

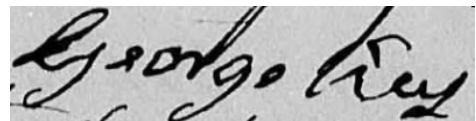
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of George Key W10162                      Susannah Key                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Aug 2020.

State of Missouri                      }  
County of Callaway                      }  
& Callaway Circuit Court                      } Sct.

On this fifth day of June 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable David Todd, Judge of the circuit court of Callaway County aforesaid George Key a resident of said county of Callaway and State of Missouri aforesaid aged eighty 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the army of the United States in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six with Captain Samuel Jourdan Cabell [Samuel Jordan Cabell VAS753] and served in the sixth Virginia Regiment of Regulars of the continental line, in my first two years of enlistment under said Samuel Jourdan Cabell Alexander Rose [BLWt1863-300] 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant & Benjamin Toliver [sic: Benjamin Taliafero] 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in s'd. regiment under the command of Colonel Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens VAS1922]. I resided in Buckingham Amherst County Virginia when I was first enlisted in said company. We commenced our march from Amherst to old Williamsburg, which was our head quarters after remaining at Williamsburgh for some time we marched to Gwynns Island to oppose Lord Dunmore the former Governor of Virginia [Gwynn Island, Dunmore's base May – July 1776], and after remaining about a month we returned to Williamsburgh where we remained until fall, we then started to go to cross creek [present Fayetteville] North Carolina, where it was supposed the British were, we got as far as Jamestown, & crossed our baggage over the river when we were countermanded to Williamsburgh where we remained until about the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, when we were ordered to the Jerseys to join General Washington, we marched through Maryland & Pennsylvania into Jersey & to Burlington [Burlington] after marching about & [undeciphered word] we were ordered to make our escape from the Brittish, where we retreated through the Jerseys over the Delaware river into Pennsylvania, where we remained until Christmas day when we recrossed the Delaware into the Jerseys marching towards Trenton, we marched most of Christmas night suffering much, but were told we were going for new clothes, we reached Trenton between daylight & sun up, & commenced the attack upon the hessians, & after their surrender on the same evening [26 Dec 1776] started back to the former camping ground & reached the Delaware river on the same evening, which we crossed next morning, when we discovered two men had froze to death that night, some short time after this affair we recrossed the Delaware river into the Jerseys, & by a stolen march in the night we reached Princeton [3 Jan 1777], & there defeated a small body of the Brittish army. We remained until in the latter part of spring when I had a three months spell of illness when I was again fit for duty. After this sometime I think in the month of September we were attached to [Col. Daniel] Morgan's rifle regiment, & was marched beyond Albany to oppose Burgoynes army at still water [Stillwater]. There a party of Morgan's troops were out scouting, & were attacked by the Brittish, the Brittish killed one man at the first fire, & the party retreated. Morgan rallied his men & was joined by General [Horatio] Gates. An attack was brought on between the two armies about 12 o'clock, & the action continued until night parted them. The Brittish kept the ground, & we retired to our old encampment about 2 miles off. Here we lay for some days & Morgans men went out of the encampment in the afternoon & were met by the Brittish a fight ensued between the two armies, & we beat the brittish back to their temporary encampment or fort. Here the Brittish spiked a part of their cannon, threw some into the river, & endeavoured to retreat to Saratoga to cross the river by night. But when they reached the river they found a part of our army on the other bank ready to oppose their crossing, here there was some slight skirmishing, but the Brittish finding themselves enclosed between the two parts of the army surrendered [formal surrender on 17 Oct 1777]. We then returned to

