

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Barney Karren S15906

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Virginia } SS

Randolph County }

Personly appeared before me the Subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Randolph and State of Virginia on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 Barney Karren a Resident of the County of Randolph and State of Virginia aged 82 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Decleration in order to obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he Enlisted in the Service of the United States under the Following named officers and served as herein after stated that in the year 1776 the day nor month is not recollected by affiant, but he distinctly recollects that he inlisted under Captain John Nevell [sic: John Neville or Nevill] a Captain in the Virginia line. Our first march was to Fort Pitt (now Pitt Burg [sic: Pittsburgh]) at this place we were stationed as well as I recollect about one year, at the time of the expedition the Indians were in possession of this post, until our army arrived in the vicinity of the Fort where they evacuated the fort and in a few days we marched in & took possession. We made many excursions in quest of Indians and to procure provisions. On one ocation I was with others sent from the fort by watter up to Brownsville then call'd Redstone Fort, for the purpose of procuring a load of flower which we were fortunate enough to get and brought it safe to the fort in a boat. at the time of my enlistment which took place in Winchester. Andrew Waggoner was our first Lieutenant and continued so during the term which expired whilst we remained at Fort Pitt at the expiration of this my first tower, we were still at Fort Pitt. I was verbaly discharged and my Captain told us that the British had landed at New York [15 Sep 1776] and that if I would again enlist we should march to the east in order to oppose the British Army at this time I am not positive whether Andrew Waggoner was the Captain [promoted to Captain 20 Jun 1776] or whether John Nevell still commanded. this I know that Capt Nevell was promoted to Major but at what time I do not distinctly recollect. From fort Pitt we marched back to Winchester. from Winchester we marched to Lancaster in Pensylvania. from thence to Philadelphia from thence we marched to Trenton in the State of New Jersey from thence to MorrisTown, at this place our Company joined the Army and I believe that General George Washington was then with the Army. I am strongly impress'd with the belief that I saw him there I often saw him after wards in the course of my service. I have forgotten how long we lay at Morristoryn. from thence we marched to Philadelphia. here we stayed but a short time as we were often out upon excursions out to Jerman Town and in various directions through the country and was in the Battle at Jermantown [sic: Battle of Germantown, 4 Oct 1777]. On this day General [Charles] Scott & Stevenson [sic: Adam Stephen] commanded. (I am not possitive whether the latter General was call'd. Stephenson or Stevens). after this action the Marquis Delafaett [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] suspended the last named general in the command If this affiant recollects right the glory of the day was lost to the American arms by the improper conduct of Major General Stevenson, who this affiant believes was afterwards broke for his untimely retreat [see endnote]. at the time of this battle I well recollect that our troops were in high spirits and calculated fully upon the capture of the British Army at this place having marched all the night before for the purpose of surprising them. as well as affiant recollects the army was marched to the Vally Forge. This he well recollects that they were stationed at the Vally forge during the winter succeeding the Battle of Jermantown. Some short time after the Battle of Jermantown we received information that there was a boddy of Hessians not far from us but the name of the place at which they were stationed I do not recollect. this I well recollect that the night before we march'd the place that we expected to find them we had to wade through the Schuylkill River which was so deep & rapid that we were compell'd to hold to each other to prevent our being washed down, the weather being very cool and we were not permitted to build fiers to dry and warm ourselves, we suffered very much from cold & wet but we did not obtain our object as the Tories gave the Hessians notice of our

approach and they fled before our arrival. in the spring of the year [1778] after we wintered at the Valley Forge I was discharged having served out my second term of enlistment of twelve months each. From this place I returned home to Hampshire County in the State of Virginia I then concluded to leave the army having served my country two years and having also lost two brothers who fell nobly fighting for America. My brothers John and Edward both fell but in what battles I do not know as they both served in the Pennsylvania line My brother Peter Karren had also served his adopted country in the Virginia line one year. I say adopted for my Father moved to this country from Ireland to America, bringing with him five sons, four of whom was actively engaged in the Revolution in behalf of the American cause

I continued to reside in Hampshire County until we heard the news that Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] was at Yorktown. at this time we received information that General Washington had sent an invitation to his old soldiers and comrades in arms to repair to him and he would soon put an end to the conflict Many of us repaired to Romney to take into consideration what was best to be done. At this time the late Col. Edward McCarty ask'd this affiant if he would volunteer to go and aid our old commander This affiant replied to him that if he said McCarty would go that he said affiant would go also. there was soon a Company of volunteers raised and commanded by James Saflly as well as affiant recollects, we marched by the nearest & best routs from Romney in Hampshire County to the Town of York where we joined the main army commanded by General Washington. this affiant remained with the army at Yorktown until the surrender of Cornwallis and was one of the guard who marched with the prisoners to Winchester in Frederick County Virginia this affiant was detained some time to guard the said prisoners until a relief was raised when he was discharged and came home. the length of this service this affiant does not recollect. This affiant will now state the names of some of his comrades in arms whilst discharging his duty in his first & second enlistment. Andrew Lilburn was our Orderly Sergeant at Fort Pitt, Michael Brady & John Rian [probably John Ryan] served with me in my first tower in my second tower the same persons again enlisted with me and also James & John Hagarty... at one time the date of which is not recollected this affiant was engaged in guarding the Tories confined in the jail of Hampshire County Va This service the affiant believes was under the orders of General [Daniel] Morgan The time employed is not recollected, but it was until the prisoners confined could give security for their good behaviour. This affiant was attached to the 12 Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. James Wood and believes that when Captain John Nevell was promoted he was our Major; All those things transpired many years ago it is possible he may be mistaken in some particulars, but the many privations such as hunger cold and often the want of necessary clothing has made such impression on his mind that nothing but death can efface from his recollection the time he served in his last two enlistments which was two full years.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year first above written. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and thinks his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

[signed] Barney Karren

I was born in Ireland in the County of Monahan [sic: Monaghan] in the year 1753

I have no record of my age

I was living in the Town of Winchester. as soon as my two first towers ended I came to the County of Hampshire to reside where I resided some years from there I removed to the County of Randolph where I have resided ever since now about eleven years.

