

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Kester S2690

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Harrison County }

On the 21 day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Wm. Martin John Reynolds Wm. A Rogers Benj. Basil & Joseph Johnson the court of Harrison County now sitting Joseph Kester a resident of Harrison County and State of Virginia aged 79 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 resided at a place called Brocks Gap [in Rockingham County] in the State of Virginia That sometime in 1780 he entered the service as a substitute for Conrad Kester, in a company under the command of the following named officers Col. Nalls [sic: William Nall or Nalle] Maj'r. [Gawen] Hamilton Capt. George Riddle [sic: George Ruddle] That he marched from thence to Richmond thence to Edmond Hill where he was discharged having served three months

Sometime in the year 1781 the month not recollected he volunteered in a company under the command of Capt. George Huston which was attached under the command of Col. Benjamin Harris [sic: Benjamin Harrison]. That they marched from Brocks Gap to Richmond, Thence to Hot Water near Williamsburg having understood that the enemy had taken possession of some Cattle belonging to the Americans the Regt. to which he belonged was detailed and sent in pursuit of them they overtook the enemy of about four hundred in number, an engagement took place [Battle of Hot Water Plantation, 26 Jun] which continued about two hours in which he thinks seventy or eighty of the enemy fell the American loss was very inconsiderable a few days after was detailed with about 400 men and placed on the road near to Old JamesTown to cover the retreat of the Americans a battle was fought at James Town under the command of Generals Wane & Millenburgh [sic: Anthony Wayne and Peter Muhlenberg; Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul] the Americans did retreat by the place where he was stationed and the company to which he belonged joined in the retreat and marched in the night to the main army From thence he marched down the river near to Portsmouth From there they returned to Petersburg where he was discharged having served 6 months and 20 days he obtained his discharge about two weeks previous to the surrender of Corn Wallace [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct] he did not receive a written discharge nor was it usual among the militia

That he removed from Brocks Gap to Harrison County where he now resides he is acquainted with Jesse Lowther, John Huff, Samuel Clemens, William Ward and various others in the neighborhood where he resides to whom reference may be had That he has no documentary evidence nor knows of no one by which he can prove the above services. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 the day and year aforesaid
Sam'l. Kimble JP
Joseph hisXmark Kester

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Harrison, Lewis, and other counties in present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Joseph Kester (draws \$30.) States that he is in his 82 year of age Native of Pennsylvania. Settled in Brocks Gap when nine years old - during the R. War. Cant say in what year, but before Cornwallis was defeated - he went a substitute for 3 months in the place of Conrad Kester - Marched from augusty [sic: Augusta] County under Capt. George Reddell to Richmond and [two illegible words] watching the movements of the British army. served out the time & returned home. Shortly after he returned home was drafted for a 3 months tour and marched under Capt. George Huston upon some plan to Richmond, Portsmouth, Williamsburg and all through that country - there were several companies in this expedition under Col. Benja. Harris - after this

tour of 3 mo. was out he served 20 days under the same officers. - the Service of the Regt. was required for that length of time. they agreed to stay and did stay until the 20 days expired - and were then discharged. at the time of this discharge Cornwallis was penned up at York town & shortly thereafter was captured - this comprises all his service in which he was a private -

Col. Joseph Johnson to whom he made the same statement in substance he now makes wrote his Declaration - if it claims for other or further services than he details it is incorrect and he has been imposed upon - Johnson got \$20.

In Witness that this statement is true I hereto subscribe my name this 16th July 1834

Witness

Joseph hisXmark Kester

N. Goff [pension agent at Clarksburg]

Note - Kester has been sued.

W. G Singleton Nov. 1834

[On the cover of the report in Singleton's handwriting:] "Fraud. this man has given his bond with good security - and he and his security has confessed Judgment for the amount with interest and cost W. GS."

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Virginia } SS.

