

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Kelly S1544

SC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 July 2014.

State of Tennessee } Circuit Court Sept'r Term 1833
Hickman County }

On this 9th day of Sept'r. 1833 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the County of Hickman aforesaid James Kelly aged seventy four 22^d of next October a resident of the County of Hickman aforesaid who being first duly sworn according law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. that he entered the army of the United States in 1777 as a draft militiaman in the State of South Carolina Kershaw County Campden [sic: Camden] district for the term of three months as a private soldier under Capt Thomas Craton [possibly Thomas Creighton], Gen. Moutree [sic: William Moultrie], Col. Simmons [possibly Maurice Simons], Maj'r Simmons, We marched to the black Swamp at a place called the two Sisters upon the Savanah [sic: Savannah] River from this place we returned on our way home to a place called Pochatallego Bridge [sic: Pocotaligo Bridge], where we was overtaken by the British they attacked us & killed two hundred & seven of our number dead on the ground [see endnote], from this place I came on towards home to a place called Bacons Bridge near Charleston [on Ashley River at Dorchester] at which time and place my term of service expired & I was discharged and went home to the County aforesaid and remained about fourteen or fifteen days and Volunteered for the term of six months under Capt Grimes [possibly William Graham] Gen Henderson. We marched to the Eddystow [sic: Edisto] River, here we stayed untill our time of Service was out, which was the term of Six months and was dischargd for that term of Service from this place I returned home again during this term of Service I was in the Battle at the Eutaws Springs [sic: Battle of Eutaw Springs, 8 Sep 1781], I was also in the Battle at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]. I was a light horseman at this time under Col [William] Washington

after this time [sic] I entered the service a third turn as a private volunteer, under Capt. [Matthew] Arbuckle, Col Andrew Donnelly [sic: Andrew Donnally], this time I marched against the Indians to wit the Shawnees, Mingoes, Flathead, Delawares, Cickapoos [sic: Kickapoos]. We marched from South Carolina into the State of Virginia at a place called Green Brier [sic: Greenbrier County in present West Virginia], from this place we marched to a place called the Point [Point Pleasant] hear we had a Battle with the above named tribes of Indians, Col Charles Lewis was killed at this place [Battle of Point Pleasant, 10 Oct 1774] this term of service was two years for which I was discharged I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State
[Certified by Thomas Kelly and John Clayton.

State of Tennessee Lawrence County/ December the 8th 1834

This day Came before me John A. Hail one of Acting Justices in for the said County Lewis Markham [pension application W25669] in proper person and made oath in due form of Law that he is acquainted with James Kelley Sen'r who is applicant for a pension, whom to the best of his belief was at the Battel of the Cowpens which was on the 17th of January 1781 where and when General Daniel Morgan Commanded – the above sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written

Lewis Markham

State of Tennessee Lawrence County/ December 8th 1834

this day Came before me John A Hail one of the acting Justices in and for said County James Kelley Junior in proper person and made oath in due form of law that he is acquainted with James Kelley Senior who is now applicant for a pention whom to the best of his beleaf from Circomstances that he had heard

him state Long before there was any Expectation of a pention that he was in the revalution war and at the battle at the Cowpens Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and date above written

