

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Keller S5649

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

County of Harrison }

On this 22nd day of August in the year 1832, personally appeared before Jacob Coplin Joseph Johnson Samuel Kimble & William Martin the court of Harrison County now sitting, George Keller a resident of Monongalia County, and State of Virginia, aged 71 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he resided in Augusta County and State of Virginia that he entered the service of the United States as volunteer in the year 1778 or 9 [sic], commanded by Capt William Christee [probably Christian] was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Christee [sic: William Christian] of Augusta County, marched to the Cherokee nation of Indians, was in a battle fought near a place caled Holston [Battle of Long Island of Holston River, 20 Jul 1776], from thence to the Muscle Shoals [probably Mussel Shoals], burned several Indian towns, and returned to Staunton having served seven months. some time after, he thinks the year following [sic], he again volenteered his services under Col. Sampson Matthews [sic: Sampson Mathews], Marched to Portsmouth was engaged in several skirmishes with the enemy near that place. from thence he marched to Guilford, but did not arive untill after the battle [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. That he was then [sic] attached to Col Morgans Regiment [sic: see note below] was engaged in the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], from thence he marched to James Town, was engaged in a battle there [probably meaning Battle of Green Springs Plantation near Jamestown VA, 6 Jul 1781], from thence to York, where he became sick Three days before the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct], having served in all two years and several months, he obtained an honourable discharge at the end of each tour which have been lost or destroyed he has no documentary evidence and knows of know one who can testify of his services except Henry Whiteman [pension application S7881] whose affidavit is hereunto subjoined.

That he is known to Thomas P. Ray [Clerk of the Harrison County Court], Francis Billingsly, Richard Watts William G Henry and numerous others within the County of Monongalia whose testify as to his veracity and their belief of his servises as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. George his2mark Keller

I Henry Whiteman of the County of Randolph and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with the above named George Keller that I served with him in the war of the revolution, that I was with him at Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Camp carson [in Dismal Swamp] and that he served as he states. the above services was rendered in the year 1781

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Henry Whiteman

State of Virginia } SS

County of Monongalia }

On this 28th day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the County court of Monongalia in open court now sitting, George Keller, a resident of said county, aged seventy four years, 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 7th June 1832. That in the month of July 1779 as well as he can now recollect, he volunteered at Staunton in Augusta county Virginia, (to go against the Cherokee nation of indians), under Capt. Christee, ninety nine of us volunteering at the same time, finding our own rifles, Capt. Christie then being sixty four years of age - that we marched in the same month thro' Botetourt, and into North Carolina, on the Holstien river near Big Island [sic], where we were joined by about eighteen hundred troops, and also by Col.

Christie of Staunton, this being the place of rendezvous. - Col. Christee was the commander - in a few days we marched, and after crossing the Tennessee river, burnt six indian towns [early Oct 1776], & six of the towns came in and made peace - that we remained three weeks and then were marched back on the same route to Staunton, and arrived there about christmas day, and was discharged after a service of five months and a few days, which discharge he took no care of and has long since lost -

That in the month of April 1780, he marched in Capt. Thompsons' volunteer company of Riflemen, from Staunton, to the West fork of the Monongahela river, to protect the frontier settlements against the Indians - one half of us were stationed at Wests fort [Fort West on Hackers Creek near West Fork River in present Lewis County WV], and the other at Lowthers fort [6 mi from Clarksburg in Harrison County], where we remained untill august, and then marched back to Staunton, where we arrived about the first of September; after an absence of upwards of four months and discharged by a general discharge.

That he believe it was in November 1780, he marched in a company of about ninety volunteer riflemen commanded by Capt. [Thomas] Rankin from Staunton, accompanied by other troops in all about three hundred under the command of Col. Sampson Mathews, to Falmouth and then to Hunters works a mile above where we remained a few days - we then marched through Falmouth, Fredericksburg, and down the Rappahanock [sic: Rappahannock], and thence crossed James River at Sandy point a mile below Cabin point [in Surry County], and thence to Suffolk on Nansemond, marching through Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] - that from Suffolk we went to Camp Carson, where our tents came, and Col. Dicks [Alexander Dick's] regiments came, and a considerable number of other troops - from Camp Carson we frequently marched during the night to Portsmouth and back to camp in the day - that about one hundred and fifty of our troops turned out as volunteers at Camp Carson to go to Guilford, where it was expected an action would take place - these men marched under major [Thomas] Posey. our company commanded by Capt. Patterson and within a day and a half travel from Guilford we heard of the battle and returned to Camp Carson - during the winter we had several skirmishes with Arnolds [Gen. Benedict Arnold's] troops in one of which Capt. [John] Cunningham from Augusta was wounded - in one of these skirmishes a hessian shot at him, wheeled and run - he fired and shot the hessian as he ran - that sometime in the spring, the volunteers were marched back to Staunton and arrived there about the last of April and discharged after a service of six months which discharge he has long since lost -

