

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Kercheval W3023

Jane Kercheval

f61VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/18/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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 13]

State of Kentucky County of Mason Sct.

On this 25th day of February 1834 personally appeared in Open Court before the Honorable Judge of the basin Court now sitting

John Kercheval now a resident of Fleming County but lately a resident of the said County of Mason and State aforesaid aged seventy-one years and upwards who being 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 in the month of December 1776 in a Company of volunteers raised by Captain Charles M Thurston, Philip Bush 1st Lieutenant Edward Smith 2nd Lieutenant and John Gilkison Ensign that he marched with said Company about the 21st of said month and that he distinctly recollects they arrived at Frederick Town on Christmas day about 12 o'clock 1776, that they crossed Potomac at Harpers Ferry, that they proceeded on the Road from Frederick Town by McAlister's Town, York Town & crossed the Susquehanna River on the Ice at Anderson's ferry stayed all night in the Lancaster, passed through the city of Philadelphia and halted at a Village called Frankfort a few miles beyond the City then on by Bristol, crossed the Delaware River to Trenton, Prince Town [Princeton] and arrived at Morris Town [Morristown] about the 10th January then the headquarters of General Washington and in three or four days marched to Baskins Ridge where we were stationed under the command of General Lord Sterling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling] there was also at that place a Company of Light Horse commanded by Captain Caul [probably Richard Call] of Bland's [Theodorick Bland's] Regiment of Virginia Cavalry and a Company of Rifle men belong [sic, belonging] to the Regiment commanded by Colonel & Lt. Colo. McCoy and Wilson called the Catannian [?]¹ Regiment of rifle men and towards the latter part of February Captain Thurston's Company of volunteers, Captain Cauls troop of Horse and the Rifle men marched to a small village called Quibble Town in the direction to Brunswick where a part of the British Army was stationed and the next morning our Party was joined by a Regiment of Maryland militia commanded by Colonel Beatty from or near Frederick Town we marched until about 1 o'clock when we met a detachment of British Infantry and Horse men, a sharp action ensued in which Captain Thurston was wounded and six of his Company was killed and wounded together with

Catannian

several of the Rifle men and militia, the battle continued until Captain Caul discovered a much larger number of the British approaching and having dismounted some of his Horse men and mounting the wounded we retreated and returned back to Quibble Town from which we had marched that morning, the next day we returned to Lord Stirling's Quarters and was discharged in May following having been about six months Captain Thurston being appointed a Colonel. He further states that he intended to Join the Regiment under Thurston whenever he was able to take the field, the Colonel however did not return until the summer and was not then entirely recovered of his wound, he states that he went to see him and informed him that whenever he was able to take the field I would join as a volunteer he states further that the Regiment recruited [?] & laid by and understanding that General Burgoyne was proceeding towards New York from Canada and it being the opinion of Gentlemen in our Country that he would endeavor to make his way to New York to join the British Army there and being willing to join his Countrymen he started about the first of August 1777 and entered a Volunteer in the Company of Captain Thomas Berry of the 8th Virginia Regiment. The field Officers at that time was Bowman & Clark and the Brigade General Scott [Charles Scott] subalterns in Captain Berry's Company Baldwin and Eastin and the following named Persons, were some of the soldiers whose names he thinks must be enrolled in Captain Berry's Company now in the War Office if they were returned and preserved there, Charles Jones, Vernon Dunn, Isaac Dunn, Solomon Redman, John Robinson, Jeremiah Redman, William Orr, Thomas Hampton, Barnett Mitchan, Michael Dean, and others I think I could name on Reflection, the Reason of his joining Captain Berry's Company in preference to any other was that Captain Berry was a near neighbor to his Father in Frederick County Virginia, when he raised his company.

