

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Kelly S36674

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

John Kelly a citizen of Barren County, Kentucky, states and declares on oath, that in or about the year 1776 he enlisted as a soldier in Capt. Matthew Arbuckles Company [raised in Botetourt County VA] in Col. James Wood's Regiment of the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment, and served in the Revolutionary War three years, and that he obtained a regular, legal written discharge from the said service at Fort Randolph at the mouth of the Kenhawa [sic: Kanawha River] after the expiration of his term of service. That the said discharge was shortly afterwards destroyed by accident and cannot now be produced. the said John Kelly further states & declares, [several illegible words] years of age, and from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his Country for support.

[signed 11 Aug 1818] John Kelly

I do hereby certify that John Kelly served as a soldier during the term of his enlistment in Captain Mathew Arbuckle's Comp'y in Col James Wood's Regiment of the Virginia line on Continental Establishment in the Revolutionary War, and was duly Discharged Given under my hand this 12th Day of September 1814

Wm McKee late Capt in said Regiment

Charles Dyer [pension application R3176] of Harrison County in the state of Indiana on this twenty first day of September 1818 came personally before me [illegible name] President of the second Judicial Circuit in the State of Indiana and after being duly sworn according to Law deposeth and saith that in the years 1776 and untill 1778 he served in the same Regiment with John Kelly that Kelly belonged to Capt. Matthew Arbuckle's Company and the said Charles Dyer served in Capt. William McKee's company. that they both belonged to the 12th Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Wood and further saith not.

Charles hisXmark Dyer

Kentucky Barren County I John Kelly a resident of said County do in conformity of the Act of congress of the United States Surrender the following Schedule of my property and effects of every kind and description except my wearing apparel and necessary bedding, having applied for a pension under the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818. three horse beasts one he owes for yet \$70 – Seventeen head of hogs worth \$34. household and kitchen furniture \$23. two hundred Acres headright Land (not paid for) not improved & very poor \$50. \$177.00

John Kelly

I the said John Kelly do further state that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. I further state that I enlisted and served in the Revolutionary War as a private soldier in Captain Matthew Arbuckles Company of the 12th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment as set out in my certificate of application of the 11th August 1818 which was forwarded to the War Department and returned for further evidence of services, and indigence, to which I refer for the time of enlistment, of service and discharge I do also state that I am now in the 63 year of my age that I live with my family which is composed of my wife aged 60 years next month, and an orphan boy named William McGinnis aged about fourteen years that my Occupation is that of farming but from age and infirmity I am not able to do much much work or undergo much

fatigue that I am afflicted with a violent Rapture [rupture?], which disqualifies and renders me unable to undergo much labour or fatigue. Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court, in the Barren County Court on the 16th day of October 1820 being a Court of Record, and made so by Act of Assembly entitled an Act to reduce into one the several Acts establishing County Courts and regulating proceedings therein and concerning the appointment of Justices of the peace & their Jurisdiction: approved Dec'r. 17th 1796.

John Kelly

the first of my acquaintance with John Kelly was about 18 years ago at William fourtres Mr Kelly hearing my name said he knew Thomas & John Smith which I knew by the discription he gave of them to be my uncles which served in the Army he also tole me of the deth of uncle John by the small pox also the place and offisers that they serv'd under which I knew to be facts as they were regulars at the point [probably Point Pleasant in present West Virginia] where he said he knew them William Smith
15th October 1822

According to my best recollection I have no doubt in saying that my borthor John Kelly did serve a tour of duty I recollect my father grieving after him in his absence Sister Wilson frequently told me in her life time that she remembered his coming to my fathers after serving a tour of duty Mary Ritter

I have been aquainted with John Kelly 30 odd years and from my first acquaintance with him I heard him talk of his being in the army at the point John Ritter

I have heard that Mr John Tily[?] has said that John Kelly served a tour in the army but he believed it was a malitia tour on this he he was not so mutch mistaken but in the first place he enlisted in the regular servis and after he came home a year or so there came an express in the time of the taking of Cornwallis [Siege at Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] for every man and my husband William Bell [pension application S30855], John Kelly, and Joseph Hase were drafted and Josep Hase ran away from the company and as I always understood my husband and John Kelly with some more in company was sent back after him and when they overtook him he refused to return till they forsed him by whiping some years after this Joseph Hase married John Kelly's sister and Mr Tily hearing often of this surcomstance I suppose has an allution to that out[?] tho they did not Join the army as I understand but knows met them that Cornwalis was taken, remember these things well being some time a merried Woman the age of Mr Tilly I cannot particularly tell but Judge he coud not have been more than a 11 or 12 years old when John Kelly was in the servis as a regular I was aquainted with Kelly at that time and have been ever sence and never heard his regular servises disputed before - 17 Oct 1822

Polly Bell

Glasgow Ken'y Dec'r. 15th 1822

Dear Sir I have expected to have heard from you for some time on the subject of John Kellys pintion I wished to have seen you befour you left Kentucky the time you past through my neighbourhood was so very rainy or I should have indevered to have met with you I think that the understanding with us was that you was to write on and get a certificate of J Kelleys inlistment you are convieniant to the office and you can get it and forward it to me if you pleas there is some thing misterious as well as unfortunate in Kelleys conduct I have been laterley informed by a source that cant be douted that shortley after he obtained his certificate of pension in his bosting moments that he said he had cheated the United States on further inquire I find that he actually spoke of it to several persons in that way and it further appears from the recolection of some of his old acquaintances that he was actually out in the service at one time I have waited to see the certificate befour I would commence takeing depositions if he should be a live at the time you forward me the certificate and you think it adviseabile I will proseed to take such

depositions as will afford the best evidences of the facts he still evers that he did perform the duty which he swore to he has laterly become much afflicted in minde as well as body he has drank uncommonly hard this fall and he has eather lost his reason or pretends so I have thout it a fact but others charge him with hippocracy to do away the eyedeer that he could mentain him self by schoolceeping he is not abill to support himself by hard labour he has been in the habit of keeping school some years past as he never would work his mentall derangement will do away the eyedeer of his suppourting him self altho his wifes business as a mid wife is amply sufficient to suppourt them bourth and she acknolided's it my opinion is that he is travilling fast to eternity and will want nothing long and it would be well to with hole the money for a while to see if he is found to be intitled to it, as it would be a fine feather in the cap of his sons in law to get that amount of cash your friend Jos. T Tunstall

[To] Mr F Johnston