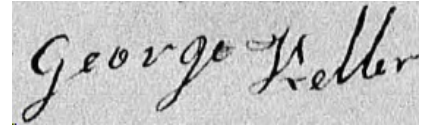


Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of George Keller W3090 Margaretta Keller PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District of Pennsylvania, ss.

On this first day of May 1818, before me the subscriber, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, personally appears George Keller aged 53 years, resident in Philadelphia in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he the said George Keller enlisted in July 1777 in the state of Pennsylvania in the company commanded by Captain William Ferguson of the Penna Reg. of Artilley; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States until the August of 1783, when he was discharged from service in Philadelphia state of Pennsylvania, that he was in the battles of Brandwine [sic: Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] Germantown [4 Oct 1777] Yorktown [siege, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] &c &c and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.



District of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia County Ss;

On this 21st day of June One thousand eight hundred and twenty personally appeared in the Court of Common Pleas for said County (the said Court being a court of record having a prothonotary, a seal, and exercising common law jurisdiction) George Keller aged fifty four years or thereabouts, residing in Philadelphia, who being first duly sworn in open Court, according to law, on his oath declares that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, vizt.

In the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment of Artilery and Company commanded by Capt Ferguson. Date of original declaration 1st May 1818 – number of pension Certificate (3,769).

and I the said George Keller do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Sworn to and declared in open court (Signed) George Keller
on the twenty first day of June 1820.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY OF George Keller

I have the following articles of property vizt. One table, six chairs, one bureau, one stove, one bucket, two tubs, and other articles worth forty dollars – am by occupation a house carpenter can labor a part of the time but can not make a living having a strained shoulder – have three children residing with me aged as follows Vizt. one 11 years one 6 & one 4 years – and am in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support myself without the assistance of my Country. (Signed) George Keller

Herewith in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, I transmit to the War Department the following statement & Certificates, hereby relinquishing every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the

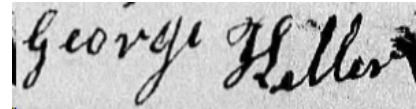
pension Roll of any agency in any state, only on that of the agency in the state of Pennsylvania.

I declare that in the year 1776, I enlisted in the 4th Regiment of Artillery, Pennsylvania Line, in the continental service, and served in the Regiment from the commencement of the War until I was discharged in the City of Philadelphia in 1783. The Regiment was commanded by Col'l. Thomas Proctor, my first Captain was Joseph Rice, on whose resignation Captain Ferguson became such.

I was engaged in the Battle of Brandywine & Germantown and after the latter Battle marched with the Army to White Marsh [Whitemarsh PA] &ca and lay in Winter quarters at Valley Forge. After the evacuation of the City of Philadelphia by the enemy [18 Jun 1778], I remained in the Forts & redoubts on the Delaware until 1779. Under Gen'l [John] Sullivan in 1779 marched through the Genesee Country in the Campaign against the Indians. In 1780 I joined Gen'l Washington in New Jersey, and was present at the execution of Major Andre [at Tappan NY, 2 Oct 1780], Adjutant General of the British Army who was hanged as a Spy, and amongst others at the skirmish of Short Hill [Short Hills NJ, 26 Jun 1777]. In 1781 under Gen'l. Wayne was present at the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his Army, and prior to the same in the engagement at Greenspring on James River [Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], as Lord Cornwallis was marching into York.

In 1781 I was appointed Fife Major of the detachment of Artillery commanded by Gen'l [Anthony] Wayne.

Afterwards joined Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] in South Carolina, and was present in the last engagement of any consequence, when the British were driven from Savannah [11 Jul 1782] and took shelter in Charleston. Subsequently joined General Green on Sullivan's Island, where I remained until peace was proclaimed in 1783, and then embarked on vessels from Charleston for Philadelphia where in the same year I received my discharge, having served under one Enlistment. Philadelphia July 20th 1832 At the time of my discharge Col [Andrew] Porter commanded the Regiment.



Honored Sir [James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner], Philadelphia Nov'r 5th 1832

I am favoured with the receipt of your Letter of the 30th ult'o, in which to my surprize, you inform me, that under the Act of June 1832, my pension could not exceed at most \$88 pr annum, being Musicians pay – of course, if this should be the case, my present pension being \$96 per annum, I certainly would be unwilling to relinquish it, instead of the first.

You will however, with great deference to your superior knowledge, permit me to submit to you the following remarks, which if found correct will, I hope, on a reexamination of my case show, that my pension under the act of Congress, which grants full pay, will be \$10 per month, or \$120 per annum, or thereabouts.

In the continental service in the revolutionary war, Musicians received higher pay, than private Soldiers both in the infantry and artillery.

In the Artillery, to which, as you will see by adverting to my application, I was attached, the pay of a Matross [Private] was \$8 $\frac{2}{3}$ per Month – that of a common Musician \$8 $\frac{2}{3}$ and that of a non commissioned Officer \$10 per Month.

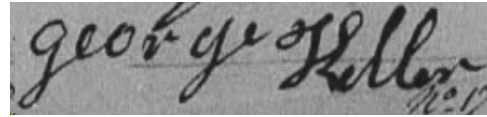
I as Fife Major ranked as a Sergeant, of course, I think, I am entitled to the latter sum. Since the receipt of your letter, I have conversed with an old comrade of mine, who served in the same regiment, who perfectly coincides with me in these statements.

What may be the regulation under the present military system, in point of pay, I am ignorant, but altho' such a long period has elapsed, since the revolutionary army was disbanded, yet my firm conviction is, that such was the pay I received, and that I believe myself not to be mistaken in the fact. It will be recollected too, that I belonged to the Artillery, the pay in which was higher than that in the infantry. I most respectfully submit these facts to your investigation, which I cherish the hope, will be found correct,

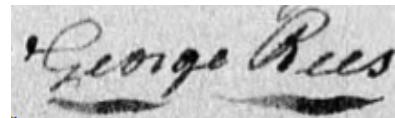
tho' at the same time I deplore causing this additional trouble to your. Feeling grateful to my country for the pension I now receive, I should not have applied for the one under the before mentioned Act, unless I supposed it were larger, and would add to the comforts of my declining years.

Respectfully soliciting a reply to this Letter I remain with much esteem

Your most obd Serv't/ No. 17 Crown Street

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Keller". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

I George Reese [sic: George Rees, pension application W5692] of the City of Philadelphia, late Sheriff of the City and County of Philadelphia, being duly affirmed according to Law, hereby certifies, that he was a Fife Major in the 11th Regiment, Pennsylvania Line for a number of years, and is well acquainted with George Keller and knows that he held the station of Fife Major in the Artillery 4th Regiment, Pennsylvania Line, early in the year 1781 and to the best of his knowledge prior to the 11th of April 1781. Philadelphia Feby 7th 1833.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Rees". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

NOTES:

The file contains other letters by Keller similar to the one dated 5 Nov 1832 and pertaining to the same matter. As a result of Keller's appeal, his pension under the act of 1832 was increased initially to \$108 per year and then to \$125 per year.

On 21 Sep 1838 Margaretta Keller, 62, applied for a pension stating that she married George Keller on 19 April 1793, and he died on 7 Sep 1835. The file contains a copy of the marriage record of George Keller and Margaretta Pfeifer extracted from the Marriage Book of the German Reformed Church of Philadelphia as kept by Rev. William Hendell. On 12 June 1843 Margaretta Keller was said to be 71.