

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Keep S39804

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/7/13

[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.]

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To the Honorable Secretary at War of the United States

The Petition of James Keep of the Township of Ross in the County of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Respectfully Representeth

That on the 16th of September A.D. 1777 your Petitioner enlisted as a private Soldier in the Second Virginia Regiment then commanded by Colonel Spotswood [Alexander Spotswood] of the Army of the United States in a company commanded by Captain Wood Jones, and that your Petitioner continued to serve in the same Regiment till the conclusion of the Revolutionary War – when he was honorably discharged in the City of Richmond in the State of Virginia – on the 3rd of July 1783 – but was considered with others on furlough till the final certification of the treaty of peace which furlough was endorsed on his Discharge – And the same Discharge was delivered up to Paymaster Jones upon a final settlement with him in the City of Richmond.

Your petitioner hath no pension from Government of the U S nor any State Government. He is in reduced circumstances – is in firm and in great need of assistance from his country for his Support he therefore prays that relief may be afforded to him agreeably to the provisions of the late act of Congress providing for the relief of persons of the description & in the circumstances of your petitioner.

S/ James Keep



Pennsylvania SS

Be it remembered that on the ninth day of May A.D. 1818 at the City of Pittsburgh before the undersigned President of the Courts of Common Pleas of the fifth Judicial District in the Commonwealth aforesaid personally appeared the above named James Keep – who being duly sworn doth depose & say the facts stated in the foregoing petition to the Honorable Secretary at War are true and further he saith not.

S/ James Keep

United States of America

Western District of Pennsylvania: SS

On this 30th day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the said district James Keep aged 63 years resident in Allegheny County who being

first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, that he enlisted for and during the War at Frederick County near Winchester Virginia on the 16th day of September 1777 in the Company commanded by Captain Wood Jones and 2nd Regiment of Virginia at first commanded by Colonel Spotswood in the line of Virginia that he served during the War in one continued service on to the Continental establishment and against the common enemy that he was honorably discharged on the 3rd day of July 1783 at Richmond Virginia which discharge was given up to the Pay Master of the Regiment on the final Settlement of accounts. That during his service aforesaid he was at Beauforts defeat [Buford's Defeat, the Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] [Abraham Buford] in South Carolina, at the head of Gillands Creek [?]¹ where he was taken prisoner he was while a prisoner stockaded in the Barrack yard and afterwards removed to the prison Ship after remaining a prisoner fourteen months he was exchanged at Jamestown in Virginia he then joined Captain Alexander Parkins [? Alexander Parker]² company in the same Regiment and line he was at the capture of Corn Wallis [Cornwallis, October 19, 1781] and in many severe skirmishes and I do solemnly swear 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons 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

Schedule

I live upon a small portion of 50 acres of ridge land which I gave my son sixteen years ago, I work about two acres of cleared land, that another son lives upon the residue of the land who has a large family to maintain, he has no person residing with him except his wife who is sickly and unable to work, the whole body of land is almost incapable of cultivation, cut in deep gullies and worth not more than \$25, 1 mare worth \$20, 1 cow \$5, 4 sheep and 4 lambs worth \$24, 1 shovel plow worth one dollar, 1 old table worth 25 cents, one old glass worth \$.50, one sickle worth \$.25, 1 scythe worth \$.25, 3 old hoes worth 12 ½ cents, 5 old plates worth about \$.25, 1 dozen of knives & forks worth \$.25, 2 old wooden buckets worth \$.25, 3 hens & a cock worth about \$.50, 1 old saddle & bridle worth \$.50, 4 spoons worth 12 ½ since, total amount \$149.04 ½

That he receives a pension by virtue of a certificate dated 16th day of March 1819 and No. 7665, that he has no family residing with him other than his wife who is aged sixty years and sickly and his sickly son his former occupation was a farmer but on account of old age and debility is entirely unable to pursue it, and that he is in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his country. Sworn and subscribed on this the 13th day of August 1820 before Judge of said court.

