

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Keeton S13614 VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 July 2020.

[The first document below is fraudulent as explained by Keeton's declaration on page 3 dated 17 Dec 1834.]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the act entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828. I John Keeton of [blank] in the county Franklin in the state of Kentucky do hereby declare, that I enlisted in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the War, and continued in its service until its termination; at which period I was a private in Captain Holladays Company in the Second Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line. And I also declare, that I afterwards received certificates for the reward of eighty dollars; to which I was entitled, under a resolve of Congress, passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778.

And I further declare, that I was not, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828, on the Pension List of the United States.

Witness my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year 1832 John his Xmark Keeton  
Note. The most convenient Branch Bank of the U.S. is at Lexington. The most convenient Post office is at Franklin

Kentucky, }  
Franklin County } Sct;

This day Nancy Hulett came before me and made oath, that she was a resident of her fathers house, when her brother entered the army of the united states under Lieutenant Thomas Miner [sic: Thomas Minor W5374] of the united states Army a continental officer [sic], and as she understood went to Gen'l. Gates [Horatio Gates] Army and was defeated [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. After the close of the revolution her said brother returned from the army home in his united States uniform, having served to the close of the War. That she is the Sister of said John Keeton having intermarried with Reuben Hulett. Also Reuben Hulett of Franklin County Kentucky, makes oath that he is the brother in Law of John Keeton and husband of Nancy Hulett and knows that said John Keeton entered the Army of the revolution, but only believes from information, he served to the close of the War. Given under under my hand, as a Justice of the Peace of said county and do certify that said Nancy Hulett and Reuben Hulett is credible witnesses. this 6<sup>th</sup> April 1832. John McKee J.P.F.C.

State of Kentucky Franklin county (Sct)

Nancy Hulett being called on by John Keeton Depoeth and sayeth that John Keeton her Brother enter'd the sevice of the united states under captain John Holliday in spotsylvania county virginia and was away from home a little over six months when he return'd home very much worsted and it was said that he suffered much with hunger cold and fatigue during the six months he serv'd.

Nancy Hulett

Reuben Hulett being also call'd on by s'd. Keeton states that has been acquainted with John Keeton about 45 years and that he was reputed as a revolutionary soldier and that he s'd. Keeton serv'd. a hard sevitude according to the time he serv'd. [17 Sep 1832] Reuben Hulett

Virginia Spotsylvania County November 3, 1832

I Benjamin Alsop [S9269] of the State and County aforesaid aged 74 years do herby Curtify that John Keeton, was Raised in the County and State above ritten and he, was Drafted in may 1780 to go to South Cairolina for the Term of Six months, that he marched from the County of Spotsylvania the Early part of

June 1780 in the fifth Virg'a. Ragment [of Militia] Commanded by Colo George Stubblefield [VAS1818] Leut. Colo. Josep Spencer [Joseph Spencer S37436] Mag'r. William Mosley [sic: Maj. William Mosby], the company to which he was attach'd to was Commanded by Capt. Thomas Miner Lt. John Holladay 2'd. Leut. Lewis Holladay Ensegn Robert Durrett. that we March'd by the way of Richmond petersburg from there to Hillsborroug [sic: Hillsborough], North Carolina on by Guilford Courthouse and Joined Genl Gates at Roogelys Mill [sic: Rugeley's Mill 12 mi N of Camden SC] Early in August [on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>] and was in the battle near Camden South Carrolina with the British Army Commanded by Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] on the 18 [sic: 16<sup>th</sup>] day of August 1780 that the said John Keeton served the term for wech he was engag'e and returned to his native State & County under the Carrector of a Good Solder — Given under Hand this 3<sup>d</sup> day of Nov'r. 1832 Benj'a. Alsop

State of Kentucky } SS.  
Franklin County }

On this seventeenth day of December in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court, before Lewis R. Major, David Wait, Isaac Wingate, W. S. Coleman, John Morris, James Harmon and Daridge J. Crockett, Gentlemen

The Justices comprising the court of Franklin County, now sitting, John Keeton a resident of the aforesaid county of Franklin and state of Kentucky, aged seventy years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was drafted in Spotsylvania County, State of Virginia, early in the year 1780 (the latter part of the spring or early in the summer) and was attached to the company of Cap. Thomas Minor of Col George Stubblefield's [Militia] Regiment, and Gen'l. Stevens's Brigade or division [Edward Stevens, Brigadier General of Virginia Militia]. His Lieut. was John Holliday. The Troops of which he composed a part were raised to send to the assistance of Gen'l. Gates in the South. Immediately after being drafted, he started with the Troops to reinforce Gen'l. Gates. At Hillsborough in North Carolina, through which we passed our Capt. was dismissed and sent home, because of his dissipated habits and general neglect of the duties of his office, and we elected John Holliday our first Lieutenant to command the company. We then marched on and joined Gen'l. Gates at Russlys Mills near camden in the night after a force march of eighteen days and nights. The picketts were firing upon each other when he arrived there, and the battle of Camden, in which he was engaged, commenced the next morning about the break of day. Capt John Holliday was severely wounded in said battle, and seen soon after by this Deponent, as our Army was retreating; and it is believed that he died of his wounds or was killed by the enemy, who were then fast approaching, as he has not been heard of since by his family, as this deponent is informed and believes. In this tour he served six months.

