

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Kennedy S13600

f32NC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/23/07: rev'd 4/5/16

[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 4]

State of Kentucky, Madison County: SS

On the 13 day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Wm Goodloe, James Dejarnett & Jos. Turner justices of the County Court in & for the County of Madison aforesaid, now sitting, Joseph Kennedy a resident of said County aged 72 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That in 1776 on the 1st day April he came to Kentucky from Burke County North Carolina, in January or February 1777 the Indians commenced hostilities at Boonesborough—one man was killed & another wounded—at or about that time he was enrolled under Daniel Boone as Captain -- & did duty under him as a soldier. Standing sentry at night in the Fort at Boonesborough, acting as spy in watching for Indians & Indian signs during the day.

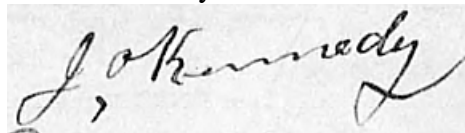
In March, '77 the Indians came to Boonesboro & early in the morning fired on two men, one was killed—we turned out from the Fort in pursuit of the Indians—not far from where they had scalped the man they had killed we fell in with a large party of them. They fired on us, four of our men were wounded, after returning their fire we were compelled to retreat to the Fort. In April 1777 there were about 24 or 25 of us men, mostly all young men, under Capt Boone – We were divided into two divisions. One half was ordered out on duty, say [?] about, to act as a guard & spies against the Indians. While the other division endeavored to plant a little corn. That while on guard with others a large party of Indians made their appearance, we fired on them & being far outnumbered were compelled to retreat to the Fort. That in the retreat he was wounded with three balls, one of the shots supposed to be mortal, but he recovered after much suffering. After recovering from his wounds in the Fall 1777 he went into North Carolina & while there in Charlotte County [sic, Charlotte in Mecklenburg County?] a Regiment of Militia was ordered out under the command of Col Alexander [Adam Alexander] to suppress the Tories under a Tory Col. by name of Moore. I took the place of an old uncle of mine who had a family, by the name of Kennedy & served out the tour. Cannot say how long I was out, but think between one & two months. In March or April 1779 I returned to Kentucky & was engaged in defending Logan's Fort or Station, going out on scouts after the Indians, acting as a spy & guard—till the last of May or 1st June same year when Genl George Rogers Clark sent an express to Harrod Station & also to Logan's for as many young men as would turn out and volunteer to come & join him at Vincennes or Post Vincennes as then called. About 40 or 50 of us turned out. I was in a company

commanded by Hugh McGary, we went on & found Genl Clark & were out about two months. In the Spring 1780 the Indians continued their depredations in Kentucky. A company was organized at Kennedy Station and the Crab Orchard at this time. My brother John Kennedy was appointed Captain, William Moore at the Crab Orchard Lieutenant & I was appointed Ensign at Kennedy's Station. The company was engaged in defending the Stations aforesaid & the country, frequently out on scouting parties following the Indians. In the summer of 1780 Genl George R. Clark ordered a Campaign against the Shawnee Indians after the British & Indians had been in Kentucky & taken Martins & Riddle's Stations on Licking River. I turned out a volunteer & went on the Campaign as Ensign. My Bro. John Kennedy my Capt, Levi Todd Major, Benjamin Logan Col., Genl Clark Commander in Chief. We went to the Pickaway towns on the Big Miami [River]. Near the towns the Indians met us & we had a very warm engagement [Piqua then in the territory of Ohio, November 10, 1782]. On the left wind Maj. Todd's battalion, in which I was, the Battle was warm & a great many were killed & wounded. We killed a good many Indians. We were gone about two months. After returning from this campaign I was engaged in scouting & guarding the Country till October 1780 when I went to North Carolina.