[signed] James Kelly

State of Tennessee } Circuit Court April Term

Maury County } AD. 1835 April 28th 1835

On this day personally appeared before John W. Cook Judge of said court presiding James Kelly a resident of Maury County in the State of Tennessee aged about Seventy five years who having been 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 and served as hereinafter stated (to wit) He was born in Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia he thinks in the year 1760 from his best recollection – he had a record of his age in a Bible of his father’s but the Bible he lost more than twenty years ago in the State of South Carolina so that he has no written record of his age, nor has he had one for a long time – His father with Declarant lived in said Pittsylvania county until a short time before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, when his father moved to Greenbrier County, Virginia. Declarant was with his father in said Greenbrier county but a short time until his father was killed by the . . .ians [page torn; probably “Indians”] his father having before that sent his family (Declarant among the rest) to Arbuckle’s Fort [sic: Arbuckle’s Fort, erected by Cap. William Arbuckle on Muddy Creek in Greenbrier County in 1774] but remaining himself at home, where he was killed by the indians – after the death of Declarants father Declarant with his mother & family moved back to Pittsylvania county and shortly after the commencement of the war his mother & family moved to South Carolina Curshaw [sic: Kershaw] county or District Camden District. Declarant was living in said Curshaw county when he went into service. Declarant lived in said Curshaw county until some years after the Revolutionary war– the precise length of time he cannot recollect – he married shortly after the war & was there until he had seven children, which he thinks was about 14 years – he then moved to the State of Tennessee Green [sic: Greene] County and lived there 3 or 4 years – then moved to Williamson County Tennessee and staid there 2 or 3 years, then he moved to Maury county Tennessee, he lived a good many years in said Maury county but cannot recollect how many years – he moved to Hickman count Tennessee about 12 years ago & lived there until March 1834 when he moved back to Maury county. He now lives in Maury county in the State of Tennessee– Declarant in his first tour was drafted in all other tours Declarant volunteered– He saw Gen’l Morgan Col. Washington Col. [John Eager] Howard & Col. [Andrew] Pickens at the Battle of the Cowpens – these he understood to be regular officers – He saw Gen’l Moultrie, Gen’l Sumpter [sic: Gen. Thomas Sumter], Gen’l [Francis] Marion, Col. Simmons & Major Simmons and many other regular officers – He was drafted the first time early in the spring, the year he cannot recollect, under Capt. Creighton Liut. Grimes or Graham & Col. or Major Simmons commanded the regiment– rendezvoused at Camden South Carolina remained near two weeks there – They then crossed the Wateree & marched towards Savanah [sic: Savannah] River to a place called the Black Swamp near a place on Savanah called Two Sisters – but some distance from the Two Sisters before Declarant in Simmons Regiment arrived there they met Gen’l. Moultrie with a good many men– he thinks when they all got together there was about 1800[?]. We stayed at the Two Sisters to keep the British from crossing– but the British crossed the river below which made Moultrie retreat up the country – Moultrie retreated to Pacatelego a small river & crossed it upon a Bridge – there were two bridges across this stream about a mile apart– The army crossed at the upper bridge– & sent a detachment part regulars & part volunteers to guard the lower bridge in all he think 211 men – he cannot recollect who commanded the detachment – the British came up and attacked this detachment and killed a great many– Declarant in this detachment the British drove this detachment and crossed the river the remnant of the detachment joined Moultrie – Moultrie marched us on day & night for three or four days until they came to a Bridge called Bacon’s bridge he cannot recollect the name of the river– The British went back towards Charlestown – Moultrie stayed at Bacon’s Bridge a few days & Governor Rutledge [sic: John Rutledge] joined him with his army in a day or two and he was discharged. he got a written discharge

signed by Thomas Creighton except he has lost said discharge – after this discharge he returned home to Cashaw [sic: Kershaw] county – in a very short time he volunteered under Col. Washington. they did not rendezvous at any particular place – there was but 2 or 3 volunteered when he did – Washington had[?] about 300[?] horse at that time – Declarant wasn't a horseman & found his own horse – he cannot recollect the name of his captain – there was with Washington Col. Howard & Col. Pickens – all the men he thinks amounted to 300[?] He marched to a garrison called Rugeley's [sic: Rugeley's Mill SC] occupied by tories and some British– we got a pine log & blacked it to look as much like a cannon as possible & put it on an old pair of waggon wheels & drew it up near to the post & sent in a Flag & Col. Rugely (a Tory) surrendered the garrison [4 Dec 1780] – there were two or three hundred in the garrison [sic: about 112] – most of them tories & a few British. we took all prisoners & the whole detachment marched with the prisoners up to Salisbury– we there delivered up the prisoners to whom he can not recollect. we then marched on to then join Gen'l Morgan & did join him at the place where the battle of the Cowpens was fought & but a few days before said battle – Declarant fought under Col. Washington in said battle – the battle ground was part in the woods & part an old field – the militia were in front & the regulars in the rear Washington & his men on the wing – they hardly got formed before Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] made his charge – the militia soon run – the British began to cut down the militias very fast & Washington & Howards men charged into them & with the regulars of Morgan soon routed the British & Col. Washington & two of his men pursued Tarlton 10 or 15 miles & he understood that during this chase Washington would have been killed by one of the British but that one of Washingtons men shot the fellows arm of & Washington made a lick at Tarlton & disabled Tarltons fingers – & glanced his head with his sword. we took a good many prisoners, Morgan took the prisoners on toward virginia – soon after the battle [sic] Morgan marched north & Washington south towards Camden – on not far from the Eutaw Springs we met with Gen'ls Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] & Marion & Sumpter – We fought the British at the Eutaw springs & whipped them – we took a good many prisoners– but they took Col. Washington prisoner– he was under Capt. [Charles] Gee who was badly wounded in the head– but he recovered– We started home then & was discharged by Sumpter – he went home and stayed but a short time– & then volunteered under Capt Arbuckle – hearing that Arbuckle wanted men to keep the indians of & protect the country. Declarant & two or three more went to join him. he joined Arbuckle in the edge of Virginia – he wished to fight the people that killed his father – When he joined Capt. Arbuckle he marched on to Greenbrier to Arbuckles fort – he stayed there some time making occasional excursions after the indians – after being there some time – he got liberty to go over to a fort about 12[?] miles off[f] commanded by Col. Donnelly [sic: Fort Donnally near present Frankford WV, about 22 mi NE of Arbuckle's Fort] – in the night the fort was attacked by indians – the indians got one of the gates open but we beat them back & whipped them – the second day afterwards he returned to Fort Arbuckle – shortly after this Arbuckle discharged men & I went home – I served in this tour two years, during which time we were engaged in a great many scouting parties. He served this time two years under Arbuckle. He served three months under Genl Moultrie & six months months under Col. Washington making in all two years & nine months – He got discharges every time, but has lost them long since – he served as a private –the affidavit here with submitted will show his character – owing to old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot tell the dates of his said several services but believes that he has correctly stated the periods for which he served – He applied for a pension in 1833 while he lived in Hickman county but his declaration was sent back for further proof & some imperfections – but Mr. Nixon the lawyer he employed to whom the papers were sent died about the time the papers came back. He has applied to Nixon's family for the papers frequently but they told him these are lost & he believes they are –

