

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Beal Kelly S15490

f33VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/10/13

[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.]

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State of Kentucky Warren County SS

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Warren County Court, now sitting, Beal Kelly, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged eighty-two years on the 11th December next, 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 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1st That he was born in the State of Maryland, on the 11th December 1750 as he has it from the information of his parents (now dead) – His age having been set down in the family Bible, which has been burnt, he has no record or other evidence concerning it. From Maryland he moved to Prince William County Virginia and from thence in 1778 he moved to Boonesborough Kentucky. In the fall of this year at the last mentioned place, he enlisted under Captain Holder [probably Captain John Holder] in whose company South [may be Lieutenant John South] and Robins held inferior offices, but their ranks he does not now remember. There was a Captain Martin in the Station, but he thinks he there had no command. Colonel Boone [probably Daniel Boone] commanded the station, and Captain Holder's company belonged to his Brigade (if brigade it can be called). Here he continued constantly engaged in defending the Station & scouting through the Country in search of the enemy and protecting the country from the ravages of the Indians, killed the battle at Stroud's Station, in March 1782, he thinks your applicant had left his company at Boonesborough on a visit to his acquaintances in Stroud's Station, and while there the Fort was attacked by the Indians. The men who defended it, except himself belonged to the company of Captain Constant [perhaps Captain John Constant], who before the engagement had left the Station & settled some little distance from it. It was commanded by Lieutenant McIntire – We lost 2 men killed & one was wounded. Their names were, Spaw [? Shaw?]¹ & Donaldson killed and Judy wounded. After this engagement he returned to Boonesborough and was sometime thereafter detached out on a scouting party under Captain Astill [probably James Estill], having for that purpose rendezvoused at Astill's Station [Estill's station], 8 or 9 miles South of Boonesborough. The main force for the defense of this Station had left it on the projected


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scouting expedition believing that the enemy were at a distance. But before they had passed out of hearing of gun shot from the Fort, the Indians having concealed themselves around it, attacked it, killed a little child of Captain Guess & took prisoner a Negro of Captain Astil. They then left it having been told by the Negro they had taken that the Fort was too strong for them to attempt it. 2 men whom the scouting party had left behind and whose guns they believed they had heard, as they passed from the Fort followed after them & informed them of the proximity of the enemy & of the direction they had taken when they left the Fort. Our company made towards them and encountered them at Corks Creek near Mt. Sterling where we had a sharp engagement. We lost seven killed & four wounded among the killed was Captain Astill & Ensign South. We were informed by prisoners afterwards taken in Clark's campaign that all the Indians amounting to 25 were killed except six. He then returned to Boonesborough and the next fall being the year 1782 he volunteered on General Clark's [George Rogers Clark's] campaign under Captain Constant & Lieutenant McIntire, Crittenden was Major or Aid to General Clark. We rendezvoused at Lexington Kentucky, marched thence to the mouth of Licking where we built a Blockhouse, thence we marched to old Chillicothe, which was evacuated thence to New Chillicothe, found it in possession of the Indians, took the town & burnt it. Took several squaws & children prisoners (took some prisoners which had been made by the Indians and killed a large number of their warriors of the Shawnee & Wyandotte tribes. From New Chillicothe a party of 115 of our men under Colonel Boone, Lieutenant McIntire marched to Calaway's [Callaway's ?] town which we found in the possession of the Indians, but who retreated immediately on our arrival. We fired on them however, killed several & burnt their town & corn and returned on the same day to the main Army at New Chillicothe. A few days after he went on a detachment commanded by Colonel Ben Logan [Benjamin Logan] to the French Store which we burnt. The Indians all retreated and there was no other execution done a Negro supposed to belong to the French trader killed by a Major Whale. From the French Store we returned to the Block house at the mouth of Licking and the campaign being over Captain Constant's company returned to the neighborhood of Boonesborough each to his station. He was about six years engaged in this excursion – & border warfare against the Indians, beginning in 1778 and ending at the termination of General Clark's campaign in 1784.