He was again drafted for three months and attached to the company of Capt. Lewis Holliday, (a Cousin of his former Captain) of Col. Meriwether's Regiment, and was at the taking of Cornwallis at York Town in the year 1781 [19 Oct 1781].

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.

He further states that he was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1763 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, near Fredericksburg.

His parents kept a record of the ages of their children. When he removed from his father, he gave him a slip of paper on which the date of his birth was written, which he left behind when he came to Kentucky, which has been Thirteen years. If he ever received a written discharge from the service he knows not what has become of it.

He refers to his neighbours Col Anthony Crockett, Sergeant at Arms of the Senate of Kentucky and John McKee, Esq'r. in proof of his character &c and belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

John hisXmark Keaton

The affidavit of John Keaton of Franklin County Kentucky states that he was a soldier in the Revolution as stated by him in a declaration made on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 1832 before the Franklin County Court [see below] and heretofore forwarded to the pension office. That he has lately been shown by P. S. Loughborough another Declaration dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 1833 [sic] purporting to have been made by him, that said last mentioned Declaration is false, and was not made by him. That Thomas Triplett he believes obtained a pension upon this false Declaration of eighty dollars per annum, which was more than this affiant was entitled to, as was stated by this affiant when the Certificate of pension was shewn to him. that eighty dollars of that pension came to the hands of this affiant and no more. that the pension of this affiant was stoped and he has received no money on his true Declaration first above named, and none upon the last except the sum of eighty dollars as aforesaid — this affidavit is made for the purpose of obtaining the restoration of the pension to which this affiant is entitled, and which this affiant thinks he ought not to be deprived of because a fraud has been practiced upon the Government without the agency or procurement of this affiant.

Frankfort Kentucky [17 Dec 1834]

John hisXmark Keaton

State of Kentucky }  
Owen County } S.S.

On this seventeenth day of April AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty five personally appeared before me J M Coates a Justice of the Peace duly authorized to administer oaths within and for the county and state aforesaid John Keaton aged Ninety four years a resident of Owen County in the State of Kentucky who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical John Keaton who was a private in the Company Commanded by Captain John Holladay in the Regiment of Infantry Commanded by Col. George Stubblefield in the war of the revolution that he volunteered at Davenport's Tavern Virginia on or about the first of April A.D. one thousand seven hundred and eighty one for the time of twelve months and continued in actual service in said war for fourteen days [sic] and was honorably discharged at Yorktown on the 19 day of October A.D. 1781 on account of the close of the war as will appear by the muster rolls of said company & the proof on file in the War. Dept. he now being a pensioner of the United States.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855. He also declares that he has not received a warrant for bounty land under this or any other act of Congress nor made any other application therefor. Moreover I the said John Keaton hereby constitute and appoint Hugh G. Smith of [blank] my true and lawful attorney to file this declaration.... [the rest of the power of attorney not transcribed]

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The file consists mainly of copies of the above documents including both the fraudulent pension application and the authentic one dated 17 Dec 1834.]

To his excellency the Govenor & Counsel of Virginia your petitioner. your petitioner John Keaton resident in the County of Franklin and State of Kentucky represents that he was a soldier of the army of the revolution serving to the end and close of the war as will appear by evidence hear with filed and conseres himself entitled to bounty land from the state of virginia if so prays such quanty as the law allows  
Thomas Triplett agent

Petition for Bounty land.

John Keaton sold'r C.L.

The testimony offerd in this case consists of Copies of papers furnish'd of the war office, that the Secretary of War. Keatons declarations on oath, and the affidavits of witness, taken to be read in the application for a pension, are the whole of the evidence.

Keeton contradicts himself, and the witnesses contradict one another, in such manner as to leave no evidence for your Excellency to act upon.

I think it unnecessary, to notice the testimony, in detail. Respectfully submitted  
To his Excellency Gov'r Tazewell John H Smith Com'r &c/ May 20<sup>th</sup> 1834

NOTE: Keeton received a pension certificate issued 23 Feb 1833 for \$30 per year for nine months service, and he also received a bounty-land warrant from the federal government for 55 acres.