

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Keys (Keyes) S15907

f35VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/17/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia, Washington County

On this 24th day of December 1833 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the County of Washington aforesaid James Keys resident in the said County of Washington aged Seventy eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

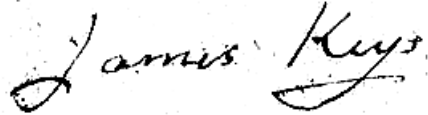
That he was born in the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia in the year 1756 and removed to the County of Washington (his present residence) in the Year 1772. In the year 1774 he volunteered as Ranger & spy on the frontiers in the Indian war with the Shawnees and served as a private for that purpose in a company commanded by Captain William Edmiston [William Edmondson] two months in the Year aforesaid – and in the year 1775 he was again ordered to march in the same service and under the same Officers and served in the same Capacity one month guarding the frontier on the Clinch & Sandy Rivers. In the year 1776 he volunteered in the month of July and entered the Company of Riflemen Commanded by Captain James Thompson and marched against the Cherokees, then at War with the White People, they had a battle with a party of them about 200 strong at the Long Island flats and defeated them, killing & wounding a great many of them; in this service he was engaged two Weeks. He was at home but a short time when the County was invaded by a strong party of Indians committing many Murders and other depredations on the frontier Settlements, he was ordered out to a party from Briant's Fort [Bryant's Fort] and joined another party from Black's Fort; they attack the Indian Camp and defeated them on the middle Fork of Holston River killing and wounding many and dispersed the rest; was engaged three days. In September the same year (1776) he was attached began to Captain William Edmiston's Company as a private and marched in a detachment under the command of Colonel William Christian against the Indians – in that service he was engaged two months. In 1777 he was appointed first Sergeant in a Company Commanded by Captain John Campbell to range and guard the Country now the County of Russell; in this service he was engaged two months __ days.

In the year 1778 the Tories had embodied themselves in the Country now known as Grayson County in Virginia & Ashe County in North Carolina, he now again volunteered and was appointed first Sergeant in Captain William Edmiston's Company and marched in a detachment commanded by Colonel William Campbell (the late General W. Campbell) against them, came up with them at a place called the "Round Meadows" -- they wounded and took many of them Prisoners & captured all their baggage; he was engaged one month in this service. In 1779 he entered as first Sergeant in Captain Aaron Lewis's Company and marched in a detachment under the Command of Col Evan Shelby to the Chickamauga Towns which they burned and drove the Indians off; he was two months in this service. In 1780 he was first Sergeant in Captain David Beaty's [sic, David Beattie's] Company of volunteers and marched in the detachment commanded by Col Wm Campbell against the British and Tories embodied in North Carolina and was in the engagement at King's Mountain [October 7, 1780] where the Army of British & Tories under the command of Furgerson [Patrick Ferguson] was defeated – he

was one of the Guard that marched the Prisoners to the Moravian Towns; he was two months in this service. In the year 1783 or 1784 he volunteered against the Cherokees; was appointed Ensign received a commission served as an Officer in Captain Bowen's company of Riflemen and marched in the detachment under the command of Col Isaac Shelby (the late Governor of Kentucky) on their march were overtaken by an uncommon deep Snow which retarded their movements – and the detachment was discharged – he was two weeks in this last service as Ensign and all his service rendered to his Country was as a volunteer Soldier. He lived on the frontiers and pretty generally engaged as a Spy & Patrol where all the efficient men were required; he never received any regular discharge. He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension except the present and that his name is not on the Roll of any State agency for Pension.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Keys



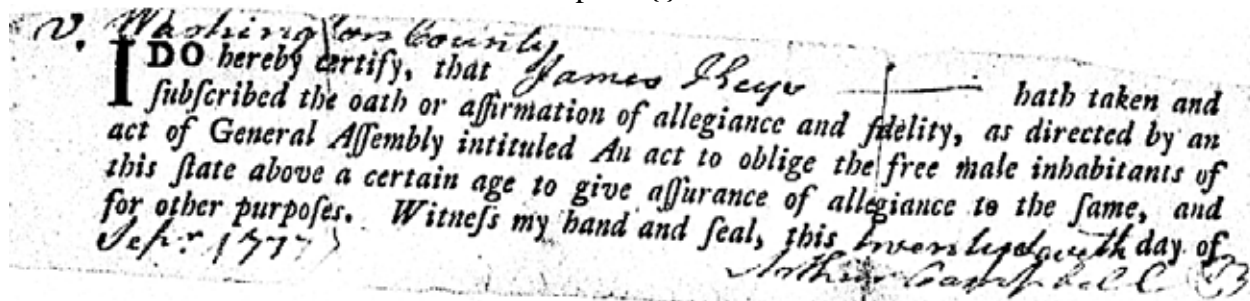
[Andrew Russell and Reuben Bradley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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V. Virginia County

