

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Kennerly S8781

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Augusta County }

On this 22nd day of July 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Augusta County Court now sitting, William Kennerly a resident of the County of Augusta and State of Virginia, aged about 81 years, who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he was born in the County of Culpeper and State of Virginia, and that from his Father's register which he has not now in his possession, nor does he know what has become of it, it appeared that he was born on the 4th of February 1752 - that he resided several years in the County of Culpepper after his birth, from Culpepper he removed in his youth to the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia, where has ever since resided and still resides.

As one of the Militia of Augusta County the declarant with other men from Augusta volunteered their services to go on an expedition against the Indians who were committing great depredations upon the white Inhabitants in the Western part of Virginia, they rendezvoused in Staunton in the said County of Augusta in the month of June 1774 and he marched from there as first Sergeant of the Company under the Command of Captain George Mathews. Wm Robertson was first Lieutenant and George Gibson was second Lieutenant. From Staunton he marched with the Company to a place called Warwicks Fort in what is now the County of Greenbrier, where they joined other men under the command of Captain George Moffett, who also belonged to the Augusta Militia, who was the first Officer in Command and was then engaged in building said Fort. This declarant was left at Fort Warwick in Command of sixteen men, the other Troops under the Command of Capt'ns Moffett & Mathews marched to Point Pleasant to join the Army under the Command of Gen'l. [Andrew] Lewis. After the Battle of the Point, which took place on the 10th of October 1774, the Troops that survived returned to Fort Warwick, where this declarant had been left in Command, and about the 1st of Nov'r of said year the Troops were discharged and returned home. This declarant received no written discharge and was absent in the service on this tour of duty 4½ months. He expects to prove the service above set forth by James Robertson [pension application S17055] &c.

His next service was as follows. In the year 1778 about the first of June he was drafted as one of the Militia of Augusta County and owing to the peculiar situation of declarants Family his Father being very unwell and his Brother being engaged in the same service, the declarant was selected by Colo. Sampson Mathews of the Augusta Militia to take charge of a Brigade of pack horses, which were used in conveying Provisions to the Troops who had been ordered on to Fort McIntosh [at present Beaver PA]. he continued in this service in the County of Augusta under the orders of Colo. Mathews until about the middle of the month of November in the same year being actually engaged in the service of the United States, on this Occasion for at least the period of five months He has no Documentary evidence going to prove this service, but expects to be able to prove it in part by Wm. Patrick [S5882].

This declarant in the month of June 1781 (the precise day he cannot state but thinks it was early in the month) volunteered as a mounted Horseman together with 108 other men to go to the defence of Richmond and the lower part of Virginia he rendezvoused at Staunton in the County of Augusta. Wm. Bowyer of the Augusta Militia was the Captain. Samuel Bell was a Lieutenant in the Company, and Charles Cameron was another Lieutenant. From Staunton they marched to the City of Richmond Joined Gen'l. [William] Campbell. from thence to Bottoms Bridge, from thence to New Kent Courthouse, where the Troops with which the declarant was, had a skirmish with a party of the British. From the Courthouse they marched to near Williamsburgh where the British Army lay for some days, from near Williamsburgh the Troops marched in the direction of James Town, when between Williamsburgh & James Town the Battle of Hot Water [Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun] was fought by the Troops

with whom the declarant was. The Troops were marched & countermarched in the neighbourhood of Williamsburgh until General Cornwallis took post at York Town [1 Aug] [from here to the signature is marked "omit."]

when the American Army with whom the declarant acted laid seige [28 Sep], about which time the declarant in consequence of his ill health occasioned by great fatigue & exposure was furloughed and continued ill with fever, until after the Troops with whom he had marched were discharged in the latter part of October 1781. After the Troops with whom this declarant acted marched to Bottoms Bridge Gen'l. Wm. Campbell commanded for some time. they were also under the command of Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne, and the whole under the command of Major General Lafayette, who continued in command until General Washington came on from the North [14 Sep]. In this Tour this declarant was in service, including the time he was on Furlough four months. he received no written discharge but expects to prove this Tour by the above named James Robertson & Wm. Patrick. Wm. Kennerly

Augusta County to Wit

James Robertson personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid and made oath that he believes that the declarations of William Kennerly as set fourth in the above touching the tour against General Cornwallis to be correct, that he knows that he was in the service as a soldier having frequently seen him at different places during the tour. Given under my hand this 13th of April 1833.

