

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Kelly W10165

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

In the matter of } An applicant for a pension, under the act of Congress of June 7, 1832–  
William Kelly } Recorded in book A page 318 Edward Patton clk  
WHEREAS, it has been represented to me, WILLIAM C. KEEN, Judge of Switzerland Probate court, that William Kelly of said county, is a REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER—that he resides in the township of Posey and is unable to appear at court, in consequence of bodily infirmity; whereupon, I attended at the residence of said William Kelly and after examination, do certify that said William Kelly is unable to, and cannot, appear at court, in consequence of BODILY INFIRMITY, caused by Epilepsy.

Given under my hand, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D. 1832

The state of Indiana, Switzerland county, SS: William C Keen

On this seventh day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared, at his own house, in Posey township, county aforesaid, before William C Keen Esqr. Judge of the Switzerland Probate court, William Kelly aged seventy seven years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his said oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress, passed the 7th of June, A.D. 1832—that he, the said William Kelly entered the service of the United States, during the AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated— That he, the said William Kelly in A.D 1777 served in a company of Virginia Militia commanded by captain Thomas Baldwin in the regiment commanded by Col. Steele – again he served in AD 1781 in a company commanded by captain Calamese attached to Daniel Morgan’s regiment [see endnote]

And, that he hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

The Judge, then propounded the following interrogatories to the said William Kelly

1. Where, and in what year were you born? I was born in Chester county Penna on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of Nov. A.D. 1755.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it? I have no written evidence at this time.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live? at that time I lived in Fred’k [Frederick] County Virginia and continued there after the war about 10 years – lived in Penn. about 13 years – then in Kentucky 26 or 27 years, since that time in Indiana.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted—did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute, for whom? I volunteered both times.

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia regimens as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. General Washington, General Perkins, Col. Howard [possibly John Eager Howard of MD], Col. Morgan was the commander of our regiment, but seldom appeared on parade, being confined with gout or rheumatism.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it? I received a written discharge signed by Capt. Baldwin – also one from Calamese, both of which were destroyed by fire, when my house was burnt in Kentucky

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Thomas Kelly, John Gibbons, Esq’r. Henry Wallick, Peter Love[?] Statton, Jacob Goodman &c &c.

8. Have you any documentary evidence of your services, and do you know of know of any person now

living whose testimony you can procure to testify to your services? I have none and know of no person living by whom I can prove the same except my brother [Thomas Kelly] whose affidavit is annexed Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

William Kelly

[The following is undated and unsigned. On back is the seal and signature of "Edward Patton" Clerk of the Switzerland Probate Court.]

The said William Kelly volunteered in Sept'r. AD 1777 at Winchester Virginia in a company commanded by Capt. Thomas Baldwin (Aaron Mercer was 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant, Robert Catlett Second lieutenant, James Burk Ensign, James Eaton or Heaton [James Heaton] 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, of Virginia Militia in the Virginia regiment commanded by colonel Steele (said Steele was from Carlisle, Penna.) and served as a private soldier for the full term of six months. After joining the service our company was marched to Wheeling and was stationed there and along the [Ohio] river During the whole term General [Edward] Hand had the command. Capt. John Baldwin, Capt. Reeder and Buck and Capt. Passons or Parsons and Capt. Radican commanded companies at the same time and belonged to our regiment. Again in the fall of 1781, he the said William Kelly volunteered at Albemarle barracks, Virginia in a company commanded by captain Calamese (a frenchman) the same who [illegible word] the walls at Quebec) in the regiment of Virginia Militia commanded by colonel Morgan (who was a regular officer, Col. [John] Smith of the Virginia Militia was the Colonel who first mustered us at Winchester Virg and sent us on to Albemarle and served for three months. We were at first placed as a guard over a quantity of Military Stores & from thence we were marched to Yorktown and lay there about two weeks – our times having expired, a short time before the Siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] we were relieved and discharged [Page ends here.]

#### NOTES:

I could not identify "captain Calamese." He might appear to be Marquis Calmes of the Frederick County Militia, but Calmes was a Lieutenant Colonel. In addition, Daniel Morgan had been promoted from Colonel of a regiment to Brigadier General before 1781.

On 5 Nov 1838 Sarah Kelly, 74, applied for a pension stating that she married William Kelly in Westmoreland County PA on 14 Sep 1786, and he died on 21 Jan 1833. She added that the marriage certificate was burned about 40 years previously when their house in Clark County KY burned. Michael Finley of Fayette County PA deposed that William Kelly and Sarah Pressor were married by his father, Rev. James Finley, at the latter's house. There are also depositions by other witnesses to the marriage. With her application, Sarah Kelly submitted the following nearly illegible family record written on blank pages of *The Solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation and Defence of Religion, the Honour and Happiness of the King, and the Peace and Safety of the Three Kingdoms of Scotland, England, and Ireland*, first published in 1643 and printed in 1788.

Nancy Sparke Aprill 13 1787

kathrine Kelly 30 December 1789

mary Kelly 17 February 1792

alisabeth Kelly 20 Sep 1795

Thomas and Rachel Kelly 31 jully 1797

Lydia kell 11 December 1800

William Kelly 26 march 18003

William and Sarah Kelly was marred 14 September 1786 Westmorland County pennsylvania marrade by James finley presbetrain minster

William Kelly was Born March the 26 18 3

In Oct 1840 Sarah Kelly gave the following records of her children:

Nancy Kelly born 13 Apr 1787

Catharine Kelly born 30 Dec 1789

Mary Kelly born 17 Feb 1792

Elizabeth Kelly born 20 Sep 1795

Thomas and Rachel Kelly born 31 Jul 1797

Lydia Kelly born 11 Dec 1800

William Kelly born 20 Mar 1803

Sarah Kelly gave the same names and dates on 28 May 1841, except that the names of Mary and Lydia were given as Mary Ann and Lydia Ann. On the same date, Lydia Ann Kelly and Nancy Sparks made supporting depositions.

On 27 Nov 1840 Sarah Kelly applied under a later pension act, giving her age as 75 and the date of William Kelly's death as 21 Jan 1834. She added that "her said husband William Kelly was after she was so intermarried with him in the County of Westmorland County Pennsylvania as aforesaid twist [twice] drafted in the servis as a solder of the United States The time he left home not recollected. But she recollects that at the time her said husband William Kelly come home the last time it was in the year seventeen hundred and ninety two."