He states that he continued to serve with the 8th Regiment until the latter part of the year 1778 in which year his Father sold his property at a credit of Twelve months and requested that he should return Home for the purpose of going with him to the Kentucky Country in the fall 1779 and the Indians being so Troublesome and the reduced value of the Money he received for the property he sold compelled him to relinquish his previous determination of moving. He states further that early in the spring of the year 1780 he determined to go and join the southern Army to which many of his old acquaintances in the Army had gone and proceeded as far as Albemarle Barracks in the spring of 1780 and at the Barracks met with Colonel Wood [probably James Wood] with whom he was acquainted. Wood requested to take charge of a number of British Prisoners, then to be sent to Winchester Virginia which were ordered to be delivered to Colonel Kennady, the Commanding Officer at that place he remained there with the prisoners until a Guard could be collected to take charge of them that after he was relieved of the charge he again intended to go to the South but the fall of Charles Town [Charleston, May 12, 1780] and the deranged state of the Army in consequence thereof induced him to decline preceding for some time and before he could make it convenient again, Virginia was likely to be the site of War – he therefore remained at his Father's until Arnold [Benedict Arnold] landed in Virginia and he states that he went to Richmond in Virginia and proceeded to join General Baron Steuben not far from Petersburg, the next day after his defeat [April 25, 1781] at that place and on General Lafayette's arrival in Virginia he states he went and entered a volunteer in Col. Stewart's Regiment of Regulars and was shortly afterwards appointed an assistant in the Quarter Masters Department by Major John Prior in June was ordered to Williamsburg Virginia to make arrangements for the accommodation of the American Prisoners then about to return from Charles Town South Carolina & then returned to the Army and continued to execute such orders in the Quarter Masters Department as he received and marched with the Army to the Siege of

York Town, remained there until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] about 12 or 14 days after the commencement of the siege an enterprise was undertaken the object of which was to take by storm to British redoubts one to be taken by a detachment of the American Line and the other by a detachment of the French. He states he applied to the officer appointed to command the Americans for permission to accompany them and was refused he then applied to Major Lamotte a French gentleman and then an officer in the division of General Lafayette with whom he had become well acquainted during the time he served with Colonel Stewart's Regiment to procure permission for him to go with the French detachment and Major Lamotte went with him to the French officer, introduced him and obtained his approbation for him to accompany the command which he did, the parties marched in the night with silence moved each to the place of attack and almost at the same moment carried the places by storm. The French officer and Major Lamotte both gave a certificate highly complementary and recommended him in strong terms as worthy of a Commission in the regular service of the Virginia line.

He states further that he delivered the Certificate to General Thomas Nelson who was then with the Army in command of the Virginia militia and he thinks was afterwards elected Governor of Virginia to succeed Mr. Jefferson, and was promised by General Nelson the first vacancy that required to be filled in the Virginia line he further states that he marched with the British prisoners to Winchester then returned to his Father's in the neighborhood and it being the General Opinion that the war would soon end & in the next year 1782 he entered into the Sheriff's Business under his Father with the express understanding that if Commissioned as an officer in the regular service that he should be at Liberty to quit the Sheriff's business and proceed immediately to attend to his duty in the service. He did not receive a commission and the war beginning to linger he became careless about being commissioned not thinking that if the war ended it would be of any advantage and continued to do Sheriff's duty for his father until the spring 1784 his Father sent him to Kentucky to superintend some land claims he remained in Kentucky until the last of the year and then returned to Virginia and commenced doing business again for his Father; lived near Winchester Virginia until about the year 1789 when he moved to Kentucky and settled in Mason County about four miles from this place (Washington) and continued there until about two months ago when he moved to Fleming where he now resides.

He states that he does not recollect the particular date but remembers the months in several [?] when the different changes took place in his entering the service and about the time he left the places where he had been employed he marched with the British prisoners from Albemarle Barracks the latter part of April or early in May arrived in Winchester about the 10th or 15th of same month remained there until sometime in June 1780 then was relieved by the men of which B. Thornby, Berry Speaks in his Testimony taken before George F. Cutlett Esquire which is here with forwarded. He states that he would have procured the attendance of Mr. Berry here but he is now an old and feeble man and lives upwards of one hundred miles from this place. He joined General Baron Steuben he thinks in April 1781 and served with Lieutenant Enoch Berry of the State Line of Regulars and as soon as General Lafayette arrived in the neighborhood he went and entered as before stated and about the 10th of June was appointed an assistant in the Quarter Masters Department and was ordered on to Williamsburg for the purpose before stated and so soon as all the prisoners had landed from Charles Town and dispersed he returned and joined the Army again and although he always considered himself as belong [belonging] to the Army he never was an enlisted soldier nor was he as he believes ever enrolled except in Captain Thurston's Company of volunteers and received a discharge signed by 2nd Lieutenant Smith who was the senior Officer of the Company at the date of the discharge of the