S/ Jonathan H Walker

S/ James Keep

¹ Gillands Creek

² Alex Parker

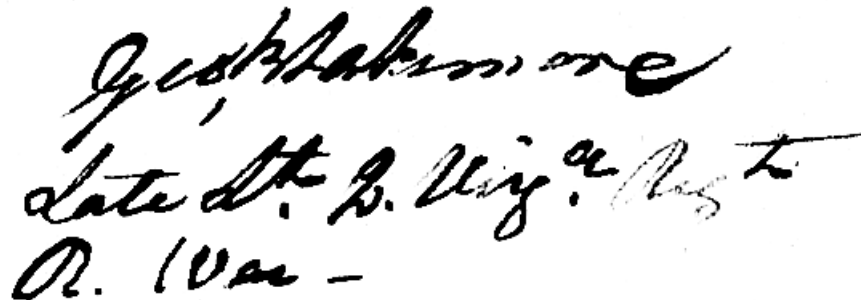
See below: the Veteran's discharge was signed by A. Parker, Captain

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I do hereby Certify that James Keep did in autumn 1777 enlist as a soldier in the Second Virginia Regiment on the Continental establishment – and continued in the Army to my knowledge whilst the Troops were marching from the northward to Charleston South Carolina and on our way to the said place, the said James Keep, to the best of my recollection, was left behind sick at Halifax in North Carolina and I believe served from that time to the end of the war, having seen him in my neighborhood immediately after the close of the war.

Given under my hand this 6th day of March 1819.

S/ Geo. Blakemore,³ Late Lt. 2 Virga. Regt. R. War [George Blakemore]



George Blakemore
Late Lt. 2 Virga. Regt.
R. War -

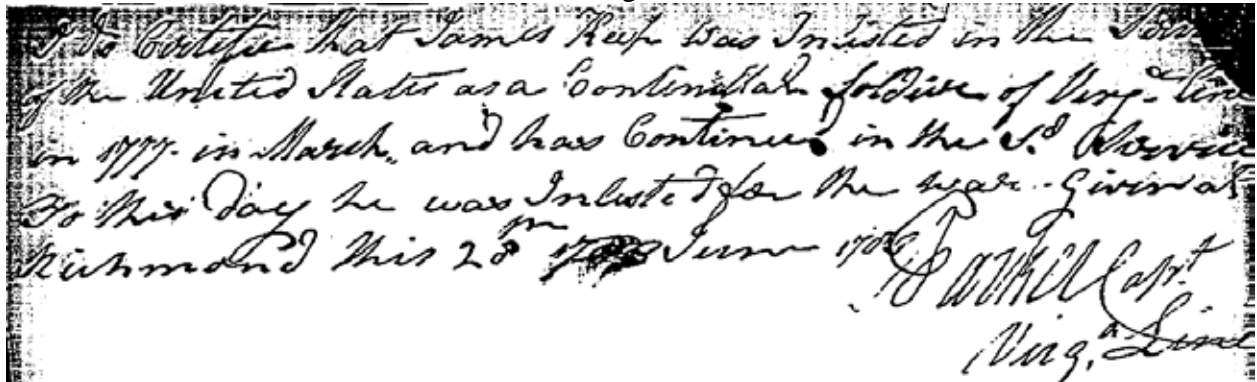
[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 9, 1818, for 6 years service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I do Certify that James Keep was Enlisted in the 2nd of the United States as a Continental Soldier of Virginia Line in 1777 in March and has continued in said Service to this day he was enlisted for the war. Given at Richmond this 28th of June 1783

S/ A. Parker Capt.

Virg. Line



I do Certify that James Keep was Enlisted in the 2nd of the United States as a Continental Soldier of Virg. Line in 1777 in March, and has continued in the U. S. Service to this day he was Enlisted for the war. Given at Richmond this 28th of June 1783
A. Parker Capt.
Virg. Line

³ [George Blakemore S6665](#)