That two days after his return from Camp Carson to Staunton, he received orders again to march, in the same company of volunteers commanded by Capt. Rankin, that we immediately marched across the mountain into Amherst county, to the Old store where Cornwallis was - that a large number of troops were at this store and the enemy had moved off towards Richmond - we marched to Westham where we had a few rounds with the rear-guard of the enemy. from thence we marched through Richmond to Bottoms bridge across a swamp [Chickahominy Swamp, early May] where we arrived about daylight, and found the bridge destroyed - we made a bridge of rails and waited untill our main force came up - we then followed the enemy to Jamestown, near which we fired on the enemy rear guard and took a number of cattle from them, and had a severe skirmish. Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne commanding - thence we marched after the enemy to Yorktown, where he remained untill about three days before Cornwallis' surrender, he was discharged having had the camp fever for some time before which discharge was signed by Capt. Rankin and long since lost - that he was in the service this time four months and a half-

That in January 1781 (as he omitted to mention above) the troops that had marched to Guilford, hearing that Tarlton was going to attack Morgan, Major Posey determined to join Morgan, we marched in haste and joined Morgan, and was in the battle of the Cowpens, and after that engagement we marched the prisoners up to Bedford in Virginia where the county militia took charge of them, and we marched back to Camp Carson - that he recollects very well Gen'l. Morgan addressing and animating the troops before the battle of the Cowpens -

That he is under the impression that he served during the Revolution a longer period, for he recollects that after the Revolution he frequently said that he served about two years, but he was unable to read and write, and from loss of memory he is unable to make any other

statement of his services and may mistake dates.

That he now recollects that his eldest daughter was but two days old when he marched from Staunton to Falmouth under Capt. Rankin, and she was born on the first or second day of October.

That they never beat up for volunteers, but he entered into the service - that he is confident he served more than twenty one months.

That he was born on the 19th of April he believes in the year 1758 in Stovers town, in Shenandoah county [formed in 1772 from Frederick County] Virginia - that he believes the record of his age is in Augusta county with a sister, if she is still alive - that every tour of duty he performed he marched from Staunton, that after the Revolution he continued to reside in Augusta untill about forty seven years ago, he removed to this county, where he has continued to reside - that he has frequently seen Gen'l. Washington, Gen'l. Morgan, Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene, Col. [John Eager] Howard, Col. O. Williams, Col. [Henry] Lee, Col. [William] Washington, that he was personally acquainted with Capt. Triplett & Taite [James Tate or Taite] whose companies were placed under Morgan - Taite was from Augusta - that he is personally acquainted with Col. Thomas S Haymond, Francis Billingsley esq'r., Hillery Boggess esq'r., Col. Dudley Evans, Capt. John Evans, and a great many other respectable men of the county who he believes can testify as to his veracity and the general belief in his services.

He hereby relinquishes very claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

That there is no clergyman with whom he has any acquaintance residing in his neighbourhood - that he knows of no other testimony than Henry Whiteman of Randolph to prove his services — Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid

George his2mark Keller

Morgantown 29th Jan 1833

Dear Sir, I enclose you the declaration of George Keller for a pension- The testimony of Whitman was taken by Col. [Joseph] Johnson who is now in Congress from this District - if he has it, he will hand it to the office I am resp'ly your ob't. ser't Thos. P. Ray

[The following is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pension applicants from Monongalia, Harrison, Lewis, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Singleton insisted that, in accordance with law, but contrary to fact, militia tours were always for three months each.]

George Keller amt of Pension \$65—

I understand from Thos. P. Ray Esq. that the original declaration in this case was written by either a Harrison or Lewis agent - that upon its being presented to him for his certificate, he wrote it anew, and corrected the errors & mistatements - Mr. Ray thinks him entitled to the amount awarded - under these circumstances - and the fact that he lives almost out of the world[?] - I considered that it would be a waste of time to hunt him out.

W. G Singleton Dec. 1, 1834

Morgantown 27 Feb 1836

Col. J L Edwards Com'r of Pensions

Sir Mr. Geo. Keller, one of the suspended pensioners of this county, called on me yesterday, and I put the enquiry to whether he would be satisfied, upon your allowing him for three months service in each tour stated in his declaration - he replied that he would and handed me his certificate to send it to you - he persists in stating that he was kept, as well as the other Virginia troops longer than three months, and yet expects to obtain testimony that will satisfy you on that point. I am very resp'ly your obt Thos. P. Ray

[Keller's pension was reduced from \$65.00 to \$46.66 per year.]

Know all men by these presents that I George Keller of the County of Taylor and State of Virginia have constituted and appointed and by these presents do constitute and appoint Evans & Faust of Miltown my true and lawful attorney irrevocably for me in my name to receive from

the United States all such sum or sums of money due me on account of arrears of pay three months, extra pay forage mileage for horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service expenses incurred, or money expended for organizing company of volunteers before being mustered into the services of the United States or any moneys which may be due me on any account from the United States whatsoever and to receive my bounty land or pension certificate when issued [the rest legal boilerplate not transcribed]

11th day of October 1851

George hisXmark Keller

NOTE: Gen. Daniel Morgan retired from service shortly after the Battle of Cowpens SC and was not at Guilford Courthouse. Part of the Southern Army under Gen. Nathanael Greene joined Gen. Morgan's army at Charlotte, not Guilford Courthouse. Maj. Posey was not at the Battle of Cowpens.