Company, the Captain being at some distance from the place and under the care of [a] Surgeon and 1st Lieutenant Bush had been sent home as a purchasing commissary for the Army. He states further that he does not now know what has become of the discharge supposes he might have left it in Virginia when he removed to the West he did not receive any pay for that nor any other services during the whole war except about six months the time he acted as an assistant to the Quarter Masters Department under the appointment from Major John Prior which was at the rate of a subaltern in the line of the Army which he thinks was \$26.66 per month paid him by Prior sometime about the last of November 1781 or in December – he states that he was in the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], German Town [Germantown, October 4, 1777] and Monmouth [June 28, 1778]. 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 any agency of any State or United States. He states further that he received a letter from his son Ben B. Kercheval who resides at Detroit that he had called on the Honorable Judge Thurston at Washington City to learn of the Judge if [he] had any recollection of hearing his Father or Brother Charles speak of his being a volunteer in Captain Thurston's volunteer company and that the Judge had said he did not he further states that some time ago he took the Liberty to address a letter to the Judge directed to the care of the Honorable Colonel Richard M Johnson with a request to Colonel Johnson that if the judge would have the goodness to answer it that he would be pleased to enclose it to obtain which Colonel Johnson on receipt caused to be delivered to Judge Thurston and to which the Judge was pleased to return the enclosed answer. He further states that he does not at this time know that one person is living who was a soldier in Captain Thurston's Company knows that many died before he left Virginia there were three other boys in the company to wit Charles Thurston (son) of the Captain, Henry Bush son of the Lieutenant Bush, William McGuire and himself all boys nearly of an age and that he has heard and believes all are dead but himself. The deponent Mr. Thornby Berry is the only one that he remembers now that is living who saw him in the service in 1780 & 1781 about the siege of York Town, that Lieutenant Enoch Berry of the Virginia State line has been many years dead and was also a schoolmate with Mr. Thornby Berry. When he left it and marched with the company of volunteers with Captain Thurston he further states that he expects that Judge Thurston well recollect about the time his Father marched from Winchester and about the time he returned home after his wound had go [sic, healed?] so that he could travel.

S/ Jno. Kercheval

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jno. Kercheval". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

The foregoing is entirely in the handwriting of the said John Kercheval. And now the judge puts to him in open court the following questions. In what year were you born. Answer the record of my age shows that I was born the 12 September 1762 and I always understood & believe in the County of Spotsylvania Virginia.

By same have you any record of your age & if so where is it.

Answer I have not the family Bible was given to my sister in South Carolina containing it.

Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since and where do you now live

Answer I lived in Frederick County Virginia when called into all service returned there then came to Kentucky, and lived here in Mason County for 30 odd years last past and lately moved on the line with Fleming County. But all this is specially answered in the body of my petition as

well as the names of the regular officers under whom I served. And the manner of my being called into service as a volunteer is also stated in the body. And all other questions being put stated in the Rules sent by the War Office were answered promptly – But being set down in the body are not again repeated.

And as to his discharge and Commission being asked that also he says he has answered the whole in the body of this deposition & repeats he never did receive a commission.

S/ Jno. Kercheval

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State of Kentucky Union County Sct.

Be it known that before me George F Cutlett a justice of the peace in and for the County of Union & State aforesaid personally appeared Thornby Berry aged seventy years who being first duly sworn according to law did on his said oath state and say that he was acquainted with John Kercheval formerly of Frederick County Virginia and now residing in the County of Mason & State of Kentucky, that he this affiant went to school with said Kercheval when a boy and said Kercheval and himself are near of an age. That said Kercheval live said school when a boy and joined the company of volunteers raised by Captain Thurston and marched to the North to join General Washington in the year [written through and illegible] this affiant well remembers being called on to guard the British prisoners at Winchester Virginia that said Kercheval was at that time on guard and he was relieved from that duty when this affiant was called to do that service. He further states a little before the siege of York in Virginia at which time this affiant was in service he recollects to have met with said person involved at least twice he still being in the service of the United States. That he has known said Kercheval ever since. Said Kercheval lived in Frederick County Virginia for many years after the Revolution, until he removed to Kentucky and this affiant has seen said Kercheval in said County of Mason and has frequently heard from him and knows he is the same man with whom this affiant went to school in Virginia and the same person who marched in Captain Thurston's company of volunteers to join General Washington's Army at which time said Kercheval was a boy and called a very young soldier
December 28th 1833