He has no documentary evidence of his services.

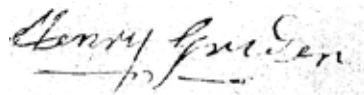
He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Witn: S/ H. Grider

S/ Beal Kelly, X his mark

I Henry Grider of Warren County in open court state that I was upon Clark's campaign the same spoken of in Mr. Kelly's declaration & that at that time I did not personally know Mr. Kelly but from a personal acquaintance now with Mr. Kelly and from his description of the campaign & certain events which happened upon it He believes he served on said campaign. Signed 24th September 1832.

S/ Henry Grider²



² [Henry Grider W8874](#)

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State of Kentucky Rockcastle County: Sct.

On this 27th day of September 1833 personally appeared before me James C Jones a Justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid Beal Kelley [sic] of said County, who being sworn according [to law] doth on his oath make the following amendment to his declaration heretofore made in order to obtain the benefit of the Provisions of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

He states that by old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot recollect the precise length of his Service, but he knows he was in the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War from the fall of the year (October, he thinks) 1778 until peace was made, so that his actual Service he knows was not less than 4 years performed before the peace of 1783. He never received any discharge in writing. Since he made his former declaration he has obtain the testimony of Lawrence Thompson, Jesse Hodges & Joseph Proctor which are here attached. He has lived since the Revolutionary [war] in Tennessee and Kentucky mostly in the latter State, and in the Counties of Clark, Madison, Warren & Rockcastle. He now lives in Rockcastle having moved from Warren since he made his original declaration. He entered the service for no particular time but he was enrolled as a Soldier to guard the frontiers of Virginia, to Spy, and to Scout, and in this capacity he served as aforesaid. He was acquainted with no officers only those whom he has mentioned. There is no clergyman living in his neighborhood from whom he can obtain the certificate required by the War Department. As in his former declaration he hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State whatever. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Beal Kelley³

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The deposition of Lawrence Thompson⁴ aged eighty-one years and very infirm taken at his own house September 13th, 1833, for the purpose herein after stated after being first duly sworn deposeth and saith, that he first became acquainted with Beal Kelly in the year 1780 in the month of October at Boonesborough Kentucky, and in the year 1782, I was with said Kelley on Clark's Campaign against the Indians. The Shawnee tribe &c. I commanded a Company in said Campaign and the said Kelley served as a private from Strodes Station [sic] under Captain John Constant. We rendezvoused at Briant's Station [Bryant's station] and my present impressions is that we were about six weeks before we were discharged. I was well acquainted with said Kelley from the year 1782 1783 and between those years he was on as stills Campaign and in Estill's defeat and in said defeat he the said Kelley lost my horse saddle bridle & saddle bags and between the years 1780 and 1783 I knew the said Kelley to be on almost every Expedition and Scout that took place between those years and was a very active and willing soldier and young man under a very good Character and further this deponent saith not

S/ Lawrence Thompson, X his mark

Also the deposition of Jesse Hodges⁵ aged 73 years of age very infirm taken at his own house in

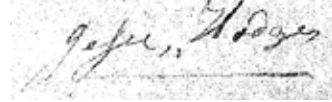
³ in the same handwriting as the document itself so consequently probably not the actual signature of the veteran

⁴ This is probably the same man as [Lawrence Thompson R10546](#) but in his pension application, he only claimed for his service as an officer in the Continental Army.

