

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Kennedy S31185

f35NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/30/09 & rev'd 4/7/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Ky [Kentucky], Garrard County: Sct.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 General Thomas Kennedy aged near 70 resident of County of Garrard, personally appeared in open Court, it being a court of Record, held in and for the County aforesaid, 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 of the seventh of June 1832.

That he entered the U. States Service in the War of the Revolution in the County of Burke in the State of North Carolina (he believes early in the year 1775, but he cannot undertake to state the time with precision) as a volunteer, and was appointed a Captain of the mounted men, and was attached to Colonel Christopher Bateman's [Christopher Beekman's] Regiment.

That he served out the term of his engagement which was three months – that Joseph White was his Major. That immediately he again volunteered for the same period of time, served in the same Regiment and in the same capacity, of Captain under the same officers, and was often engaged in skirmishes against the Tories in the State of North Carolina. That shortly after the expiration of his latter engagement, he again volunteered for three months under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in the aforesaid State of North Carolina, and marched immediately against Wilmington then in the possession of the British, that he was then a Captain of Dragoons, and was the first officer who entered the town, which being abandoned by the enemy [the British evacuated Wilmington in November 1781] General Rutherford, in a few days thereafter, came up and took possession of it. That he & his company were regularly discharged at Wilmington, after faithfully serving out the term of their engagement, and upon their return home, he and most of his men are taken prisoners by Colonel Fannan [sic, David Fanning] and Col. Elrod [John Elrod] of the British Army. Col. Elrod was a Tory Colonel. That he was robbed of what little money he had, and his watch, and his commission of Captaincy, and then paroled. That in the Spring following, the year he does not remember, he was exchanged and again engaged in service as a Captain of mounted men, under General Charles McDowell in the State of North Carolina, and for six months, and served out the full period of his engagement. That he marched through the state of North Carolina and South Carolina and also in a part of Georgia, and had very as engagements with the British & Tories.

He was at the battle of Ramsour's Mills [June 20, 1780]<sup>1</sup> in North Carolina, and was a Captain of a company & had 17 men killed and wounded, was wounded himself in the leg by a rifle ball. Our party was commanded by Major Rutherford [James Rutherford], son of General Rutherford, and the British and Tories were commanded by Colonels Johnson & Moore [John

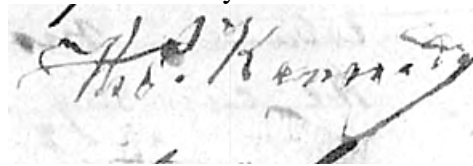
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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)

Moore]. Our party were [sic] victorious, after sustaining a heavy loss. After the expiration of this period of service, aforesaid, he again volunteered and was again a Captain attached to the same Brigade, and commanded by General McDowell, entered for six months and served out the time faithfully. He does not pretend to recollect dates with accuracy though he can establish most of his service by living witnesses. He can say however from the first day of his entering into service, until long after the battle of Kings Mountain, he was very constantly engaged in serving his Country. He was in the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780],<sup>2</sup> and commanded as a Captain and was attached to the division under Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] during the battle. He was also in the battle at [the] head of Cane Creek [September 12, 1780]<sup>3</sup> in North Carolina against the British & Tories commanded by Colonel Dunlap [sic, Captain James Dunlap commanded an advance party of the forces under the command of Patrick Ferguson: James Dunlap was a Captain in the Kings American Regiment], Captain of the Queens Rangers (so-called) and being the oldest officer left, he commanded the Americans on that day and was successful in the action. This last engagement took place before the battle of Kings Mountain, and during the period of his last six months served before spoken of, under General Charles McDowell. He was also in the engagement at Hampton's in South Carolina under General C. McDowell, and commanded as a Captain where we were again victorious. He believes this was in his last six months engagement.

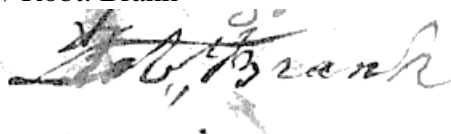
He hereby relinquishes all claims whatever to a provision [sic, pension] or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or of the U. States.

S/ Thos. Kennedy



I, Robert Brank<sup>4</sup> of the County of Garrard State of Kentucky, do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with General Thomas Kennedy since he was a boy, that we went to school together, was raised together in the County of Burke in North Carolina, served together mostly in the Revolutionary War, have lived neighbors since we left North Carolina, in the state of Kentucky near fifty years, have rehearsed the incidences of the War of the Revolution together hundreds of times. That he has a personal knowledge of his, the applicant's, service as a Captain in every instance which he has mentioned but the one in which he states to have served when he went to Wilmington N. C. but he always understood and never heard it contradicted by any one that the applicant did serve in that instance as a Captain. He will further add that the applicant was a valuable persevering patriotic man of great energy and a brave soldier and rendered distinguishing service to the cause of his country in the Revolutionary Struggle.

S/ Robt. Brank



General Benjamin Letcher made oath in open Court that he has known the applicant for upwards of forty years. That his services as an officer and as a soldier have uniformly been spoken of in-

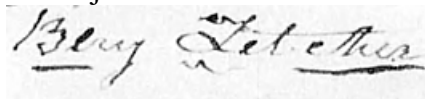
<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cane\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cane_creek.html)

<sup>4</sup> [Robert Brank S30893](#)

high terms of high commendation by everyone, that he has heard conversed upon the subject since his acquaintance with him. That he has often heard Governor Shelby [Isaac Shelby] state that the applicant was a Captain at the battle of Kings Mountain and distinguished himself in the action. He always heard the same from common reputation. He has also known Robert Brank the witness for near about the same period, and he can certify that he is a man of irreproachable character of high standing, for integrity and truth -- no one more so in the State.

S/ Benj. Letcher



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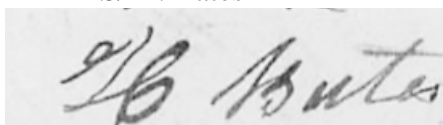
Kentucky Garrard County

Humphrey Bates<sup>5</sup> this day made oath before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County of aforesaid that he was well acquainted with General Thomas Kennedy now of Garrard County Kentucky, that he knew him between the years 1776 & 1782 in Burke County North Carolina -- that in the year 1780 said Kennedy commanded a company of Militia at the Battle of Kings Mountain -- said Kennedy also as Captain commanded a company of militia as Captain at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill & was wounded in said Battle. In the year 1781 said Kennedy commanded as Captain a company of Horse in the militia & marched down under the command of General Rutherford to attack the British at Wilmington in North Carolina. This affiant was in the same detachment -- said Kennedy was out at least three months in the tour to Wilmington. Said Kennedy was in the year 1780 out as Captain of militia in all at least nine months -- said Kennedy was also out in the militia in all the calls before 1780 -- he was considered a brave & patriotic soldier always ready to go when called on the slightest notice.

The foregoing affidavit subscribed & sworn before me a Justice peace for County aforesaid this might team June 1832

S/ Hugh McKee, JP

S/ H. Bates



[Facts in file: veteran died June 19, 1836: the file contains no family data.]

[[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$420 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a Captain in the North Carolina militia for one year and 9 months.]

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<sup>5</sup> [Humphrey Bates W25204](#)