

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Kell S32357

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/29/09 & 7/4/14

[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.]

The State of Georgia, Rabun County

On this Eleventh day of December 1833 personally appeared before us in the Inferior Court for the County of Rabun aforesaid, Capt. James Kell of Gilmer County in the said state late and for a great many year resident in this County, who being first duly sworn saith he is aged Seventy three years doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832—and first the reason of his applying in Rabun is that the County of Gilmer is just organized & his first application¹ was in the County of Rabun. That he entered the service of the United States as a Volunteer under Capt. Jameson in October 1778 in Orange County in the State of North Carolina and went with him down Deep River after Tories, & took three prisoners, which they took to Hillsboro & delivered them to General Butler [John Butler] he served two months, at the least. In July 1780 he turned out volunteer under Capt. Trice [James Trice] under Col. Porterfield [Charles Porterfield?] and Genl Butler and joined Genl Gates [Horatio Gates] at Lynches Creek & marched to Rugeley's Mill -- and in the evening was marched to near Camden where they met the British & in the morning the Battle [August 15-16, 1780] was fought he was in the Battle shot twice in the night & once in the morning. After the Battle, he was marched on retreat to Salisbury & from there to Hillsboro where he was discharged this tour he served three months at the least.

Afterwards Lord Cornwallis was marching southward and he was called on as a volunteer to find his horse, clothes & arms & go with Col Taylor [perhaps Thomas Taylor]. He could not procure his cloth, horse & arms in time to start with Taylor but as soon as ready in about a week he followed to Salisbury. Taylor had gone but he found Col Davie [William Richardson Davie]; he joined his Regt of Cavalry under Capt Lock [John Locke] and marched to Charlotte where they met Cornwallis & had a skirmish fired two or three rounds & retreated to Col Fifer's [Lt. Col. John Phifer's]. He then pursued Taylor to the narrows of the Yadkin & he being gone, he joined Capt James Crump of the Horse, under Col Leadbetter [probably Drury Ledbetter]. He was in several skirmishes with Tories; one on McLendal's Creek & one on Drowning Creek, during this time he was at Huware [sic, ? Uwharrie ?] where they killed several Tories, & hung one or two. He served three months & he got a discharge from Col Paisley [John Paisley] & Capt Crump.

¹ There is no earlier application among the papers in this file.

After this in the year 1781 he was Elected Captain of a Militia Company in Orange County & he volunteered the room of Capt Horton [George Horton] to command a Company of Volunteers & marched them to Ramsay's Mill on Deep River where he joined General Butler he marched from there to near Cox's Iron Works where they remained near two weeks. From there over Haw River over the Red field ford where they remained two or three weeks, then marched to intercept Col Fanning [David Fanning] & fought him at Lindley's Mills [September 13, 1781] —After the Battle of Lindsey's Mills; marched to Haw River under Col Mabin [sic, Robert Mebane] & Genl Butler & continued in that section until the tour expired. This tour was not less than three months. He went home & remained but a few days & went to Hillsboro & raised 58 Volunteers & marched to join Genl Butler again went to X creek [sic, Cross Creek] & joined Col Tho. Taylor & Col Sanders & remained under their command for near two months. Genl Butler returned to X Creek [sic, Cross Creek] & he then got under the command of Col Mebane and General Butler and marched down Cape Fear River against the Tories houses which spies had & compelled to abandon them. At the end of Four months Genl Butler directed the Horses sent home & the Command of them was given to him as he had been so long in the service his clothes were much worn he was willing to return home which he did. He was out of scouts then to the end of the war & did but one regular Tour. Col Benton of Orange County ordered him & a part of his company to turn out he did so & was out about one month & was discharged by Col. Benton. This applicant served Eight months as a private and Seven months as a Captain at the least. All as a volunteer in the State of N. Carolina.

And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. And to the question required to be propounded to all applicants. He makes the following answers.

1st. He was born in the State of Pennsylvania near Carlisle as he has been informed - in March 6th, 1760

2nd. Has no record of his age.

3rd. He was living in Orange County in North Carolina when he entered the service he had lived there from his first recollection as he has heard his Father moved there in 1763. He lived there till the end of the War & after till he moved into Rowan where he lived about 4 years he then moved into Surry & remained there one year. Then he moved back to Rowan one year then moved to Burke where he lived 4 years. He then moved into South Carolina Seneca River, Pendleton District lived there about twenty years he then moved to Rabun at its organization where he lived till about three years ago he has been all this time since moving about in the purchase [?] of Georgia & has now as he thinks located himself within Gilmer County Ga.

4th. Each time he entered the Service as a Volunteer

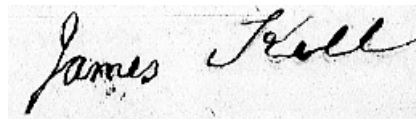
5th. He was with Regular Officers, Genl Gates, Col Robert Mebane, Col Arch Ligtil [sic, Archibald Lytle], Capt Clendinen [Clendenin?]

6th. He got discharges for every tour of duty One given by Col Paisley & other he is not positive whom signed - He had a Commission as Captain signed by Gov. Burke & given of filled up by Col Tinning [Hugh Tinnen]. He discharges & Commission were all consumed with every other paper & nearly all his property in his house was burned in Pendleton District upwards of thirty years ago.

7th. I know of no person of my acquaintance who would not testify to my character for truth but in Rabun there are many respectable men to whom I refer - Col Sam Beck, Saml Faris Esq, late Senator, H T Mazley present Senator, Edward Coffee & William Kelly present members of the

Legislature & I could name same in S. Carolina, Genl Earle -- Col Jos. Grisham, Col Anderson, they I have no doubt believe my word & believe I was a Revolutionary Soldier.
Sworn to & subscribed in open Court The day and year aforesaid

S/ James Kell



S/ Robert Brown JJC,
S/ Allen P. Gaines JJC
S/ William Gillespie JJC
S/ Edward Coffee

Judges of the Infr. Court Rabun Ga

[John S. Henby, a clergyman and William J. Ganey gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: Isabella Kell, wife of Robert Kell who was the veteran's cousin, gave a supporting affidavit.



[p 14]

State of Georgia Rabun County: Before me A R Gains a Justice of the Inferior Court came Robert Kell² and made oath, that he lived during the Revolutionary War in Orange County North Carolina within about 8 miles of his cousin Captain James Kell he was with him part of one tour in the Army & knows that said James Kell was generally out saw him frequently went home -- knows he did two or more Tours of duty as Captain of volunteers in the Revolutionary War and that he has no doubt but that said James Kell did all the services he states & has his belief from the circumstances as stated to him, not only by Kell but by others --

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 11th December 1833

S/ AR Gains, JIC

S/ Robert Kell



[Facts in file: veteran died February 22, 1848.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$166.66 per annum for service as a private & Captain in the North Carolina militia for 15 months.

² [Robert Kell S32355](#)