

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Kersey S16435

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/19/13

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

State of Kentucky Nicholas County: Sct.

On this 26 day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John Eward Benjamin Edwards & W. J. Williams Justices of the Court of the County now sitting, John Kersey a resident of the United States in the County of Nicholas & State of Kentucky aged sixty-eight years on the 11th of March 1832, 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 June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated –

That I was born in Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia on the 11th of March 1764. I went to Kentucky in the year 1779 & about the first of September 1780 I went to Lexington Station, or Fort, and immediately after I went to Lexington Fort I think in the month of September 1780 I was enrolled in the militia State's Service, in Captain Robert Patterson's Company, William McConnell was his Lieutenant, in Colonel Daniel Boone's Regiment & Levi Todd was Major in Boone's Regiment, under those officers I rendered services as a soldier and was often called out on scouting parties, until the spring of 1781 periods the Indians early in the spring of 1781 attacked McConnell's Fort and wounded one man, at Lexington we were put to repairing the Fort, & in the afternoon of the same day the Indians killed John Wymer: and Henry McDaniel killed an Indian, all of which I saw, within 40 rods of the Fort we took up arms & ran to the place as soon as we could but before we got there the Indians scalped the white man & ran off. After that our country was frequently invaded, in the month of April, May, part of June, I served a tour of duty of two months on the Kentucky River at a place then called Leestown, & was there on fatigue every day & while at Leestown the Indians killed & scalped two of our men and made their escape. I then returned to Lexington & was kept in constant service, on scouting parties & at different forts through the year 1781 and 1782, and about the middle of August 1782, I was under the command of Captain William McConnell & was of 16 that got into Bryan's Fort [Bryant's Fort], at Bryan's Station [Bryant's station] at the time Simon Girty with 500 Indians besieged the Fort, our party & with what was in the Fort amounted to a little upwards of 30 men. This siege was a few days before what was called the Blue Lick the feet at Licking River – After that General George Rogers Clark sent out orders for all able bodied men, both officers & soldiers to be ready to march that fall against the Indians. And on the first day of November 1782 we set out & marched under the command of Captain McConnell, who was under the command of General Clark, to the Shawnee towns on the big Miami River, we burned five towns, took eight prisoners & a few scalps – at the towns the Indians wounded Captain

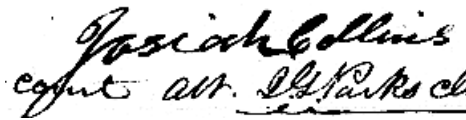
McCracken & on our return we buried him on the Northwest bank of the Ohio River & returned to Lexington Fort, on the last day of November 1782, I commenced the service of the United States in the month of September 1780 & quit the service on the last day of November 1782, except after that I was repeatedly called out to go against the Indians & served tours of duty for a year or two afterwards, when I entered the service I volunteered, I knew General Clark who commanded the Illinois Regiment of Regular soldiers. General Clark commanded at the falls of Ohio, at the Iron Banks & at Illinois. I have no documentary evidence of my services and I know of no person but Josiah Collins whose testimony I can procure to prove the services.

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 the agency of any state –
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Kersey, X his mark

Josiah Collins he 75 years the 2nd of May 1832 was introduced as a witness in open Court and being first duly sworn according to law says that he was present when John Kersey wrote his Declaration heard it read, he says that the statements contained in said declaration are true, that he was in the service & served with said Kersey under the same officers and at the same time. And further that John Kersey did render the service stated in his declaration.

S/ Josiah Collins

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josiah Collins" followed by "capt. att. D. Parks cl." on a separate line.

[p 7: On May 27, 1837 in Boone County Indiana, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Indiana agency stating that he had moved to Indiana to be where his children reside. His children are not named in this document. One Benjamin Kersey gave testimony regarding his efforts to assist John Kersey in transferring his pension payment but the relationship, if any, between John and Benjamin is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]