

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Kemper W20292

Susannah Kemper

f39VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/11/13

[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 '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.]

[p 8]

State of Virginia, Fauquier County:

On this 25th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court, of Fauquier County now sitting, Charles Kemper, a resident of the County of Fauquier, living near the Town of Warrenton, Virginia, aged 77 years, on the 27th of June 1833 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 June 7th 1832. That at the time the British in the Revolutionary War ascended the river Potomac, he volunteered in a company commanded by Captain Hezekiah Turner, and marched under him as a private, that the enemy having ascended the river, after the absence of a few days, about twenty in number, he returned to his home, that subsequently in August 1777 he enlisted for the term of three years, under Captain Elias Edmonds, as Gunner, in a Company of Artillery of the State of Virginia, that he marched with him to York Town, Virginia, that he served in said Company, until the month of March or April, in the following year, at the least seven months, that being of weakly Constitution, and unable to bear the hardships of a soldier, his father persuaded a servant named John Ridley, at a high price, whom Captain Elias Edmonds received as a substitute, that the Affiant left the Army, reluctantly, and returned to his home, that he believes John Ridley served until the full end of the Term of 3 years. That in April or May 1781 he was called out with the Militia, of Fauquier County, Virginia, that during this Tour, he acted not less than two months as orderly Sergeant in the Company commanded by Captain William Jennings, who was under the command of Colonel Elias Edmonds, formerly his Captain, in the State artillery, that during the said Tour, he succeeded Augustine Smith as Ensign, and acted in that Capacity for the balance of the said Tour, that the whole Tour continued four months, that he received the said Commission of Ensign from the Colonel Elias Edmonds, and acted in that [indecipherable word or words] about 2 months, and not short of it in his belief, that the tour was designed for 3 months only, although it lasted 4 months, that he and the Company to which he was attached were relieved just before the siege of York, that the particular days when either Terms of service commenced, or ended, he cannot specify, that the men with whom he served are dead, or have removed to places unknown that those under whom he served are dead with the exception of General Lafayette, that he was in no engagement, that at every period of his service, he resided in the County of Fauquier, Virginia the place of his nativity that he has served as a volunteer, a drafted, and an enlisted soldier. In the first tour of 1777 he went to York Town by the then nearest route through Spotsylvania, Caroline, King William & other Counties – which he cannot now name, that in the year 1781 he joined the main Army commanded by

General Lafayette between Richmond & Williamsburg – that he was in the retreat to Raccoon Ford, in the [one or more indecipherable words], and the body to which he belonged were then joined by the troops commanded by General Wayne [Anthony Wayne]. That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person except John Kemper, whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. That he 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.

S/ Charles Kemper, senr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Kemper senr". The signature is written in dark ink and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

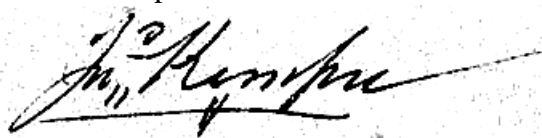
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

S/ A. J. Marshall, CC

[William Horner, and Richard Rixey [?], justices of the peace, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

This 25th of June 1833 Colonel John Kemper, appeared before the County Court of Fauquier, now sitting and made oath, that he was sixty-five years old, on the 25th May 1833, that he is a nephew of Charles Kemper, an applicant for a pension from the United States, that he has lived within a few miles of him ever since the birth of the Affiant, that he recollects his enlistment under Captain Elias Edmonds, and it was said to be for the term of three years, that he also knows that he did serve a Tour in the year 1781 under Captain William Jennings, that it was the history [?] of the day, that he had been promoted to the rank of an Ensign, by Colonel Elias Edmonds, that he has reviewed the statement of the said Charles Kemper, and that the incidents of the service corresponding with the family and neighborhood tradition of the said Charles Kemper, that he knows also that the said Charles Kemper was for more than 30 years, a survey or appointed and commissioned by law, for the County of Fauquier, and that he continued to act in that capacity until disqualified by the infirmities of age, and that full faith is to be reposed in his statements.

S/ Jno. Kemper

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Kemper". The signature is written in dark ink and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

The following interrogatories referred to in the above, certificate of Charles Kemper, were propounded to him in open Court and the following answers given by him on the 25th of June 1833.

Question 1st Where in in Fort year were you born

Answer. I was born near the town of Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia on the 27th day of June 1756

Question 2nd. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it.

Answer. I have at home, a record of my age, taken from the family Bible of my Father, which

was taken, to the best of my knowledge and belief to the State of Kentucky, by my oldest brother John Kemper.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where he you lived since the Revolutionary [war] and where do you now live.

Answer. I have lived ever since my birth near the Town of Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia, on the same farm which was owned by my Father.

Question 4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom.

Answer. I was never a substitute, I was called into service as a drafted soldier in 1781, enlisted also prior thereto in 1777, and before the last period, served as a volunteer, in the manner stated in my certificate.

Question 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops, where he used served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I have stated under oath in my certificate the general circumstances of my service, I now repeat them in the same manner, Colonel Carrington was an officer, while I was at York Town, Major Holmes a German, at the same time and Captain Declumer [Christian Charles De Klauman], a Frenchman, the only officers of the regulars in the tour of 1781 that I remember, and General Lafayette, they commanding Officer, and General Wayne, who joined him, afterwards at Raccoon Ford. The Continental and militia regiments or any of them, I do not remember.

Question the 6th. Did you as a soldier, ever receive a discharge from the service, if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it

Answer. I received a discharge from Captain Elias Edmonds in 1778 I have lost it, in 1781 I do not think, I did receive a written discharge after the end of the Tour, I think I was dismissed by a general order

Question 7th. Did you as an officer ever receive a commission and if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it.

Answer. I received a commission in the militia during the tour of 1781 from Colonel Elias Edmonds, which I have lost or destroyed.

8th. 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 in the Revolution

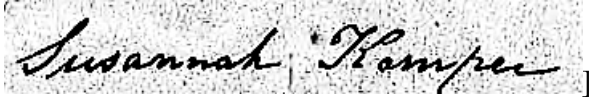
Answer. I am well known throughout the County of Fauquier, I am known by the members of this Court, the Justices of the Peace of this County, the members of the Bar, the Judge of the Superior Court of Law and Chancery for this District, by John Kemper, who has given his Affidavit, William Horner and Richard Rixey, who have given theirs, my services as a soldier are personally known to [indecipherable word] except John Kemper, mentioned above, but I believe all who know me will write in testifying to my character for veracity and to my statement or that of John Kemper as to their belief of my services as a soldier in the revolution.

S/ Charles Kemper, senr.

[p. 33: Joab Bernard, a minister of the gospel, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 6: On May 4th, 1843 in Fauquier County Virginia, Susannah Kemper, 77, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Charles Kemper, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$61.38 per annum; that she married him November 29, 1786; that her

husband died December 1, 1841 and that she remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susannah Kamper", enclosed in square brackets. The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured paper.

[p 4: Certification by the Fauquier County Virginia clerk that records in his office read as follows "This is to certify that a marriage is solemnized between Charles Kamper [sic] and Susanna Mawzey, 29th November 1786. John Pickett"

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$61.38 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private, Sergeant & Ensign for 11 months and 20 days in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[Note: Veteran filed a claim attempting to get land based on the service of John Ridley as his substitute in the Continental line but the claim was denied because John Ridley had already been awarded 200 acres for his service as a Continental soldier. The claim as filed by the veteran is illegible as posted online.]