

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Knox S16439

f31DEL

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/17/14

[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 Shelby County Sct.

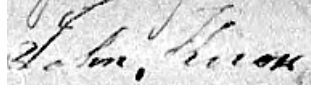
On this ___ day of September in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Shelby composed of the following Justices of the peace to wit William Shanks, James C Burnett and Mark Hardin now sitting as a court John Knox a resident of the County of Shelby State of Kentucky aged Seventy-three years 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, or the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed 15th day of May 1828. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 under Captain Rowan and served in (he thinks) the First Regiment of the Continental line under the following named officers. That he was drafted for the Term of six months in the State of Delaware, Sussex County some short time before the declaration of Independence, the precise time not recollected. That when he was drafted his Captain's name he does not recollect, because he was soon killed and his Sergeant Rowan was promoted to Captain in the place of the one who was killed, that he was in no battle during this tour of six months, that this tour of duty expired at Brandywine where the battle was afterwards fought. In the year 1776 at Brandywine he enlisted as a regular Soldier for and during the war at the time of his enlistment he was rising his Seventeenth year of his age, he does not recollect the precise month of that year, that when he enlisted it was under Captain Rowan, that on the day he enlisted his Captain Rowan was enlisted by a man the name of whom not recollected but that Rowan was shortly afterwards promoted to Captain and was his Captain throughout his whole tour of duty during the war. That the first Regiment to which he belonged after he enlisted was that of Colonel William Washington, he thinks the first Regiment that he marched from Brandywine to Philadelphia after having wintered there, he marched to or took water to Charlestown [Charlestown South Carolina] together with Colonel Washington's Regiment, that he landed at Charlestown and joined General Gates [Horatio Gates] about three miles from Town. That from this place they marched five miles the other side of Camden, Camden being five miles from Charlestown, that they lay there some time in the meantime Charlestown was taken by Cornwallis, that sometime after the taking of Charlestown by Cornwallis he marched to meet General Gates, that they met and there entered into the engagement, that in this battle [presumably the veteran is making reference to the first Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] the ammunition and all the cannon, baggage wagons & were taken by Lord Cornwallis, that in this engagement General Sumpter [presumably Thomas Sumter] was a Commander, General Buford [presumably Abraham Buford] was also a Commander, that after this defeat the next day General Sumter was defeated [presumably a

reference to the Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] by Colonel Wallace [sic Banastre Tarleton commanded that the British troops at the battle of Fishing Creek] in South Carolina. That from this place & defeat the remnant of the Army rendezvoused at Charlotte in North Carolina from there to Salisbury he recollects that his Captain Rowan & Colonel Washington was among those that remained unhurt and were at Charlotte, that they lay at this point until General Greene [Nathanael Greene] arrived and took command of the remnant of Gates' Army of Regulars and several Regiments of Virginia & North Carolina Militia. That sometime early in 1781 there was a Company of Tories of about three hundred under the command of Colonel Ridgely [Henry Rugeley] at which Ridgeleys Mill [Rugeley's Mill, December 4, 1780] in South Carolina, that Colonel Washington's Regiment attacked them and took them & about two hundred & fifty wagons loaded with flour for Cornwallis' Army, that he said Knox was one of the Army that took them and set fire to the mill, the provisions were sent away where he does not know, that on this occasion Colonel Washington when about to make the attack on the Tories, planted the trunk of a Pine Tree resembling a cannon and then demanded a surrender of the fabrication which was done without the loss of blood or the fire of a gun. – That from this place they marched in the direction of Guilford Courthouse [March 15, 1781] that they there had an engagement with Lord Cornwallis for the space of three hours and upwards, that the American Army retreated to Reedy fork about three miles from Guilford Courthouse, from this place to Speedwell Iron works ten miles distant from said Courthouse, there they remained all night, the next day a party went back to bury the dead, that he was here wounded by a sword striking him over the head and cutting to the skull bone over the left eye which occasioned a running sore just over the left eye for upwards of twenty years last past, that he was also wounded in the left eye [sic, leg?] by a bullet shot which is in his thigh at this moment, that his horse was killed from under him on this occasion, that from the time of his enlistment as aforesaid until this time and during all the time he was a mounted horseman of Captain Rowan's Company. That from Guilford Court house he marched in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis, who was retreating towards Virginia as far as Ramsey's Mills on deep River, when General Greene determined to return to the South. That he was in several little engagements the place is not now recollected, that he was still in the [the top of the next page is compromised and part of the text is missing] and in Colonel Washington's Regiment that he was at the Siege of York in 1781 where he saw General Lafayette for the first time, General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] was at the siege, he saw General Cornwallis surrender his sword to General Lafayette after having offered it to Washington, that from this place he was in a short time after the engagement discharge from the service by Captain Rowan, the Commandant of a company of horse by and under the order of General Greene and Colonel William Washington both of whom were on the ground at the time of said discharge and Captain Rowan's name was signed to said discharge. That he said John Knox two years before the battle of York Town was appointed Orderly or First Sergeant and acted in Captain Rowan's Company until his discharge in 1781, that the aforesaid discharge recited and expressed that he was Orderly or First Sergeant of said Company, that he had said discharge in South Carolina where he afterwards lived in the burning of his house it was among his other papers & things burnt. That he faithfully served during the whole war of the Revolution, from an before the Declaration of Independence until 1781, that he never saw home until 1781 from the time he was drafted for 6 months tour as aforesaid, that he never received one cent of pay but one twenty-five cent piece. That he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the aforesaid services. That he does not know of any witness living by whom he can prove his services aforesaid. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity

except the present and declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/John Knox

A small, rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John Knox".

[p 16]

The affidavit of Barnard Clements¹ taken on the first day of October 1833

Deponent being now in the 75th year of his age deposeth & saith that he was a revolutionary soldier, that he entered the Service in 1776 as such, in Colonel Isaac Reed's Company and belonged to Colonel William Washington's Regiment, that while in the service aforesaid, he was acquainted with John Knox who was a private in Colonel Washington's Regiment and in Captain Rowan's Company – Captain Rowan did not command said company long – some other came to the command, but who he cannot recollect, but he is certain that said Knox was in the Regiment of Colonel Washington's, that he did not belong to the same company to which said affiant belonged but this affiant, states that he saw him in the service in the year 1776 frequently he saw him at Hillsboro, he saw him at Rugeley's Mills, when the Mills was taken by putting the trunk of a Pine on a stump & blacking the same to resemble a cannon, he saw him in the battle of Guilford Courthouse, and saw him on divers other occasions but the time having been so long, he cannot at this distant day recollect distinctly the times & places, affiant states that the battle of Guilford was in March 1781, to the best of his recollection, he states that he has but a faint recollection but is of opinion that said Knox was wounded and taken off the field as such at Guilford, he states that said Knox was in the service from sometime in the fall of 1776, up to the battle of Guilford, but affiant does not recollect him after that time in the service, he states he has seen him but seldom cents, that he now or sometimes cents lived in Shelby County Kentucky – further saith not.

S/ Barnard Clements, X his mark

[Attested in Franklin County Kentucky October 1, 1833]

[p 4: in a letter dated January 18, 1834 sent from Woodford by E. Knox [Elijah Knox], the correspondent refers to the veteran as "my father".]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for his service during the revolution.]

¹ sic, [Bernard Clemons \(Clements\) W9792](#)