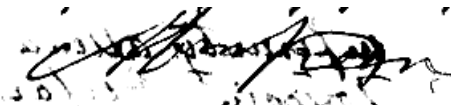
On this 31st day of May 1839, personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and State aforesaid, General Abram Keen, a resident of said County and State, aged 77 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That at the commencement of the Revolutionary war, he was a resident of Halifax County, Virginia, that in 1777, he moved to the County of Amelia, and in the year 1785, he settled himself in the County of Mecklenburg, where he has ever since resided – That at an early age, he first entered the service of his country as a volunteer under Captain Hill in the County of Halifax, during the early part of 1777, marched to Petersburg, thence down James River and finally was discharged at Petersburg. He does not at this time recollect the term for which he enlisted; or the exact length of time he served: but verily believes he was in actual service on this occasion, three months – and was honorably discharged from service. That in 1780, he entered the service again from the County of Amelia, and was drafted in the Militia under Captain Munford for the term of three months, and marched to Petersburg, thence up and down James River, and then regularly discharged at Petersburg – He served the said term faithfully – That as well as he recollects, in the month of February or March 1781, in the County of Amelia, he enlisted under Captain William Royal as a Dragoon in the Virginia State service to serve for and during the War, and was attached to the command of Major Call and Colonel Alexander Dick & Colonel Meade. He first marched to Cumberland Court House in order to procure arms; thence to Richmond and various other places until after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown [October 19, 1781] – in October 1781. – He was then regularly discharged in December 1781 until further called for – which was never done – John Royall was Lieutenant, and a man by the name of Brackett was Cornet in the Company – Generals Lafayette, Wayne, Nelson and others were Field Officers. He was in actual service on this occasion eight months – he furnished his own horses, and in short, everything except arms and cap. He thinks he served altogether fourteen months in the Revolutionary War, for which service he claims a Pension – That until recently, he had declined making an application for a Pension, because he considered it his duty, and the duty of every good soldier to serve his country, free of reward or Bounty whenever called upon – But of late years from sickness, deaths and other misfortunes in his family, he has sustained heavy losses; which now induces him at this late period, to apply for and accept the bounty which his Country has so nobly tendered its officers and soldiers in their latter days.

That he is well apprised, in consequence of this delay, he has lost the testimony of many

witnesses who are dead and gone. He has no documentary evidence – no clergyman resides in his immediate neighborhood. 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/ Abram Keen



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of May 1839

S/ John F Finch, magistrate

[James W Oliver & Drury A. Bacon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

I William P Hamlett¹ do hereby certify that I belonged to Colonel Mead's Regiment of Virginia State Dragoons in the War of the Revolution, and recollect that Abram Keen of Mecklenburg (now General Keen) was attached to the same Regiment under command of Captain Royall, Major Call & others – How long the said Abram Keen was in service, I am unable to say; but am under the impression, he was discharged in December 1781, until called for again; the terms on which the whole of us were discharged – We were never called into service afterwards – I am in the 80th year of my age, and now a pensioner of the United States.

S/ William P Hamlett



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Dragoon in the Virginia service.]

¹ FPA S13305