On my return on the 26th December, '80 at the foot of the Cumberland Mountain the Indians fired on us, killed three men & took us prisoners. I was taken to the British in the State of Georgia, through the Indian Nation, to a place called Augusta or Augusta Town where the British had a Fort, Commanded by Col Brown [Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown], a British Officer [sic, Thomas Brown was an American Tory]. I remained a prisoner with 36 fellow prisoners till sometime in the Summer 1781, when the Fort was taken by Col Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] [Siege of Augusta, May 22-June 5, 1781]¹ & I obtained my liberty & returned to Kentucky in the Winter, '81-2. In the Spring 1782 I was appointed Lieut. by the County Court of Lincoln, Kentucky & was ordered out by Col Benjamin Logan with men as Lieut. to guard the country and & act as spies against the Indians. I continued in service ranging the frontier of Lincoln County & the now counties of Madison & Garrard till the Blue Lick defeat in August 1782. I was not at the Battle, but helped bury the dead. Shortly after Genl Clark ordered a Campaign against the Shawnee Indians. I turned out volunteer as Lieutenant, George Adams Capt, often crossing Ohio. I was attached to Capt John Wood's Company. Benjamin Logan Col, Genl Clark Commander. We went to the Shawnee towns Big Miami, where we had some fighting, killed some Indians, had some men killed, some wounded, were gone about two months. He continued occasionally to fight Indians till 1786 when he commanded a Company under Genl George R. Clark and went on a Campaign against the Indians. Has resided in Madison County ever since. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services, but believes there are many living witnesses, by which he can prove almost all the facts in this declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn & subscribed this day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jos. Kennedy

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Kennedy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810522-augusta/>

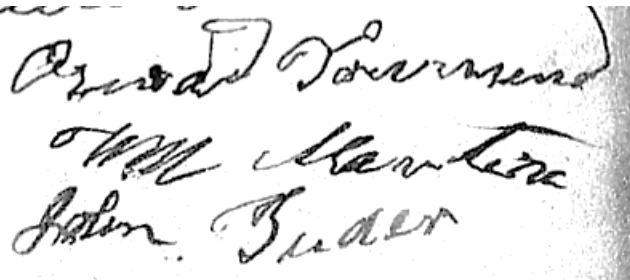
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We Oswald Townsend,² John Tuder, Will. Martin, residents of the county of Madison aforesaid do hereby certify that we are & have long been well acquainted with Major Joseph Kennedy, who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be 72 years of age, we further certify that for forty years & more he has been reported & believed a soldier of the Revolution and Indian fighter & spy. Said Townsend states that he has known him since 1776 & knows that he performed most of the services noted in his declaration. All certify that they believe the statement true. Townsend states that he knows he was Lieut. & Ensign as stated in said declaration. Said Tuder has known him forty seven years. Sworn & subscribed this day & year aforesaid.

S/ Oswald Townsend

S/ Wm Martin

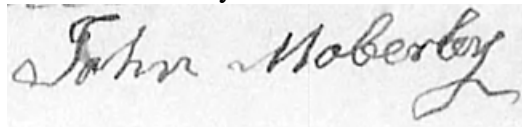
S/ John Tuder

Handwritten signatures of Oswald Townsend, Wm Martin, and John Tuder. The signatures are written in cursive and are arranged vertically. Oswald Townsend is at the top, Wm Martin is in the middle, and John Tuder is at the bottom.

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John Moberley a resident of said County of Madison being sworn in open Court states that he has known Major Joseph Kennedy for about forty years – that he has always been reputed and Indian fighter & Soldier of the Revolution – that from facts detailed by Major Kennedy he is entirely satisfied that he was a fellow prisoner with said Kennedy at Augusta in 1781 – that witness was released before the siege & was with General Lee or Colonel Lee when Augusta was taken & is perfectly satisfied said Kennedy was there.

S/ John Moberley

Handwritten signature of John Moberley. The signature is written in cursive and is centered below the text.

