

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Keemle S5652

f104VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/6/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

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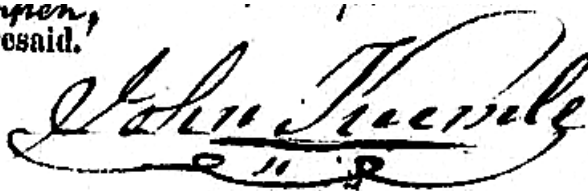
Eastern District of Pennsylvania, SS

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1818, before me the subscriber Judge of the District Court of the United States or the said district, personally appeared Doctor John Keemle aged 65 or more years, resident in the northern Liberty in this district, who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late 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:" that he, the said John Keemle enlisted in the state of Pennsylvania, entered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia [Regiment] commanded Colonel Wheaton [perhaps a mistaken attempt to identify Colonel George Weedon] of the State of Virginia as Surgeon's Mate to Doctor Griffiths [sic, Doctor David Griffith], Surgeon & Chaplin of said Regiment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States for the term of nine months & more when he was discharged from service in Philadelphia State of Pennsylvania – that he was in the battles of Deponent cannot remember exactly being much weakened in his memory and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services, except the accompanying Certificates of Doctors Rush and Shippen,

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

S/ Richard Peters, Judge

S/ John Keemle

*resaid.*  


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I do hereby certify that Doctor John Keehmle [sic] served under me as a Junior Surgeon in the military hospitals of the United States with fidelity. I do not recollect exactly the time in which his warrant was dated, but from several circumstances, I think it most probable it was in October 1777, a week or two after the defeat of Count Donop [Col. Karl Emil Kurt von Donop] at red Bank [Red Bank, October 22, 1777], of whose wounded men, the Doctor had the case by my Order at Bushington & more tower.

Philadelphia December 16, 1805

S/ Benj. Rush [Benjamin Rush]

I do hereby certify that Dr. John Kemble  
served under me as a Junior Surgeon  
in the military hospitals of the United  
~~States with fidelity.~~ I do not recollect  
exactly the time in which his Warrant  
was dated, but from several circumstances,  
I think it most probable <sup>it was</sup> in October 1777,  
a week or two after the defeat of Count  
Donop at Red Bank, of whose wounded  
men, the Doctor had the care by my order  
at Bushington & more tower.

Philadelphia  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 16. 1806

Benj<sup>n</sup>. Rush

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I well remember that Dr. John Kemble [sic] acted as mate under Dr. Griffith & was continued under the direction of Dr. Glintworth [Glentworth] in the hospital I believe till the British left Philadelphia – how long he continued in service I can ascertain but believe his statement is just.

S/ W. Shippen  
Late Director M. H.

Philadelphia December 16, 1806

I well remember that Dr. John Keemle acted as mate under Dr. Griffith & was continued under the Direction of Dr. Glenkworth in the Hospital I believe till the British left Philadelphia - how long he continued in service I am not certain but believe his statement is just. -

W. Shippen  
late Director  
M.H.

Philadelphia  
Dec. 16. 1806

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United States Eastern District of Pennsylvania: SS

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820 personally appeared in open Court, John Keemle, being a Court of Record for the said District aged about 68 years, now resident in Penn Township in said District who being first duly Affirmed, on his solemn Affirmation according to Law, declare and say that he served in the Revolutionary War, as Junior Surgeon in the Hospital department, as proved by Doctor Shippen & Rush's Certificate, on his first application for a pension agreeable to a Law of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1818. Number of his pension Certificate 5253; the day of his declaration was sometime in September 1818; & this deponent further affirms, that he was a resident Citizen of the US on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818; & that he hath not since that time, by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of his property, or any portion thereof, with intent thereby to so to diminish it as to bring himself 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 U S in the Revolutionary War, passed the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that he hath not, nor any person for him any property, or Securities, Contracts or debts due to him, nor has he any other income at present other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him Subscribed, viz. One 3-story brick house & lot 16 ½ feet front & 50 feet situate in North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, No. 33, Subject to a yearly ground rent of \$64 - taxes \$25.25 - there is a Mortgage on this house, given in 1809 for \$2300 to Mr. John Ecky. The house let last year for \$240 per annum: but lets now for \$200 only; this rent scarcely pays interest ground rent & taxes. I am besides indebted to different persons above \$700; Household furniture follows viz. - 1 Maple wood Secretary valued \$8 - 3 mahogany tables \$10 - 1 Walnut ditto \$2 - 16 common Windsor chairs \$9 - 6 kitchen ditto \$3 - 1 Bureau \$6 - 1 easy chair \$2 - 1 square looking glass \$12 - 1 oval ditto \$6 - 2 small prints & 1

large \$3 – 1 ten [sic, tin?] plate Stove \$8 – 2 pair brass andirons \$8 – 1 pair Shovel & tongs \$5 – 1 mahogany stand \$2 – 1 wash stand \$2 – 1 silver cream jug \$10 – 1 silver soup ladle \$7 – 1 dozen silver teaspoons much worn \$8 – other necessary kitchen furniture \$6 – 2 common kitchen tables \$2 –

Deponent has four daughters, the oldest Rebecca about 30 years of age; the next Eliza about 25, the next Maria about 15, the youngest Caroline about 12 years of age lives with my oldest Son; they are able & willing to work when they can get plain sewing to do to maintain themselves. Not being able to continue in the practice of Physick, deponent is at present employed in making the fine kinds of white Soap, as much as he is able to do in his advanced state of life, but which affords very little; & he requires Occasional Assistance.