I enlisted twice but never received any bounty but one Bole of Toddy. I also volunteered once and served as guard to the Tories once but do not recollect how I was call'd to this service Col James Wood commanded the 12 Regiment and Major John Nevell commanded in the same regiment Andrew Waggoner was first our Lieutenant and afterward our Captain Stephen Ashby belonged to the same Regiment and was a Captain

I have often seen General Morgan during my service & several times in particular at Valley forge I also saw him in Winchester where I understood he went to take Quebeck [captured there 1 Jan 1776]

I saw General Washington a short time before the battle of Jermantown, but have no recollection of seeing him that day. I saw him often during the winter we stayed at the Valley forge. Some time after the surrender of Cornwallis I saw the General in Hampshire County

I did receive a discharge; I believe it was signed by Col Scott but am not certain. in those days I was fond of a dram and in a frolick I lost it  
Mr. John R Goff and Mr. Harnsten are two of my neighbours to whom I can refer for my veracity and their belief of my being a soldier of the Revolution and also to an affidavit of John Chenowith [John Chenoweth, pension application S18899] taken before Godfrey Hille and Acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Randolph. I also refer to Joseph Vanmeter [S16010] (if alive) of the County of Hardy  
Subscribed & sworn to this day & year first written [signed] Barney Karren

Randolph County } To Wit  
Virginia }

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said County John Chenaweth and made oath and Deposeth as Follows Viz Says that he was personally acquainted with Barney Kerns formerly of Hampshire County in Virginia but now a Resident of the County of Randolph aforesaid,. Deponant says his first acquaintence with him was in the Virginia Line and thinks that the said Barney Kerns belonged to the 12<sup>th</sup> Va. Rgt and Captain Vossey [sic: William Vause] Company, as he the Deponant belonged to the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Rgt, and that they where both Soldiers in the Revolutionary War and this deponant says that he has no Recollection of the Field officers that Commanded the 12<sup>th</sup> Regt at that Time, as the Lapse of Time has Oblitterated Them from his mind

State of Virginia } SS  
Hardy County }

Personally Appeared before me the Subscriber one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Hardy and State of Virginia, Col. Joseph Vanmeter and after being duly sworn doth upon his oath say that in the year 1777 he was personally acquainted with Barney Karren then a soldier in the Army of the United States and as this affiant Beleaves in the Company Commanded by Captain Vass [sic] in the 12 Regiment of the Virginia Line It is possible that the said Barney Karren was not in Captain Voss Company but affiant is certain that he the said Barney Karren Belonged to the said Twelfth Regiment Commanded by Col. James Wood. Affiant beleaves that the said Barney Karran served as he states in his decleration in which he Refers to him; during his acquaintance with Barney Karran he maintained a Reputable Character. I the said Justice do here by state That I have been acquainted with Col. Joseph Vanmeter for many years and Beleave his statement Entitled to Credit given under my hand & seal this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833  
Mortimer D Williams J.P.

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. On Karren's report Singleton wrote "Entitled."]

Barney Karren Alias Kerns. draws \$80—

on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1834 Karren gave the following statement of his age and service as a soldier in the War of the Revo to Wit. is a native of Ireland came to the U States when a child. dont know his age - but thinks he cant be less than ninety years old - he resided in Hampshire County at the commencement of the war, that he thinks it was in the year 1776 (he is not possitive about the year) he Enlisted in Winchester Va. under Capt John Nevil, for one year, and marched to Pittsburg pursuing the Braddock road. there was but the one company. - Served out the time at Pittsburg. at the expiration of which he reenlisted for one other year under the same Captain, who marched his company back to Winchester, thence to Lancaster & thence to Philadelphia - from there to Trenton & Morristown at the latter place joined Washingtons army which went to Pennsylvania. marched all night, got to German town just before day - where a Battle was fought. from there army went to Vally forge & remained there all winter. - he belonged to the 12<sup>th</sup> Regt. - his year expired after which he returned to Winchester Virg; - & volunteered under Capt. J Tussly[?]. marched to Yorktown. was there at the Battle. returned to Winchester with the Prissoners. continued at the garrison near Winchester all Winter - proved

his services by Joseph Vanmeter & John Chenoweth - James Camp & Bird who wrote his Declaration robbed him of all his money. took all but \$100—

Note this man can tell the names of all his messmates - officers - his account was exceeding minute - he is clearly Entitled. whether this statement agrees with his Declaration or not he was wounded at the Battle of German town - his wound was exhibited

A Copy

W. G Singleton Nov. 26, 1834

NOTE: In the dense fog at the Battle of Germantown Gen. Stephen accidently attacked the rear of the American troops of Gen. Anthony Wayne, probably costing Washington a signal victory. At a subsequent court of inquiry Stephen was found to be frequently drunk, absent, and guilty of "unofficerlike behavior." With the approval of Washington he was drummed out of service and replaced by Lafayette as commander of the division.