

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Keen S41715

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/26/07: rev'd 3/26/16

[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.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina, Cumberland County

On this \_\_\_ day of April 1819 before me the Subscriber, one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for the said State, personally appeared William Keen aged Fifty Eight years resident in Sampson County in said State, who being by me first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the late act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States, in the revolutionary War" and to obtain pay for said Services: that he the said William Keen Enlisted for the term of 12 months on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 1782 in Sampson County in the said State of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain Holines [Hardy Holmes of the Duplin County, NC militia?] of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Shepard and the Line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental Establishment: that he continued to serve in said Corps or in the Service of the United States under Captain Mills [James Mills] until the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1782 [sic] when he was discharged from service by Major G. McRee [Griffith John McRee] at Wilmington North Carolina, that he was at the Surrender of Charleston South Carolina in the year 1782 [sic, the surrender of Charleston occurred on May 12, 1780]: this deponent further saith that he has lost his discharge, and that there is due to him from the United States Twelve months pay for his services as aforesaid which paid this deponent has not received himself nor authorized any other person to receive and that he is in reduced circumstances, and Stand in need of the assistance of his Country for Support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his Services except the annexed affidavit.

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid.

Subscribed & sworn to before me the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1819

S/ William Keen, X his mark

S/ A. D. Murphey, Judge as aforesaid

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State of North Carolina, Cumberland County

This day personally appeared before me Archibald the Murphy one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law & Equity for the State of North Carolina Daniel MacLarrin<sup>1</sup> of Cumberland County & State of North Carolina. After being duly Sworn according to Law deposeseth and saith that he is personally acquainted with William Keen the present claimant for pension and that this deponent was well and personally acquainted with the said William Keen in the year 1782 when the said William Keen was a private Soldier under Captain Mills in the

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<sup>1</sup> [Daniel McCleran S41836](#)

North Carolina Regiment commanded by Colonel Shepard of the North Carolina line of the Continental establishment of the United States in the Revolutionary War and that said William Keen was promoted to be a Sergeant in the said Captain Mills' Company in said Regiment & Line and that the said William Keen did faithfully perform his services as a Sergeant and received an honorable discharge at the close of the war in the year 1783. This deponent further saith that he is personally acquainted with said William Keen's circumstances at this time and that they are reduced & such as to require Support from the United States. He is about 58 years of age & has a large family to support, further this deponent saith not.

Subscribed & sworn to before me

S/ Daniel McCleran, X his mark

the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1819

S/ A. D. Murphey, Judge as aforesaid

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State of North Carolina Secretary's Office 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1819

I William Hill Secretary of State in & for the State aforesaid do hereby Certify that it appears from the muster roll of the Continental line of this State in the Revolutionary war, that Wm Keen, a private in Captain Coleman's [Benjamin Andrew Coleman's] Company of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment was mustered on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1782 for 12 months, that he was a Corporal 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1782, a private September 1782. The time of his discharge is not mentioned.

Given under my hand the date above

S/ Wm Hill

[p 9]

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year while Lord 1824 Personally appeared in Our Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held for the County of Cumberland and State of North Carolina William Keen Senior aged 63 years resident in said County, who being first sworn according to law doth on his Oath make declared that he Served in the Revolutionary war as Follows: That he Fought in the Battle of Briar Creek [March 3, 1779]<sup>2</sup> and that he Enlisted for 12 months with Captain Coleman in the year 1782 and served under Captain Mills in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of North Carolina Twelve Month Men establishment and that he was Discharged by Major McRee and that the said Regiment was commanded by Colonel Cuzaskey [sic, Thaddeus Kosciuszko?], and that he received his Pay Monthly and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 persons engaged in the land and naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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; My Occupation is that of a Cooper and farmer together, My ability to pursue the one is but feeble owing to a Complaint that follows me namely the Coleck [sic, colic] and my Means to follow the other is limited owing to poverty. My wife Christian Keen aged 64 years is afflicted with Several Complaints, so that she can render but little service. I have my daughter Delancy Keen aged 20 years to maintain herself and his [sic, her?] Three children. She is not possessed of common sense. One of his [sic, her?] children 6 years old and 4 years and the other better than one old. I owe \$172.25 and I have debts that are due to me in dribbles and some of them very Doubtful \$23.55.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

S/ William Keen

A Schedule of My Property

3 Cows Worth	\$24
3 yearlings	9
2 Sows	5
8 Shoats	4
2 pewter Basons	.50
1 Dish	.10
½ Dozen Knives & forks	.25
1 Pot	1.50
1 Dutch oven	1.50
3 Earthen Plates	.15
½ Dozen spoons	.15
1 Washing Tub	.25
1 Pale	.25
1 Piggin	.10
1 Churn	.12 ½
1 small wheel	1.00
1 pr. Cotton Cards	.20
1 weeding Hoe	.10
1 Grubing Hoe	.25
1 Axe	.50
1 Plough & Gear	2.00
1 Cooper Axez	.25
1 Jointer	.50
6 Tress Hoops	.25
1 Small Chist [?]	<u>.25</u>
	\$46.17 ½
200 Acres of Land	200.00
Amt. Of Debts due the Applicant	<u>23.55</u>
	\$269.72 ½
Debts due by applicant	174.75
	\$94.97 ½

S/ William Keen

Says the value of Applicants property \$94.97 ½  
Cumberland County Court June Term 1824 the above Valuation made by the court of the  
Property returned in the Schedule of William Keen.

S/ J. A. Cameron, Chairman

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 29, 1819, for service as a private for one year in the North Carolina Continental line.]

[Note: The only way I can make sense of the veteran's services is that he served at least 3 tours of duty. The first tour would have been served in the NC militia and was performed in early 1779 when the Battle of Briar Creek occurred. The second tour of duty would have been served in 1780 when Charleston SC fell to the British, and the third tour in 1782 in the NC Continental Line. Whether or not the veteran actually served in any of these tours is left to the reader.]