

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew Keys S1681

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/21/13

[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 Tennessee Knox County: Circuit Court for said County at August Sessions 1832


On this 18th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powell one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts in and for the state of Tennessee being courts of record at a Court for the County of Knox, now sitting, Matthew Keys a resident of said County and State aged nearly seventy-two 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. That he was born in Chesterfield County in the State of Virginia on the 5th day of February 1761 where he continued to reside until sometime about the first of May 1780, when he was drafted as a private to serve for a tour of six months in the Army of the United States. Applicant states that his company rendezvoused at Chesterfield Courthouse, and he was enrolled in a company commanded by Captain Archibald Waltens [Archibald Walthal or Walthall] and Lieutenant __ Hill¹ – he states that Major Conway [probably Henry Conway] commanded his Battalion and that Colonel Ralph Falkner [Ralph Faulkner] had the command of his Regiment – he states that his company marched from Chesterfield Court house to Petersburg Virginia where it remained until the Companies from several other counties had collected. Applicant states that after remaining at Petersburg about ten days his Company with several others marched under the command of some superior officers not now recollected, but he believes neither his said Major or Colonel had overtaken them, to Hillsboro North Carolina – At Hillsboro applicant states they remained sometime and that Major Conway and Colonel Faulkner were in command over him, he also states that at Hillsborough is the first place where he had met General Stephens [Edward Stevens], who had the command from that place, of the Virginia Brigade – At Hillsborough applicant states that General Gates [Horatio Gates] first came to his Brigade – he recollects distinctly that when he first arrived there, there was much firing of Cannon, and other evidences of rejoicing. Before applicant reached Hillsboro the Continental Army had marched to a place called Cox's Ford on Deep River, under the command of Baron De Kalb. A few days after General Gates arrived at Hillsboro, applicant states that he was detailed from his company for the purpose of forming the life guard to General Gates, and after remaining a few days at Hillsboro General Gates attended by his life guard, of which applicant was one, marched on to Deep River, where he came up with the Continental Army under De Kalb – on reaching which place there was also much firing of cannon and other demonstrations of joy. Applicant states that the life guard, of which he was one, was commanded by a Captain

¹ Probably either John Hill or William Hill, both of whom were subaltern officers in the Chesterfield County militia

Jones – that after their arrival at Deep River they were no longer detained as a life guard, but were continued under the command of the said Captain Jones. That after remaining at Deep River, applicant thinks, 2 or 3 weeks or perhaps longer, the whole Continental Army together with the militia who had collected there, marched on to Rugeley's mill in South Carolina – here the Army encamped a few days and while there the Virginia Brigade from which applicant had been detailed at Hillsboro, came up, commanded by General Stephens. After the arrival of General Stephens, applicant was put back into his former place, and the whole company who had acted as the lifeguard of General Gates from Hillsboro to Deep River were disbanded and took their place in their respective companies and under their own commanders. Applicant states that on the 15th of August about 8:00 o'clock PM the Army were ordered to march, with the view of surprising the British at Campden [Camden] – after marching till about midnight, the rear [sic] of the American Army came in contact with the rear of the British Army, and after a skirmish of sometime the British Army drove off and the American Army lay on their arms all night – Early on the morning of the 16th the armies met and fought until the disastrous retreat of the militia took place. Applicant states that after firing a few rounds he, partaking of the common panic, retreated with his fellows, and did not again meet his company in an organized state until he arrived at New Garden meeting-house in Guilford County North Carolina – here applicant's Company met and were organized under their own officers and under the command of the said Colonel Falkner and perhaps some other superior officers, they marched within a few miles of Guilford Courthouse and encamped a short time, and then marched to Comfort-old-iron works, and remained a few days – After this we marched about and about for the purpose of suppressing the Tories, and procuring the means of subsistence until the last day of October when applicant states he was honorably discharged, he thinks about twenty miles from Hillsboro, and returned home. Applicant states that he got a written discharge from his Captain, but he has lost it not thinking it would be of any value. Applicant states that he was drafted for a tour of six months and served out his full time in the Revolutionary Army. That he lived in Chesterfield County Virginia all the time of the Revolutionary War and until sometime in the year 1795 when he moved up to Franklin County Virginia where he lived until the year 1811 when he moved to Knox County Tennessee, where he has resided ever since. Applicant states that his age was recorded in his Father's Bible which he recollects to have seen. Applicant states that he has not at this time any documentary evidence whatever of his service – nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. Applicant hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 18th day of August 1832
S/ Wm Swan, Clk.

S/ Matthew Keys



[Martin B Carter, JP, and Luke Lea gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

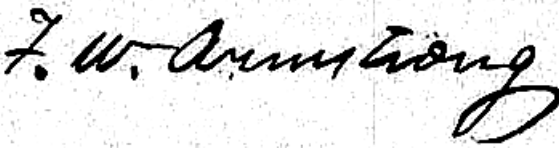
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State of Tennessee Knox County: I Francis W Armstrong formerly a resident of Knox County Tennessee do hereby certify that many years ago Matthew Keys who signed the above declaration lived with my Mother & Brother in said County, and from his declarations there and the general belief of the neighbors, I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that he was a

soldier of the Revolutionary Or as he has above stated.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court did 20th day of August 1832
S/ Wm Swan, Clk.

S/ F. W. Armstrong

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "F. W. Armstrong". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

[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.]