Harrison County }

On this the 18th day of May 1835 personally appeared, in open Court, before the justices of the County Court of Harrison Count, now sitting, Joseph Kester, a resident of said County, aged Eighty two years & upwards, 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 the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, Viz - That he was born in pennsylvania and moved to Virginia, when nine years old, and settled at Brocks Gap. That during the Revolutionary War (cant recollect the year), but before Lord Cornwallis' defeat, he went into service as a substitute for Coonrod Kester and served as such a tour of three months during said tour he marched from Augusta County Va under Capt George Riddle (dont recollect the names of the other officers) (Hall was Colonel) to Richmond and from thence below Richmond watching the movements of the Brittish, went to a creek call'd hot water and Edmunds hills - at this place stayed some time, served out the tour of three months above mentioned and returned home - shortly after, he returned home was drafted for a tour of three months and marched to Richmond, Portsmouth, and Williamsburg, and all through these counties and served out his tour. George Husten was his Captain, Benjamin Harris his Colonel. after the expiration of the last mentioned tour of service, he served a tour of twenty days under the same officers, this service being required for that length of time after their term of three months had expired. at this time Cornwallis was at York Town, and shortly after was captured. he received a discharge but has lost or mislaid it. the above 6 months and 20 days is all the service he done during the revolutionary war. he was a private in all his service - he has a record of his age - he has lived in Harrison County about forty eight years where he now lives. he came from Brock Gap to this County - that he does not receive a pension, nor does he claim any but one under the act of 7th June 1835

Sworn and subscribed in open court this 18th day of May 1835

Coonrod [sic] hisXmark Kester

We John Hoff and John C. Lowther, residing in the neighborhood of the above named Joseph Kester, do hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with the said Joseph Kester, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe he now is eighty two years old, that he is reputed, and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that belief [signed] John Hoff [signed] John C Lowther

Clarksburg May 21st 1835

J L. Edwards }

Com'r of Pensions }

Sir I enclose your a new declaration made out for Coonrod Kester setting foarth Revolutionary Servises to the amt of 6 Months & 20= I think he drew \$30 pr annum heretofor, = I have no doubt but that his statement her given is correct, - he says this statement is the same

he gave his former agent, &c = it will I think correspond with Mr Singletons report, - he is a correct old man,=

He has acknowledged judgement for all the money he had drawn on his former pension certificate, which certificate & returned some time ago to your department - should he now be placed on the pension Roll, will it not be proper, for the Secretary of the Treas'y to order said Judgement, to be credited for the actual am't he should have drawn

Yours Resp'ly
Nathan Goff

War Department Pension Office June 5th 1835

Sir I have examined the case of Joseph Kester. His name cannot be restored to the pension roll, unless Mr Singleton will make a favorable report in his case

I am Respectfully Your Ob Servt J L. Edwards

[On the same page in Singleton's handwriting:]

from a personal examination of the case of Joseph Kester when engaged in that business last summer - I am well satisfied that he was in actual service six months & twenty days during the war of the Revolution - for particulars I refer the Com'r of Pensions to my report in Kesters case. I will add that when Kester was informed that he was drawing too much he promptly gave his bond with security for the whole amount drawn including Interest - upon which bond a suit was instituted and Judgment has been obtained

Nathan Goff Esq
Clarksburg Virginia

W. G Singleton
US. Dist Atty.
June 22, 1835

NOTES:

Pensions to privates were paid in proportion to two-years service up to a maximum of \$80 per year. Kester's service of 203 days therefore earned a pension of \$22.22 per year instead of the \$30.00 originally awarded. Kester had collected for three years, was charged for the overpayment plus 12.8% interest, plus \$25.97 for the cost of the suit.

A letter in the file of Samuel Harbert (S15447) by his heirs' attorney includes the following: "Among those against whom the Government obtained Verdicts for the sum paid them, were, John Waggoner [S7824], Jacob Hyre [W7856], Joseph Kester and Aaron Holbert [S18028], and if I am correctly informed by the heirs of the soldiers, they were all subsequently restored to the Pension roll."

On 27 Sep 1837 Kester applied to have his pension transferred to Delaware County OH where he had moved in order to reside with his children.