

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Kerby [William Curbo] S4470

f16NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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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State of Tennessee, Jackson County: Third Judicial Circuit September Term 1833

On this 16 day of September 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable Abraham Carothers Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit for the State Aforesaid, now presiding in the County of Jackson and State of Tennessee, William Kerby, or as it is sometimes a written, William Curbo, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 74 years on the 16th of July last who being first duly sworn according to Law 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 7, 1832.

That he Enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1775 as he believes, but being wholly illiterate, in this he may be mistaken. He will however proceed with the narration of such facts as will enable the department without any difficulty, to ascertain the Justice, or injustice of his application. He enlisted with Captain Thomas Harris, and Served in the 4th Regiment of the North Carolina line, as he now understands it. The Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk – who was from the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina. The first Major of the Regiment was George Davidson [sic, William Lee Davidson] -- long after the war Major Davidson was killed at Beatties' Ford [sic, Cowan's Ford]¹ on the Catawba River in a skirmish with the British, and this declarant is of opinion, as his recollection is so, that at the time of his death he held the rank of General, in the State troops of North Carolina. James Fair [sic, James Farr] was lieutenant in Captain Harris's company; James Coots was Ensign – when he entered the service he resided in Anson County North Carolina near the Town of Wadesborough – Captain Harris' Company joined the Regiment at Wilmington NC. The next day after reaching Wilmington, they set out on their march for Hadley's point [sic, Haddrell's Point], near Charleston South Carolina, where they remained in winter quarters, until the following spring. From Charleston the troops returned to Wilmington, where they remained, he believes, about a month. From Wilmington the troops marched to the Town of Halifax North Carolina. There were then at that place, according to his recollection five Regiments – General

¹ Veteran seems to have confused a number of the members of the Davidson family. Major George Davidson was a militia officer from Anson and Montgomery Counties who subsequently served as a major under William Richardson Davie in the North Carolina State Cavalry and thereafter as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Montgomery County militia. Major John Davidson of Mecklenburg County served under Colonel Thomas Polk as early as 1775 and was a brigade Major under General William Lee Davidson in 1780. William Lee Davidson served as a Major in the 4th North Carolina Regiment under Colonel Thomas Polk in 1776; he was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the 5th North Carolina Regiment and was killed at Cowan's Ford on February 1, 1781 when he held the rank of General in the state militia. See, http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_patriot_troops_nc.html

Francis Nash had the Chief Command of what troops were there – they remained there, something like a month – from thence they marched to Fredericksburg Virginia where they only remained a few days, and continued their march to the head of Elk [River] in Pennsylvania, where they Joined General Washington's Army. From thence they went to Philadelphia, by the way of what was called “the floating bridge” on the Schuylkill [River]. The Army remained some time in Philadelphia, how long, he does not distinctly remember – but according to his recollection, he was in Philadelphia on the day that Independence was declared. He was in the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], where he received a wound in the right arm near the shoulder. This wound was given by one of the British dragoons with a sword. The wound is now distinctly to be seen, or rather, the scar which the wound produced – and will be visible while he lives: At the same time and as he supposes from the same sword, he received a wound in the right hand, which in like manner has left an indelible mark. After the Battle of Brandywine, he went with the Main Army into winter quarters at Valley Forge – there a great many of the North Carolina troops died, and this declarant, with others, was transferred to the company commanded by Captain John Somers or Summers [John Sumner]. The name of the Lieutenant was McGibbony [Patrick McGibbony]. The name of the Ensign was Blount Whitmill [Thomas Blount Whitmill]. He states that previous to going into winter quarters at Valley Forge he was in the Battle at Germantown [October 4, 1777]. The winter of 1776 they occupied Valley Forge as winter quarters. The following summer and according to his recollection, on the 17th day of July 1777 he was in the Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778]. They remained, he says in Jersey, the winter of 1777. The following year, the period of his Enlistment which was for three years, expired, and he obtained a discharge Signed by General Washington. His father's house was burnt in Anson County North Carolina, at which time his discharge was burnt. This was during the war, and while the declarant was in the Militia Service. He had gone out as a substitute for his brother Joseph Kerby or Curbo, and the discharge had been left with his father, John Kerby. The whole period which he served his Country was six years and three months, but he was only three years in the Regular, or United States Army. He experienced many privations and hardships while in the militia, and on one occasion, at the capture of Charleston, was taken prisoner – but since he deems it unnecessary to be more explicit, as he understands the Law of June 7, 1832 allows no larger pension to those who served more than two years, then it does to those who served for that precise period – were it not for this consideration, he would proceed with a circumstantial account of his services in the militia.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

S/ William Kerby²

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James T. Quarles, Clerk

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State of Tennessee, Jackson Circuit Court: September Term 1833

This day John Kerby personally appeared in open court it being a court of record before the Honorable Abraham Carothers Circuit Judge in the third Judicial Circuit in the State of Tennessee And made oath in due form of law that according to the best information he has obtained he is sixty-five years of age and that he is the brother of William Kerby the Applicant

² I do not think the actual signature of the veteran appears on this document because the handwriting for the signature is identical to the handwriting of the body of the application.

for pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, and who has filed his declaration in this Court.

He states that he was present when his brother William Kerby Enlisted and Joined the Company Commanded by Captain Thomas Harris, his brother marched off in said company and did not return for three years, which was the time for which he enlisted. He often saw his discharge and heard it read. It was burned in his father's house as stated by his brother William as he has always understood and believes to be the fact.

He further states that his brother James Kerby enlisted at the same time, marched at the same time, in the same company, returned at the same time, and always understood from James that they both served out their full term of three years, James died many years ago.

S/ John Kerby³

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James T. Quarles, Clerk

State of NC Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill, Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that William Curbo a private in Capt. Harris's Company of the 4th Regiment enlisted on the 20th of April 1776 for three years and was discharged on the 10th of My 1779.

Given under my hand this 11th November 1833.

S/ W. Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line.]

³ Again, I do not think the signature is the actual signature of the affiant because the handwriting matches the body of the affidavit