

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Keele S1977

Transcribed by Will Graves

f21NC/VA

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[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.]

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State of Tennessee, Bedford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of said County

On this day personally appeared in open court now sitting before the Justices presiding therein Richard Keele a resident citizen of Rutherford County in the state of Tennessee about 74 years who being 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 7, 1832.

That he thinks in the spring of the year 1776 he entered in a company of Rangers to guard the frontiers of Virginia. That it was in Henry County in Virginia where he enlisted. That he marched soon afterwards to the frontiers under his Captain James Lyon. That after serving out his time he got a discharge (which discharge accompanies this his declaration) from P. Hartson [sic, Peter Harston] who had taken the command, James Lyons the Captain under whom he first enlisted having resigned. That afterwards he marched and removed to the frontiers of North Carolina on Nolichucky River. That soon after the Tories and British penetrating into the country, he joined a volunteer company under Samuel Williams at Washington County. That they joined the volunteers under Col. Sevier [John Sevier] & was in the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] when Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was taken. That he served he thinks at least twelve months.

He further states that he has no documentary testimony except what accompanies this his declaration. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes all & every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll or agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jas. McKissick, Clk

S/ Richard Keele, X his mark

[John Rushing, a clergyman, and Theo F. Bradford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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This is to Certifie that Richard Keel Served
As a Good Soldier in my Company
and agreeable to order are Discharged
the 19 Day of July 1777.

P. Harston

This is to Certifie that Richard Keele served
As a good Soldier in my Company
and a pleasure to order his Discharge
the 19 Day of July 1777
P. Marston

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State of Tennessee Bedford County

Personally appeared before me William Galbreath a Justice of the Peace for said County Richard Keele, who being duly sworn deposed & saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades: (viz.) to the best of his recollection he entered the service in the spring of 1776 and served as a private Soldier as a Ranger until the time of his discharge (which accompanies his declaration) but during the time he was suffered to go home to recruit but returned and that he was in that service eleven months, and that he served one month as a volunteer private under the officers named in his declaration in the expedition in which Ferguson was taken in all making twelve months for which he claims a pension; -- He also swears that at the time he made his declaration he was not aware that it would make any difference in what County he made his declaration, That it was but a short time before he made said declaration that he removed into Rutherford County in which he now resides, and that he is poor & lives with one of his sons whose house is not more than half mile from the Bedford County line, that the majority of his friends & acquaintances live in Bedford where he also lived 16 or 17 years previous to his removal and to Rutherford.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 11th February 1833

S/ W. Galbreath, JP

S/ Richard Keele, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the North Carolina and Virginia militias for 12 months.]