Affirmed to and Open Court July 28<sup>th</sup> 1820

S/ D. Caldwell, Clerk District Court

S/ John Keemle

[the property of the veteran was valued by the court at \$618 including the house]

[Note: the veteran would have been dropped from the pension roll as a result of having more property than was allowed under the 1820 act.]

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Declaration in order to be restored on the Pension List under Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1823.  
County of Philadelphia, SS

On this 26<sup>th</sup> of April A.D. 1823 personally appeared in Open District Court of the United States being a Court of Record, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Dr. John Keemle resident in said County aged 70 years, who being first duly affirmed according to law, doth on his solemn affirmation make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820. That he the said Dr. John Keemle entered in the Service of his Country in the City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania (the exact time he cannot state from a failure of memory but refers to the Certificates of Dr. Shippen & Rush forwarded to the Department in 1818) as Surgeon's mate with Dr. Griffiths of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Wheaton, in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment, where he continued to serve till Dr. Griffiths resigned, when deponent was transferred to the Hospital Department under Dr. Glentworth with whom he continued till after the entry of the Enemy into the City of Philadelphia in 1777, and ordered to Burlington Hospital, to Dr. Glentworth with whom he continued till he will was ordered down by Dr. Rush to assist in dressing the wounded at Red Bank, where he was promoted by Dr. Rush from mate to Junior Surgeon, in which capacity he served above nine months, as the Act of Congress requires. That in 1780 he entered as surgeon on board and armed vessel with Captain Harris till the time the Cruise ended. That he was placed on the pension List in 1818, and stricken off there from on account of his property.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, he solemnly swears that he was a resident Citizen to a good done of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that he has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by

him subscribed

1 Maple wood Secretary valued at	\$ 8.-
3 Mahogany Tables	10.-
1 Walnut Table	2.-
16 Common chairs	16.-
6 Kitchen chairs	3.-
1 Bureau	6.-
1 easy chair	2.-
1 Square looking glass	12.-
1 Oval looking glass	6.-
2 Small prints & 1 Large	3.-
1 Ten plate Stove	8.-
2 Pair Brass and Irons	8.-
1 Pair Shovel and tongs	5.-
1 Mahogany Stand	2.-
1 wash do do	2.-
1 Silver cream jug	10
	<u>\$ 103.-</u>
<hr/>	
brought forward	\$ 103.-
1 Silver Soup Ladle	7.-
1 Doz Silver Tea Spoons	8.-
Other necessary Kitchen furniture	6.-
2 Common Tables	2.-
	<u>\$ 126</u>

The remaining debts of deponent exceed \$700

S/ John Keemle

The declarant is by profession a Physician, but is not in practice as formerly having pursued other vocations in which he was unsuccessful and relinquish them and now is too old to regain it.

He has 3 daughters with whom he resides. The name of the eldest is Rebecca aged about 32 years, Eliza is about 26 years of age and Maria about 17. These 3 keep and little School, scarcely sufficient for their support, he therefore requires assistance from his country.

That since the exhibition of his first Schedule the following change has been made in his property. The House No. 33 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Philadelphia mentioned in my former Schedule and particularly described in the Deed here with since, Sold to the Saving fund Society of Philadelphia assignees of a mortgage given by me to John Ecky 12 or 13 years ago. The time of Sale the 10<sup>th</sup> of April A.D. 1821 (a Copy of the deed being here with sent) and no amount of property or money received in return for the same, being sold to said Society for principal and interest of said mortgage to avoid a Sheriff's sale.

S/ John Keemle

[p 20: there is a note that the veteran was restored to the pension roll April 30, 1823]

[p 49: letter addressed by veteran to Richard Rush]  
Philadelphia June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1828

Sir

Considering myself entitled to the benefit of the act of Congress of the 15<sup>th</sup> ultimo for the Revolutionary officers I take up the pen with a hand verging on 79 to give you the information required in a notice published in our papers and which was read to me by one of my neighbors, as I could not read it myself – my Eye-sight failing me, very much and likewise my memory.

I reside in Philadelphia – I live with 2 of my daughters, who keep school No. 23 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

In conversation with Mr. Sergeant and Major Jackson, they advised me to make a statement of my case as nothing particular was mentioned in the act about the medical department, and I would be informed how and in what manner to draw up a declaration will make application &c.