He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or an annuity but the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state.

James his mark Kelly

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court

George M. Martin clerk of Cirt. Court

State of Tennessee } September 21st A.D. 1835
Maury County }

Personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the peace in & for said County James Kelly who being duly sworn deposed & saith, that as to finding out how long he served in South Carolina in the Revolutionary War by the records in the Comptrollers General's office at Columbia South Carolina, to which reference is made in the letter of Mr. Edwards [James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner], I Expect that it would afford no new evidence, as he was never paid anything for his services in said war. Not on word was said to him by the officers in relation to pay –

This tour of six months was performed under Col. Billy Washington & he does know [sic] whether he was called South Carolina Militia or not, He thinks the three months under Moultrie was militia service – He knows he served three months in the first tour & six months in the second under Washington. He believes he served Two years or about that time under Capt. Arbuckle. But from age & the loss of memory he cannot state the times or dates when he commenced or ended his services.

He does not know whether the service performed under Arbuckle was of such a kind as for which he is entitled to a pension, & if not he prays to be allowed for the other nine months, he served as a private all the time – He first applied for a pension in 1833 but the application failed & the papers were sent back to a Lawyer Nixon who died & the papers were lost. this application was made in 1833, Nixon died in 1834. affiant was sick at the time. The Declaration was in some way insufficient & was sent back for correction – from sickness & want of information as to what he should do he delayed until the time this application was made, & he never knew that the papers were sent back until a few days ago. he got a man to apply to Col. Polk [Congressman James Knox Polk, later President of the US] to know if he knew anything of the matter. Col. Polk as he is informed did not recollect anything of it, at first, but upon examining his papers found it, & he now returns it with what he hopes will be a satisfactory explanation.

James hisXmark Kelly

NOTES:

The engagement at Pocotaligo Bridge appears to have been the skirmish at Coosawhatchie River SC on 3 May 1779. In that engagement the number of Americans killed was three rather than 207.

James Kelly was awarded a pension for nine months service. On 22 Aug 1836 he applied for a new pension certificate and apparently signed as shown:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Kelly". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to James Kelly
Audited Account No. 4200
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

pp13

3/24/23

[p 2]

[No.] 104 [Book] T

Mr. James Kelly his account of Militia duty as private before & since the reduction of Charlestown [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], also for a Horse lost in do. Service the whole amounting to

[old South Carolina] Currency £85.0.0
Stg. [Sterling] £12.2.10 ¼

Ex^d. T. W. [Examined by Thompson Whitehurst]

J. M^c. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

Rec'd ___ full Satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 104 – T Per Order

Test S/ Thos. Nicholls

S/ Dennis Caley, X his mark

[p 3]

State of South Carolina

To Jas. Kelly

Dr.

Duty per Col. Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] return [not extant] Currency

£35.0.0

A Horse lost per Do.

50.0.0

£85.0.0

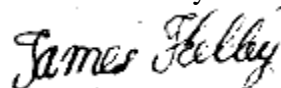
Stg. £12.2.10 ¼

[p 4]

State of South Carolina Laurens County) to Missers Boquet and Michal trassuers

Gentle.Men plase to Deliver my indent and Spatial indents to the Baarer her of Dinnes Calley and this shall be your Discharge for the Same, & Oblidge your humble Servant

S/ James Kelley



Nos 10.54.75.110

I Do Sertify that the above Named James Calley Did Singe the above order to the above Mentined Dinnes Calley on the 27th Day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Eightey Six Before Me

S/ James Montgomery, JP

[p 5: Printed form of Indent No. 104 Book T]

[p 6: Reverse of the above Indent]

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.