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State of Kentucky, Madison County

On this 1st day of October 1832 appeared in open Court before William Goodloe, Joiner Dejarnett, Ellanah Bush & Henry B. Hawkins Justices of the County Court in & for the County of Madison aforesaid, now sitting, Joseph Kennedy, a resident of said County aged 72 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following supplementary declaration to his declaration heretofore made on the 13th of August 1832 in this Court in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was an Indian spy in defending the Northern Country from January or February 1777 till October 1777 – that he also claims for one month in the militia in North Carolina in 1778 – He claims also for service rendered as a spy against the Indians from March or first of April 1779 till October 1780: from

2 [Oswald Townsend W605](#)

the spring of 1780 until October 1780 he was in service as an Ensign. Served on a Campaign under General Clark across the Ohio in 1779 -- & in 1780 under General Clark as Ensign also on a Campaign against the Indians across the Ohio – when not on Campaign was in service as a spy & Ensign at home or in Kentucky – that when he went into North Carolina in October 1780, he went by permission & considered himself as Ensign when taken Prisoner by the Indians as stated in his original Declaration – upon his return to Kentucky in the winter 1781 – 2 he continued as Ensign till the spring 1782 when he was appointed Lieutenant & continued as such till 1786 occasionally fighting Indians. That he cannot be more precise in relation to his services than he has been in this & his original declaration. He thinks he can procure the additional testimony of Colonel Samuel Estill & William Cradlebaugh, who knew him as a spy & officer of the Revolution. He claims full pay as an Ensign – and trusts he will obtain it.

S/ Jo. Kennedy

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State of Kentucky, Madison County: October 2nd 1832

William Cradlebaugh³ at old and infirm man unable to attend at court being first duly sworn before William Goodloe an Acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid upon his oath States that (first having heard the declaration of Major Joseph Kennedy made August 13th, 1832, and also his supplementary one made October 1st, 1832 Read) in January or February 1777 – he became acquainted with the said Joseph Kennedy at Boonesboro in Kentucky at which time the Indians commenced committing depredations at that place by killing one man and wounding one other – and that at that time or about that time we were all enrolled under Captain Daniel Boone – and did duty under him as Soldiers Standing Sentry of nights and watching for Indians and Indians signs during the days – that in March 1777 the Indians killed one man at Boonesboro we pursued the Indians fell into an ambushade and had four of our party were wounded – that in April 1777 – the young men in the Fort Joseph Kennedy being one of them were divided and he [was] wounded as stated in his first declaration – that in the year 1780 he the said Cradlebaugh & Kennedy went under General G. R. Clark over the Ohio on Miami River to the Pickaway Towns of Shawnee Indians & had a warm engagement with them – the said Joseph then was in Captain John Kennedy's Company, this deponent further they that he himself and Joseph Kennedy were at the burying of the dead at the Blue Licks in the year 1782 – that in the fall of the same year the said Kennedy went as a Lieutenant in Captain George Adams' Company to the Ohio River and was there transferred to Captain John Wood's Company and from thence to the Shawnee Nation on the Miami had some fighting burnt several Towns under the Command of General G. R. Clark-- he further states on his oath in addition to the above stated facts which came within his own observation – that from his long and Intimate acquaintance with the said Kennedy & from what he has heard others state in whom he has confidence he is very confident in his own mind that the said Kennedy was engaged in the active Service of Country more than two years.

S/ William Cradlebaugh, X his mark

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State of Kentucky, Madison County: Oct. October 2nd 1832

3 [William Cradlebaugh S30354](#)

Samuel Estill⁴ an old and very infirm man unable to attend Court and who having heard the declaration made by Joseph Kennedy in order to draw a pension made the 13th of August 1832 and the Supplementary one made October 1st, 1832 Read and being first duly sworn before William Goodloe a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid – deposeth and saith that he became acquainted with the said Joseph Kennedy in the year 1779. That said Estill & Kennedy in the year 1780 went under General G. R. Clark over the Ohio River against the Pickaway Towns on Miami River had a severe Battle many were killed on both sides -- & that in the year 1782 the said Estill & Kennedy went under the same General against the same Indians to the same towns said Kennedy was as a Lieutenant attached to Captain John Wood's Company and served as such – he further on his oath states in addition to the facts above from his own knowledge stated – that from his long acquaintance with the said Kennedy & from what he has heard others say in whom he has confidence; that the said Kennedy has served his Country in wars & more than two years.

S/ Samuel Estill, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$240 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as an Ensign in the Virginia and North Carolina service for 2 years from 1780.]

4 [Samuel Estill S12876](#)