S. Crawford [Samuel Crawford, who certified that Robertson lived 15 miles from the court house and could not attend]

Augusta County Virginia July 18th 1833

I do hereby Certify that I have been personally acquainted with William Kennerly more than 60 years, and I have personal knowledge of his being in the service as stated in his declaration against Gen'l. Cornwallis & William Patrick

And the said William Kennerly hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 & subscribed to in open Court this 22nd day of July 1833 Wm. Kennerly

Augusta County Virginia 17th July 1833

I do hereby certify that I have been personally acquainted with William Kennerly 49 years, and have often heard him relate the services he performed in the Militia in the War of the revolution, when he could have had no motive to exaggerate. I have also seen his declaration made with a view to obtaining the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832 and find a perfect accordance in the facts set forth in the declaration and those stated repeatedly to me and in my presence in relation to his services in the war as aforesaid and therefore have no doubt whatever of the correctness of every fact stated in his declaration. Given the above date Ro Porterfield [pension application S8965]

Virginia. Augusta County Sc

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County of Augusta William Kennerley the person herein applying for a pension, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For four months and fifteen days served as a Sergeant in Capt. Geo Mathews Company as herein before stated For five months as a private under command of Col. Sampson Mathews as herein before stated, and the declarant is from a reference of certain facts the dates of which are matters of record and history satisfied that his last service was for as long a period as in his original declaration he stated. he remembers well, that he marched from Staunton under the command of Wm Bowyer as herein before stated, a few days after the Legislature of Virginia had assembled at Staunton (being driven from Charlottesville [4 Jun 1781]) he has ascertained that they (the legislators met at Staunton in the County of Augusta on the 7th day of June 1781* and within five days at

fartherest from that day this declarent marched as the orderly sergent of the said Wm Bowyers company and continued to act in that character untill he obtained his furlough, which according to the best of his recollection was on or about the 1st day of Octo. 1781 being just at the time when the Seige of York commenced [sic: 28 Sep], so that according to the best of his recollection he served on his last tour of duty for three months and eighteen days as orderly sargent, enclusive of the time he was on furlough, and for the three tours of duty as in this amended decleration stated he claims a pension. [signed] Wm. Kennerly
Sworn & subscribed to before me this 13th day of September 1833 John Porterfield J.P.
*See 4 Vol. of History of Virginia by L. H. Geradin [sic: Louis Hue Girardin] page 500

Dear Sir,

In answer to your Inquirey, I hearby State I Was Drafted in 1778, I think in June to go against the Indians & Was apointed, by Colon'l. S. Mathews to the charge of the Horses [illegible word] hundred in Number, these horses Were collected for the use of the Bragade, in general But Mostly used for pack Horses for the Deferent places of Depot. My Business Was to See that they Were provided for and Ready at Command also to Start Them With Lodid provitians as the Qurter Master Order'd. I had Seven Men Imploy'd. just as I could hire them some time slaves for a short Time I had one Man by the Name of James guin also Thos Hunter the Horse were Kept at Deferent places part in Augusta County & part on the Rode in places I had at various Times to go With a part of them Loaded Until I met the Retun Company Which I rid Into my care and acted all the Time Intierly Under My Draft & by Colo Mathews & Major Lockharts Orders as Well as I now Recolect I Wass Not Dischargd Until a Bout the first of November I Was Dureing the Time able to See My Sick farther A few Times But not So as to Neglect the Duties Assign'd. Mee
yours With Due Respect Wm. Kennerly

Dr. Sir, I Do asure you Small pitanse allow'd. Would not Induce Me to Make an Indirect Statement If I Knew it When I Were in the Service of My Country I Was young & had plenty I Never Expected to ask for or Receive compensation But now I am Old & Needy Not By Desipation and could I Receive What is allow'd It Would help to smoth My Declineing Days Which Must Now be But few. yours With Respect, I Do not Know if it be Needful to Qualefy Before a Justice Or I Would Do So. I am your &c
Wm. Kennerly

Dear Sir

Within you have the statement of my aged Uncle to the best of his recollection, I did not suppose from what you said in conversation last it required oath before a Justice - but if so, you will please inform me;

I assure you he acts with strict verity according to his recollection & perhaps no pension has been granted to a more sober & cautious, tho now a needy man; I would refer you to the Rev Mr. Evans for any further information on the character of the witness &c
Dr Crump {Direct to White Post Clark Co [sic: Clarke County] Va} Yrs Thos Kennerly

Affidavit of Samuel Kennerly [or Samuel Kennerley, pension application S16900] taken before M. W. Pettigrew a Justice of the peace for Botetourt County

This affiant being first duly sworn states that from the register kept by his father, he believes that his brother William Kennerly was born on the 4th day of February in the year 1752 and thus he is now upwards of eighty five years of age.

That this affiant well recollects that the said William Kennerly served a tour as a soldier in an expedition against the Indians in the year 1777 or 1778 which expedition was conducted by Col. Sampson Matthews & Major Patrick Lockhart. That the said William Kennerly was drafted in the County of Augusta and was in a Company of militia commanded by Capt. John Givens. That he does not know how long he was engaged in the service at that time but he knows he was absent from Augusta more than three months.

This affiant further states that he knows that the said William Kennerly served another tour in the year 1781 against the British in a volunteer Company Commanded by Capt William Bowyer which marched from Staunton Augusta County. That he left Augusta sometime in the Spring and returned in the month of September or October That he well recollects that the said William

Kennerly returned home sick. that he hath frequently heard the said William Kennerly as well as others say that the said William was in the battles of Hot Water near Williamsburg & conducted two wounded men whose names were Hamet & Scott from off the battle ground.

This affiant further states that he is now in the eighty third year of his age & that he is unable from bodily infirmity to attend the County Court of Augusta. Given under my hand this 22^d day of March in the year 1837.

[signed] S. Kennerly