S/ Thornby Berry

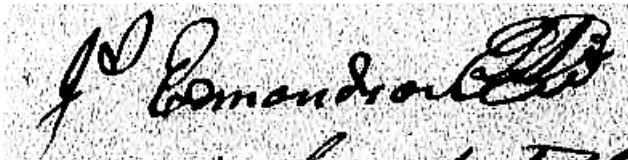
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State of Tennessee Nashville Davidson County: March 6th 1834

I do certify that James Edmondson aged sixty-eight years this day personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County duly commissioned and qualified according to law and made oath and that he is well acquainted with John Kercheval now a citizen of Mason County and State of Kentucky, that he this affiant has been acquainted with said Kercheval ever since the affiant's first remembrance that the said Kercheval joined a company of volunteers raised in Frederick County State of Virginia in and about Winchester State aforesaid in an early stage of the American Revolution that this affiant's Brother Thomas Edmondson was also a volunteer in the same Company, commanded by Captain Thurston, lieutenants Philip Bush and Edward Smith and Ensign Gillison that the Company marched to the North to join General Washington I think in the latter part of the year 1776 this affiant further says that his Brother William Edmondson was several years in the service in that war as also his Brother John Edmondson and this affiant well remembers to have heard all his Brothers speak of the said John Kercheval being in the Service with them and the affiant says his Brother John

Edmondson was in service at the time Lord Cornwallis and his Army was taken at Yorktown he says further that all his Brothers have been dead many years and that he knows John Kercheval to be the same person who went in Captain Thurston's Company of volunteers and that he Kercheval moved many years ago to Kentucky and has continued in that state ever since.

S/ J^s. Edmondson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Edmondson". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

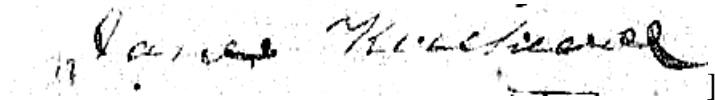
[p 51]

Fleming County State of Kentucky to wit: Amended declaration

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County of Fleming John Kercheval who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below as a soldier in Thurston's company six months for that was the period for which the company was raised he served with not less than one year and four months with the 8th Virginia Regiment Captain Berry's Company two months guarding the prisoners from Albemarle Barracks and by special order of Colonel Wood commanded the Guard for that time, that he served as a volunteer under General Baron Steuben and General Lafayette at least two months and above that at least six months as an assistant in the Quarter Masters Department under the appointment given him by Major Prior not under any contract as a Civil officer with Prior or any other person – Prior was an officer of the line and I think was a Deputy Quarter Master in the Army and by him I was appointed to assist in the duties assigned to him I have not that I recollect seen the written appointment, he gave me for 40 or 50 years cannot say whether it was now in existence or not supposing it of any use as I received the pay for the time I served under the appointment from Prior nor do I now know of a single person living by whom I can prove my services except Mr. Thornby Berry and Mr. James Edmondson whose depositions have been taken I have with many letters to different parts of the United States endeavored to procure testimony to none of which did I received any answers but Mr. Berry and Mr. Edmondson and them suppose the persons are dead Prior lived in Richmond Virginia many years after the War was over but has been dead sometime sense as I understand for those services I claim a pension so far as my claim is supported by satisfactory evidence under the law as the different periods he has stated to be in the service was only the time he was actually in the field except the first under Captain Thurston which was the time for which the company was engaged and includes that time only.

S/ Jno. Kercheval

[p 11: On January 4, 1843 in Mason County Kentucky, Jane Kercheval, aged near 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Kercheval; that she married him on the 23rd day of January 1785; that her husband died October 1, 1839 and that she remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane Kercheval". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

[p 58: On September 2, 1843 in Mason County Kentucky, Jane Kercheval, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1843 act stating that she is the widow of John Kercheval, a revolutionary war pensioner. She states that she is still a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 54: On September 6, 1848 in Mason County Kentucky, Jane Kercheval, 84, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of John Kercheval, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$80 per annum and that she is still a widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 48: affidavit given in Fayette County Kentucky on March 30, 1840 by Captain Ben Berry in which he states he was well acquainted with Mrs. Jane Kercheval and her husband John Kercheval; that he was present at their wedding, Jane being his cousin; that the wedding took place the last of the year 1784 or the first of 1785 in the County of Frederick in the state of Virginia.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the initial rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum.]