⁵ FPA S31143

Madison County Kentucky September 14th 1833 for the purpose herein after stated after being first duly sworn deposed and saith though he first became acquainted with Beal Kelley in the fall of 1778 at Boonesborough Kentucky – and served with him on Bomans Campaign in 1779 and on Clark's campaign in 1781 or thereabouts in the Virginia line, and I was acquainted with said Kelly up to the year of 1783 and do believe that he was a willing and good Soldier and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Jesse Hodges



Also the Deposition of Joseph Procter ⁶aged seventy-seven years taken at the clerk's office in Irvine Estill County Kentucky on the 18th September 1833 and after being first sworn deposed & saith that Beal Kelly came to Kentucky in the fall of 1778 and lived with this deponent in the Fort at Boonesborough and the same fall he was enrolled as a Soldier under Captain Holder and done Garrison duty, He was also stationed at Strodes Station [sic] under Captain Constant, and while there he served on Clark's campaign under Captain Constant, He also served in McGee's Station and at Estill's Station and while there he served under James Estill Captain & Samuel Estill, Lieutenant, and he continued to do Garrison duty until peace was made with the Indians and the forts were broken up – and during the time he was stationed at the different forts said Kelly served with me on Clark's campaign under Captain Constant on Bowman's Campaign I think in 1779 – also he was in Estill's defeat under Captain James Estill – I well recollect that Beal Kelly was called and considered a brave soldier, and was always ready to go upon any scouting party when he was wanting, and he must have served as a private soldier something like five years and further saith not.

S/ Joseph Procter



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State of Kentucky Rockcastle County Sct.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for said County Beal Kelly who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below. He was stationed at Boonesborough as stated in his original declaration under Captains Holder & Boone, where he stayed not less than four years in actual service continually on guard, only when he was out fighting & Scouting. He was out various tours and trips but it is impossible for him to give the precise length of any tour. In what was called Bowman's Campaign he was out not less than 2 months, when Estill was defeated, not less than 20 days, in Clark's campaign not less than 6 weeks, and was gone many trips, Scouting over the Country, once to Bryant's Station to relieve those stationed there when the Indians attacked them, He was some times set [to] Stroud's Station for a month or more some times to Constant's Station for one month or two, sometimes

⁶ [Joseph Proctor S11270](#)

⁷ signature appears to me to be in the same handwriting as the body of the document itself and consequently probably isn't the actual signature of the veteran

at Estill's Station for several weeks, but his place of residence as regular guard or soldier, was at Boonesborough from which place he was ordered to every other Station or place that it was necessary for the defense of the Country and he was in many severe Conflicts with the enemy and very narrowly escaped, so that he knows he was not less than four years in actual Service as a guard and in the field for which Service I claim a pension.

S/ Beal Kelly

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 10th of February 1834

S/ Robert Langford, JP

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State of Kentucky Rockcastle County Sct.

On this 18th day of March 1834 personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County Beal Kelly a resident of said County who being duly sworn according to law upon his oath made the following declaration as an amendment to his former declaration for a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War as stated in his original declaration under Captain Holder who he understood belonged to the Virginia line – that his Services were against the Canadians & Indians, – that it was one continual State of War, during his Service which was not less than 4 years Service before peace was made, that he was continually upon guard or in active Service in the field or after the British and Indians during the 4 years aforesaid. He states that it is utterly impossible for him to recollect the number of his Tours from the different forts or Stations or the length of all his tours. He believes his last amended declaration is as explicit as he can make it except one tour he was after the British and Indians in the year 1780 when they took Riddles Station & carried the people of the Station prisoners towards Canada, they pursued until they found the enemy was too strong & they returned to Boonesborough where they started from, having been gone not less [than] 15 days and other tour in addition to his former Statements, he served under Captain George a regular officer, this Service was chiefly on the Ohio River on board the Row Galley this was in 1782. He refers to his last amendment and states that except these last named tours, he believes the last amendment is as full as he can give it in consequence of old age and loss of memory. He moreover states that he is extremely poor and living upon Charity and believes he is as much entitled to pay for his Services as any man who served his country no longer than he did. He States that he witness whose affidavits is attached to his original declaration could not be more explicit about his services than they are stated notwithstanding they are all drawing pensions under the act of 1832 for the same Services. He states that he suffered greatly in the war and has never received anything but on approving [indecipherable word or words] and the friendship of the Public.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year last aforesaid before me

S/ John H Slaughter, JP

S/ Beal Kelley

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]