

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Keath (Keith)<sup>1</sup> W26150      Mary McInlin<sup>2</sup>      f59VA  
Transcribed by Will Graves      11/5/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 19]

Kentucky Wayne County Sct.

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Wayne, now sitting, William Keath a Resident of Wayne in the County of Wayne & State aforesaid aged about 71 years of age, to the best of his belief having no particular Record of his age, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

I volunteered as a private in the State of Virginia Montgomery County under Captain Samuel Easin<sup>3</sup> sometime I think in April 1780 to go to the aid of our countrymen in Carolina for one month. We marched from Montgomery Virginia towards North Carolina, and remained some time about the Ready fork [Reedy Fork] of haw River [Haw River] my Colonel was Heine Crockit<sup>4</sup> and we had a hard Battle at Ramsour's mill<sup>5</sup> with the British & Tories and had to retreat. And on the next day we were discharged and went home, we had to march in the night and lay by in the day in consequence of the great number of Tories for some time and was absent until we returned about two months.

In the spring of the year 1781, I think some time in the latter part of April, I was drafted for six months as a private in Montgomery County in the State of Virginia, in the service of the United States. And marched under Captain James Cowden,<sup>6</sup> we marched to Pittsylvania [County] in Virginia and joined head quarters at the Town. We then marched to the Chickahominy Swamps and was stationed some time guarding the Ford of the River, the British having burnt the Bridge. We then marched to the Mobbin Hills [Malvern Hills] on James River and stayed there some time guarding an island in James River to prevent the British coming up

---

<sup>1</sup> BLWt36646-160-55

<sup>2</sup> Former Widow

<sup>3</sup> This MIGHT be a mistaken reference to Captain Samuel Ewing

<sup>4</sup> This MIGHT be a mistaken reference to Colonel Walter Crockett of Montgomery County

<sup>5</sup> An engagement took place at Ramsour's mill North Carolina on June 20, 1780, but no Virginia militia are thought to have been present at that battle. Also, that battle was a clear victory for the Whigs. It was the Tories who retreated from the battle, not the Whigs. Consequently, I cannot venture a guess as to what engagement the veteran was trying to describe

<sup>6</sup> An officer by this name is listed in Eckenrode as being from Henry County, VA.

the River to land. We then marched in a Direction to York in Virginia, where Colonel Wallace [I think the veteran would here probably referring to Lord Cornwallis] and British Army was stationed & had a siege for some time. Great firing of cannon & Bombshells day & night & some skirmishing, and we were principally employed in trenching & guarding until the British under Lord Colonel Wallace surrendered [October 19, 1781]. I knew General Washington at the siege of York. I am illiterate and was about 19 years of age at the siege of York, I was generally ordered and commanded by different officers, at different places & do not recollect many officers or Regiments, with whom I acted. I was regularly discharged, I think, by my Captain James Cowden in writing but have lost it. After the surrender and Battle of York, and came back with my Captain having served 6 months and I think a few days longer. From the great desire we had to take Colonel Wallace, and the lively hope of doing so, I served 7 months for which I claim a compensation as a private.

I have no Documentary evidence & know of no person whose testimony I can procure to testify to my services in this country, except John Canada who knows of my being drafted for 6 months & coming home after the siege of York, who is sworn in this declaration before the court. I hereby relinquish every claim to a Pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. I am personally known by William Walker, Isham Burnett of my County & neighbors who can testify to my veracity. I was born in Franklin County Virginia and then and in Montgomery lived with my parents until I was drafted 18 or 19 years, and lived in Montgomery Virginia until about 18 years past, I moved to Wayne County Kentucky where I now live. But am old and much afflicted by the infirmities of age, having no record of my age.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Keath, , X his mark

[John Canada and George Rogers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: On June 7, 1855 in Putnam County Indiana, Mary McInlin, aged 55, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Keith, deceased, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1828 in Wayne County Kentucky; that they were married by Richard Byers, a minister of the gospel; that her husband William Keith died at his residence in Wayne County Kentucky October 19, 1838; that she was a widow for several years and then married Thomas McInlin who is now dead. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: On June 7, 1855 in Putnam County Indiana, the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Keith; in this document she says that she married William Keith in Wayne County Kentucky on or about the first day of January 1828; that they were married by Richard Biers, a minister of the gospel; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Davenport; that her husband died in Wayne County Kentucky October 19, 1838. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 24: On July 26, 1855 in Putnam County Indiana the widow filed yet another claim for her bounty land entitlement; in this document she states that she was married to her husband in Wayne County Kentucky January 30<sup>th</sup> 1828; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Davenport and that her husband died October 19, 1838 in Wayne County Kentucky. She signed this application with her mark.]

[There are 2 separate affidavit given by Elijah Keith in support of the application of the widow for both her pension and bounty land claims. His relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the Virginia militia. His former widow was pensioned in a like amount.]