Pennsylvania six miles above Philadelphia to Germantown, where we staid a few days & passed over the Jersey side & went to Hattenfield where we whiped a small part of the yaugers [sic: Jaegers: German riflemen] & that night returned about one or two miles & next morning returned to the battle ground but was driven off by the shipping, we then returned to Germantown. We beat about here for some time watching the Brittish in Philadelphia, who declined giving us battle, & Morgan marched us some distance off to a private house where we remained until our time expired having served two years being discharged by Col. [Richard] Butler under Morgan. I returned home to Amherst County staid a short time & sent to Bedford county where I remained about until I again joined the army under Captain John Rogers of the Light Infantry in November 1779. From Bedford County we took up our march for Pittsburgh [sic: Fort Pitt at Pittsburgh] but for want of shoes and clothing a part was compelled to stop on the way, & I together with such a could travel proceeded to Pittsburgh, here we remained until the breaking up of the ice in the spring of 1780 when we embarked in two small boats & proceeded to what was called the illenois [sic: Illinois] settlement, which we reached about corn planting time, while remaining here we were informed in strawbury time that a party of indians about 400 strong on the other side of the Mississippi had killed about fifty persons in what was called the strawbury patch We crossed the river & pursued the indians who then crossed the Illenois side & remained there abouts for three days, & then on the arrival of Colonel George R. Clark [George Rogers Clark VAS269] with two brass Cannon made their escape. In the month of June we returned this visit of the Indians going as the french said about one hundred leagues by water & about one hundred miles by land to their villages at Rock river. The Indians had fled, we burnt fourteen houses & destroyed a considerable quantity of young growing corn, when we started back to the settlement & being out of provisions we were compelled to kill a horse for subsistance about two pounds of which came to my share, which I then thought was pretty good eating. When on our way back we reached a small french village, where we procured some corn which we boiled in ashes until the husks slipped off on which with one small deer we lived until we reached the Illenois settlement. Here we continued until 1781 in February when embarked for the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville KY] where we continued until my two years were out when I was discharged by Lieutenant Colonel Montgomery [John Montgomery R16522] under Colonel George R. Clark having served in all four years as a private throughout. On this last tour of two years I joined the light infantry in November 1779 und Captain Jno. Rogers in Bedford County Virginia. I further state I have no written discharge, or written record of my age nor do I know of any in being. Nor do I know of person living who knew me as a revolutionary soldier, I being now in my eighty first year of age. "I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, & declare that my name is not on any pension roll of any agency in any state.



[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do hereby Certify that George Key has served as a Soldier in my Company of Infantry in the Service of the State of Virginia from the 3<sup>rd</sup>[?] of July 1779 to the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1781 for which Service he has never received any Compensation other that the necessary[?] Articles of Cloathing [several illegible words] foure pairs of Mugasons and one [several undeciphered words] one large Blanket and paire of Cloth

Liggins

Jno Rogers Capt

Caroline[?] 26<sup>th</sup> March 1782



Franklin County To wit

This day Mary Ferguson personally appeared before me Bernard G Hendrick one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid & solemnly affirmed that she has been well acquainted with George Key from her Infancy to the present time, & that the said George Key Inlisted in Va. State Service in the last Revolutionary War & served about Two Years in the Latter part of the war given under my hand this 4th November 1826. Bernard G Hendrick JP

The Affidavit of William Drake [W8675] of lawful Age taken in Franklin County November 1<sup>st</sup> 1828 this deponent sayeth that he was acquainted with George Key and has perfect Recollection of his serving as a regular Soldier in the Revolutionary War three or four years in the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment and further this deponent sayeth not William hisXmark Drake

Subscribed and sworn to before me Stephen Wood  
Justice of the peace for the County of Franklin Virginia  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1828

NOTE: On 16 April 1840 Susanah Key, 74, applied for a pension stating that she married George Key on 12 Oct 1785, and he died 15 Jan 1836. In summarizing his services, she added to the list of his engagements the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781. The file includes a copy of a permission signed on 22 Aug 1785 by John Craighead of Bedford County for his daughter, Sucky, to be issued a license to marry George Key, witnessed by William Candler and John Key. There is also a copy of a bond signed on the same day by George Key and Robert Cowan for the marriage of Key to Sucky Craighead. Robert Craighead, brother of Susanah Key, stated that he was not present at the marriage because "they had to go fifteen miles to church with the view of get married and returned immediately to my Fathers," and that they were married by Rev. Mr. Salisbury in Bedford County, and that George and Susanah Key and their family moved from Virginia to Callaway County in 1831. The date of George Key's death was certified by Walter Kemp, Robert Craighead, and Martin Key.