

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Kersey S8788

Transcribed by Will Graves

f11NC

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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.]

State of North Carolina, Robeson County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Term 1834

On this the 24th day of February in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Thomas A. Norment, James Blount and Shadrack Howell presiding Justices of the Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions held in and for the County of Robeson James Kersey a resident of said County aged about Seventy 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as he is herein states. That on or about the first day of August in the year 1782 he volunteered for eighteen months as a private soldier in a company of militia infantry of the State of North Carolina which was then forming in the County of Bladen, in the town of Elizabeth [sic, Elizabethtown] in said County, that when he entered the service he was placed under the command of Captain Robert Raiford and that he marched under his command to a place about a mile from Duplin Old Court House where Captain Joshua Hadley was stationed with some troops that after meeting with Captain Hadley command of the company to which this Declarant was attached was by Captain Raiford transferred to said Captain Hadley that he then marched under the command of Captain Hadley to the town of Wilmington in this State, and thence along by the sea shore by the Long Bay to Georgetown in the State of South Carolina, from thence across the Santee – thence along through the Camps of General Marion [Francis Marion] to Cooper River at Cooper Ferry – thence to Ashley River, that he crossed Ashley River at Bacon's Bridge where a military guard was stationed, then he marched down said River to Ashley Hill a place about ten or twelve miles from Charleston that when he arrived at Ashley Hill the company to which he was attached was put under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] of the United States Army, this was about the first day of October 1782, as well as the declarant recollects.

This Declarant further states that he was at Ashley Hill at the time Charleston was evacuated by the British troops which event happened about the 14th of December 1782 – and that about the 5th day of January 1783 he was marched to James Island in the State of South Carolina where he was stationed until near the last of July 1783, that he then was marched back toward Wilmington for the purpose (as he was informed by his Commander) to be discharged, but that in consequence of the difficulty experienced on procuring baggage wagons and there being no necessity at that time of keeping the troops on duty (peace having been restored and the war at an end) he was after two or three days march discharged by Captains Finley and Bush [probably William Bush] (Captain Hadley having left the service in consequence of severe sickness) – that he was discharged about the first of August 1783. That the discharge he received

was a written one, but that he lost it in this manner--two or three years afterwards, to wit, meeting with the aforesaid Captain Hadley in the town of Fayetteville in North Carolina, he this declarant made application to said Captain Hadley to assist him in procuring his pay that Captain Hadley stated to him if he would let him have his discharge he would endeavor to procure his pay for him whereupon this declarant delivered to said Hadley his discharge and that he never has since seen said Hadley or been able to get his discharge into his possession again. This declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence, nor can he procure the testimony of any one that he knows of, to prove his service. This declarant further states that he never was in any engagement but once which was with a body of the Negroes above Charleston at a place called as he thinks the Quarter House – And that the whole time he was in service he was a private soldier and that as such he served at least twelve months. This Declarant 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. This declarant further states that there is not in his neighborhood any clergyman of his acquaintance whose testimony he can procure at this time.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

Test: S/ A. McEachin, Clk

S/ James Kersey, X his mark

Answers to the Questions propounded to James Kersey the applicant in the foregoing Declaration according to the direction of the War Department:

Answer to first question – I was born in the County of Robeson (then Bladen County) in the State of North Carolina, the year I do not know, but have been informed it was about the year 1762, and now consider myself seventy years old or thereabouts.

Answer to second Question – I have not.

Answer to third Question – I was living in Bladen (now Robeson) County in this State when called into service: and have lived in the same County ever since the revolutionary war, and now reside there.

Answer to fourth Question – I volunteered.

Answer to fifth Question – I served under General Greene, General Guess [Mordecai Gist], Captain Hall of the Regular troops, under Captain Hadley, Captain Raiford, Captain Finley and Bush of the militia – the general circumstances attending my service I have stated in my declaration.

Answer to sixth question – I received a discharge in writing from Captain Finley and Captain Bush, but have lost it.

Answer to seventh Question – I am known to James Storm Esq. the Sheriff of this County, to Charles Moore Esq. Post master at this place and many others who are not now present, who would testify as to my good character and as to my reputation of having served as a soldier of the revolution.

S/ James Kersey, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

Test: S/ A. McEachin, Clk [Archibald McEachin, Clerk of the Court]

[James Storm and Charles Moore gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that James Kersey a private in Captain Hadley's Company of the 10th Regiment enlisted on the 20th of August 1782 for the term of 18 months, that nothing more in said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 24th day of March 1834.
S/ Wm. Hill

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina Continental line.]