I do hereby certify, that James Keys hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly entitled An act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this State above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the Same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal this 27th day of September 1777

S/ Arthur Campbell { }



[p 11]

Virginia Washington County SS

This day Captain James Vance came before the undersigned justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and state That he well recollects that Captain William Edmondson commanded a company in 1776 on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians commanded by Colonel William Christian, and he is well satisfied from conversation which he has lately had with Captain James Keys that he must have been on that expedition – The men were in service two months – This affiant recollects to have seen the said Keys on the Kings mountain expedition in the fall of 1780 – The men were generally in service over six weeks –

Sworn to and subscribed this 17th September 1833 before me

S/ John M Preston, JP

S/ James Vance¹

¹ [James Vance S7782](#)

James Vance

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Virginia Washington County to wit

This day personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County Thomas McGee and made oath that he has been Intimately acquainted with Captain James Keys for upwards of 40 years during which time he lived in the County of Washington in Virginia. In the year 1782 or 3 the affiant well remembers the said James Keys marched against the Indians and was an Ensign in Captain Arthur Bowen's Company of Riflemen the expedition was Commanded by Colonel Isaac Shelby – and remembers that an uncommon deep Snow stopped their March at Big Creek – revisions getting scarce the Commanding Officer gave up the expedition and dismissed the men – they were engaged in this service 16 days or near as memory will serve and further says not.

S/ Thomas McGee, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 29th day of October 1833

S/ Peter Minmect [?]

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Virginia Washington County SS

This day George Gamble² aged 78 years made oath before me a Justice of the Peace in the County of Washington aforesaid that he is a resident of said County and well acquainted with James Keys who is an applicant for a Pension that he was in the service of the United States with the said James Keys when he marched as an orderly Sergeant in Captain Aaron Lewis's [?]³ company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Evan Shelby in an expedition against the Chickamauga Indians – that he was at least two months in that service – That the Applicant was at least two months in service as an orderly Sergeant in Captain D. Beaties Company when he was marched against the British and Tories at the battle of Kings Mountain under the command of Colonel William Campbell – He also remembers his service in Grayson and Ash Counties against the Tories as orderly and Captain William Edmiston's company under Colonel William Campbell one month or more – The Affiant was a fellow Soldier of the Applicant and at his own house being unable to go to court and made oath to the above facts – and that he believes the said James Keys to be 77 years of age.

S/ George Gamble

George Gamble

The foregoing affidavit was sworn to and subscribed before [me] on the 13th day of November 1833 at the House of the affiant he being too infirm to attend Court.

S/ Robert Stewart

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Virginia Washington County to wit

This day personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County Joseph Wilson⁴ and made oath that he was with James Keys in an expedition against the British and

² [George Gamble S10720](#)

³ *Lewis*

⁴ There is no record of a man by this name having filed for his own pension from the Federal government based on service at King's Mountain.

Tories at King's mountain and that he recollects perfectly well that he was in the battle at King's mountain in the month of October in the year 1780 that he was an "orderly Sergeant" in Captain William Edmondson's Company in a detachment commanded by Colonel William Campbell and if his recollection serves him right in the year 1771 [sic] he was with said James Keys in an expedition against the Indians the Chickamauga towns. That he does not recollect who commanded said James Key [sic] but that he recollects perfectly well that he acted as orderly Sergeant in said expedition and that he has been well acquainted with James Keys ever since the revolutionary war and that he believes him to be an honest man and knows him to be the same man that is claiming a pension.

Sworn to before me October 25th, 1833

S/ William Buchanan

S/ Joseph Wilson, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50.77 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months and 17 days in the Virginia militia.]