I turned out as Surgeon's mate with Doctor Phile the first campaign in 76. After our return from this tour, and the Enemy pressing forward to Trenton, Burdowntown and Burlington, I turned out as a volunteer rifleman at the Battle of Trenton and Princeton. Surgeons being wanted, to attend the sick and wounded of which there were a great number Dr. Griffiths Surgeon and Chaplain of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Wheaton engaged me as Surgeon's mate to that Regiment. I continued with Dr. Griffiths till he resigned. Dr. Glentworth being appointed in his place myself and two more mates were attached to him by Dr. Shippen, Director General of the Medical department – continued with Dr. Glentworth till I was ordered from Burlington hospital by your venerable Father, then deputy Director General of the Eastern department, down to red bank, to assist in dressing the wounded, the Surgeon there being sick. Some few days after the Battle of red bank, your venerable Father promoted me from mate to regimental surgeon and Junior in the hospital – my pay now was \$60 per month four rations a day and forage for a Horse and a [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> allowed me. On my arrival at Princeton with 15 wagon load of wounded, from red bank, I was ordered by your venerable Father to Lancaster Hospital – Assistance being wanted there. Here I continued till April, when I was ordered down near Valley Forge, to take charge of a convalescent Hospital established there.

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*waiting*

Some time after the Enemy left the city the sick were removed to Philadelphia. Being now wore down by sickness & excessive fatigue, I had to leave the land service. In '80 I went to sea as surgeon on board a brig<sup>2</sup> carrying ten nine pounders and 65 men, for the recovery of my health. While at sea a redirection was made in the Army, there not being so many officers wanted I became a supernumerary but I never received any pay as such because it was not worth receiving, on account of the low depreciations, [paper damaged in word written over and illegible]ting with many others, that all would be fairly settled. In '86 or '87 a number of medical officers petitioned Congress for the settlement of our accounts. On this petition I was the second signer, as may be seen for it is on file.

Having had to petition Congress on account of some irregularity in my entry in the books, my brother's name<sup>3</sup> (who was steward in a hospital) being blended with mine, I called on Dr. Shippen & your venerable Father for certificates as to the time of my promotion pay & of my service, with which they readily favored me. These were sent on to C. [Congress] & left in care of McDougherty late clerk to Congress. These documents will fully satisfy as to my rank, pay & time of service.

S/ Jhon Keemle [sic]  
late Surgeon of Continental Army

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Declaration of John Keemle late Surgeon of the Continental Army

I John Keemle of the City of Philadelphia in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, do hereby declare, that I entered the Service of my Country in the Continental Army as Surgeon's mate (after the battle of Trenton & Princeton) with Doctor Griffiths Surgeon & Chaplain of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Wheaton – That I continued with him until he resigned. After his resignation, I with the other two mates, were transferred to Doctor Glentworth who was appointed by Doctor Shippen (who was then Director General of the Medical & Surgical departments) to succeed Doctor Griffiths – That we continued with Doctor Glentworth till the day before the Enemy entered the City of Philadelphia, when I was sent with a load of wounded & sick from the Hospital to Trenton. After I had delivered these wounded at the Hospital, I was ordered to Burlington to be with Doctor Glentworth. Sometime in the beginning of October '77 Doctor Rush, then deputy director General of the Eastern district called at the Hospital at Burlington, told Glentworth he must have one of his mates, to assist in dressing the wounded at Red Bank. The Doctor made choice of me, to go on that Service; told me to get my horse & go with him. I did so Two or three days after the wounded were dressed, I was ordered on to Princeton with several wagons load of wounded: After I had delivered them to the Hospital I was taken ill. On my informing the Doctor of this, he gave me an order for a wagon to go where I would get better accommodation. I went on to Bethlehem, among my acquaintances. After my recovery I was ordered on to Lancaster Hospital where assistance was wanted. Here I continued till April, when I was ordered down within some distance of Valley Forge to take charge of a Convalescent Hospital. Here I continued some time after the British had Evacuated the City & the few convalescence sent to the City. Being in a sickly state & as assistance was not wanted I was not called for. In the year 80 I went to sea for the recovery of my health as Surgeon on board of an armed the Brig of 10 guns. While at sea, a reduction in the Army was made, so many not being wanted as before, I became a supernumerary.

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<sup>2</sup> In correspondence on page 67, the veteran describes the vessel as a privateer commanded by Capt. Harris.

<sup>3</sup> George Keemle



True copy of the original.

S/ John Keemle

Philadelphia February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1829

[p 3: Power of attorney dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1829 filed in Philadelphia Pennsylvania by John Keemle, Late Surgeon Continental Army

*John Keemle [I. S.]  
Late Surgeon Contine  
Army.*

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To all Persons to whom this may come greeting

Before me the undersigned one of the Alderman of the City of Philadelphia, Personally appeared Doctor John White, one of the Commissioners of the County of Philadelphia, and on his solemn oath doth declare and say, that he well knew Doctor John Keemle during the Revolutionary War who was a Junior Surgeon in the General Hospital at Philadelphia, and was occasionally as the service required detached, and acted as regimental Surgeon in the Army. The precise time of his entrance and continuance in the Service I cannot distinctly recollect, but of the above facts I am certain, as I was myself a Surgeons Mate at the same time at the above mentioned Hospital and several other stations.

Philadelphia June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1829

S/ John White

*John White*

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing September 15, 1818, for service as a surgeon in the Virginia Continental line.]

[Note: This file contains a large number of letters written by the veteran to various parties in pursuit of the pension due him.]