

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Keys S18070

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected]

State of Virginia } Towit

Harrison County }

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before me John Davisson a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Harrison in Virginia William Keys aged seventy six years the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April Last who being first duly sworn according to Law does on his oath make the following statement - In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 - That He was Born in Prince William County in Virginia and while so a resident, He served as volunteer to guard the potomac against the agressions of the English. He does not remember the dates - But thinks it was about or shortly after the commencement of the Revolutionary War. The Burning of Brents House situate on the Bank of s'd River on the Virginia side also Burning and taking watter crafts and some injuries committed on land excited considerable alarm in the adjoining neighbourhoods. The people volunteered at their own expense to guard the river and prevent further damages. The volunteers served in turns of from six to ten days each tour he does not remember the number of tours he served but thinks four or five. The first he served under Charles Galihue[?] Capt'n John Hedge Lieut Dan'l Tilile[?] Ensign - He afterwards served under John Hedges Captain, Robbert Hedges [sic: Robert Hedges, pension application W11327] Lieutenant Daniel Tibbs Ensign He believes that had not the river have been guarded as as above stated that the English would have committed great destruction in propperty - He further states that in the month of September 1777 that his Father William Keys a resident of the said County of Prince William in Virginia was drafted to serve a private soldier and that he served as a substitute in the place of his Father under John Hedges Captain Peter Evans Lieutenant Price Posey Ensign the Company in which he served together with three other Militia Companys commanded by Valentine Peyton, John Britt and Hugh Brent Captains rendevoused at the Red House in the s'd County of Prince William - Marched from thence under the command of Col. Jesse Ewell Major James Ewel and John Lawson adjutant through Frederick Town Little York and Lancaster and joined the army under General Washington then encamped near Philadelphia. The English had taken possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777] shortly before or about the time Col Ewel's ridgetment joined the army. No engagements during this term of service except some skirmishing between the English troop and Potters [possibly James Potter's] Brigade, the Militia under Col Ewel's command were discharged at Potters brigade several days after their time had expired the only movements of the American Army was from the encampment to another drawing near to Philadelphia. He also states that he was drafted and served three months a private under the command of Valentine Peyton Captain Thomas Sandford Lieutenant, William Has Ensign that the Company to which he was attached and three other commanded by Captains Sandford - Charles Little, the other Captain not remembered rendevoused at Dumfries in s'd Prince William County and marched from thence under the command of Major Dennis Ramsey and John Piper Adjutant, through Fredericksburg to Wilmington and joined the forces under the command of General [George] Weedon. Made frequent movements up and down s'd river from Richmond to the mouth, during the term of service a small number of English came up to Wms burg [Williamsburg] in the night a few shots were fired on each side one man killed and three wounded the English then retreated without any loss known on their part. on their retreat they took about twenty American prisoners (while they (the Americans) were crossing the river among whom were Charles Atwell Ensign and James Denial Ensign these were the only ocurances that he remembers of any importance on the James River during his term of service He was discharge at Richmond in the latter part of May or early in June - the year not remembered but thinks it was the same year of Cornwallis's surrender at York Town [19 Oct 1781] He states that he never received a written discharge and believes the militia did not receive written discharges as they were classed and called out by turns - He states that he continued to reside in the County of

Prince William untill the year 1819 in which year he moved to Harrison County in Virginia where he has ever since resided — He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on any pension role of the agency of any state - Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S'd Wm Keys believes he served in all upwards of seven months  
William hisXmark Keys  
[The Clerk's certification stated that "from bodily Infirmities, He is Labouring under that He cannot attend the Court of this County."]

Prince Wm. County; to wit

This day came before me Geo. Weedon a Justice of the peace of the County aforesaid, William Harden, and made oath that in the year 1781 He served as a Militia soldier three months under the command of Capt. Valentine Peyton That he well knew William Keys who served at the same time under the same officers. That they marched from the aforesaid County to Williamsburgh, in the state of Virginia & from thence to several other stations & finally to Richmond in the aforesaid State where the term of service expired. That the said Wm. Keys conducted himself as a Dutiful soldier & worthy citizen, & further this deponent saith that the major commandant was Mr. Dennis Ramsey.

Given under my hand this 26<sup>th</sup> January 1833

I do Certify that in the year 1777 William Keys who is well known to me, served as a Militia soldier three months chiefly under the command of Capt. Valentine Peyton, That the company of which myself was one & the s'd Keys marched from Prince William into the State of Pennsylvania, thence to Brandywine the Head quarters of General Washington where the term of service expired. That the said William Keys during the service [illegible word] himself as a Dutiful soldier and an honest and respectable Citizen, That the Colonel commanding the Regiment was Jesse Ewell & Further saith not  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 1833  
[signed] William Copin

NOTE: On 24 June 1833 Robert McWilliams and David Wolf deposed that at the time of the death of William Keys his widow, Elizabeth Keys, was living in Harrison County.