

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Kidd S31796

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 Aug 2014.

Georgia } Ss.
Oglethorpe County }

On this fourth day of September eighteen hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court while sitting for ordinary purposes, William Kidd a resident of the county & state aforesaid aged nearly sixty nine 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 the 7th June of the present year entitled “an act supplementary to the act for the relief of certain surviving officers & soldiers of the Revolution.” That he entered the American service in the Revolutionary struggle under the following named officers & served as herein after stated. That he was born in Mecklinburg [sic: Mecklenburg] county in Virginia on the 16th December 1763, according to the account handed down to him by his parents, there being no record of his age as far as he knows – That he lived in Mecklinburg when he entered the militia service in the revolutionary war, & lived there until he moved to Georgia in 1799, & settled in Oglethorpe county where he has lived ever since & where he now lives. That when he was near fifteen years old – to wit in the summer of 1778– being well grown of his age he was employed as a substitute in the place of one William Perry for a tour of five months military service in the Revolutionary war against Great Britain — he was received as a substitute & performed the whole tour under the command of General Lewis [see endnote] & Captain Anderson– he marched first to Portsmouth & then to Turkey Point not far from Baltimore & his only duty during the expedition was simply marching & guarding — he had no battle & not so much as a skirmish — when the time expired he was discharged at Portsmouth, but has lost his discharge.

In the year 1780, he performed another tour of military service in the militia of Virginia, of five months duration, as a substitute for his father James Kidd, who had been drafted for that length of time. He left home this trip he thinks in the month of May. During this tour he marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina under the command of Captain Benjamin Ferrel his regiment (the number of which he does not now recollect) was commanded by Colonel Lukes or Lucas [James Lucas]. From Hillsborough he marched to the Gum swamp near Camden South Carolina, when under General [Horatio] Gates he was defeated by Cornwallis & Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton; Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780]– During this engagement he was severely wounded by a cut on the left shoulder which he received from the sword of the enemy. His post in this battle was among the regulars on the right wing of the army — the evening before the battle the following plan was formed, which was executed the next day. Four men were selected out of the company of each militia captain so as to correspond with the number of regulars, & these select militia men & regulars were placed alternately along in the right wing of the army & of this number deponent was one [see endnote]. He fought in the Brigade commanded by General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens]. Being defeated he retreated to Charlotte & thence to Hillsborough. Deponent was carried home, where he received a permit to remain until he had sufficiently recovered, from under the hand of Colonel [Robert] Munford, which will appear by reference to a small document hereunto annexed & marked A. which together with such further testimony as deponent may be enabled to obtain in support of his claim before its final adjustment at the War Department, he respectfully prays may be taken & considered as a part of this his Declaration. His time expired before he got well enough to march & he never received a discharge from this campaign.

In 1781, he volunteered for seven weeks, under the command at first of Captain Swepston [possibly Richard Swepson] & after a little while he joined a corps of rifle men under the command of Captain Brown [probably John Brown] — he does not recollect the precise date of the beginning or end of this short tour; but he knows that he was in the Battle of Guilford during its continuance – his principle officer here was General [Nathanael] Greene – he belonged to General [Robert] Lawson’s

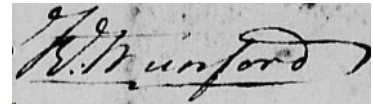
Brigade and Colonel Munford's Regiment – his situation in this Battle was in the right wing of the army. He was discharged from this tour near Deep River in N. Carolina, but has lost his discharge. He thinks he can establish this last tour by his brother James Kidd [James H. Kidd, pension application S16436] who was with him when it was performed & whose testimony he will endeavor to obtain before his claim is presented for final adjustment. His neighbours are the honorable William H. Crawford, Major Joseph J. Moore, Robert Freeman Esquire, Richard Gregory [31712], & Charles Carter [S31593], the two last of whom are reputed to be soldiers of the Revolution & others, any of whom he doubts not will cheerfully establish his character as a man of honesty & truth. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State in the Union.

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

William hisXmark Kidd

Mecklenburg County

William Kidd being wounded in Gen'l. Gates' last Engagement when he acted as a Militia Soldier in Gen'l Stephens' Brigade He is permitted to remain at Home untill he recovers of his wound, & then he is to attend his Duty as required. Given under my Hand this 10th Day of Sept'r. Anno Dom 1780

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. H. Munford". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

NOTES:

The only known General Lewis from Virginia was Andrew Lewis, who resigned on 15 Apr 1777.

Kidd's account of the mixing of regular soldiers and militiamen in the line at the Battle of Camden is apparently not found elsewhere.