

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Houston (Housten) Kellam W4254 Elizabeth Kellam f33VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/8/13

[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.]

At a Court held for Accomack County at the Court House thereof by adjournment on Wednesday the first day of August 1832

Housten Kellam of the County of Accomack this day personally appeared and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th day of June 1832 viz. "State of Virginia, Accomack County, to wit, On this first day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Circuit Court now sitting Houston Kellam a resident in the said County & Parish of Saint George aged Seventy-six years 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 7th, 1832.

That he served in the militia of Virginia in Accomack County from the time he was about sixteen years of age, till he became free from military duty by reason of age: that during the War of the Revolution he served in Captain Nathaniel Bell's Company that during the war the militia were frequently called out to keep guard and were in actual service a considerable portion of time – the companies were divided, a part of them performed duty alternately. That Colonel Simpson was commander of the militia of Accomack County a part of the time & Colonel Corbin [probably George Corbin] after him. That he this deponent was engaged principally on the Sea & Chesapeake Bay coast in preventing the enemy from Landing, for the purpose of obtaining supplies & plundering and burning the houses of the Citizens of this County, in consequence of the very exposed situation of the County, there was frequent alarms given, and the militia were compelled to turn out to defend the County. This Deponent performed duty at Metomkin Inlet [Metompkin Inlet], and at other places in this County as occasion might require. This deponent verily believes and has no hesitation in asserting that he was in actual service under arms at least two years during the Revolutionary War: This Deponent was born in Accomack County in or about 1756 & is 76 years old – he has no record of his age – that he resided in St. George's Parish when he entered Service. That he has lived there ever since & lives there now. That he has never served as a substitute for anyone. This deponent further states under oath that John Cropper, Thomas Parker, Lewis Joynes & Smith Snead were officers of the regular Army, & went from the County where this deponent rendered Service. They were attached to the 9th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment. This deponent saith that he received no discharge, but when the different tours were ended he went home. This deponent is known to Reverend Mathew Floyd, Thomas T Elliott, Edward O Finney & almost all the Citizens of Saint George's Parish. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to & described the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Houston Kellam, X his mark

[Mathew Floyd, a clergyman, and John Harmon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The deposition of Houston Kellam an applicant for a pension who being duly sworn says in answer to the 4th & 5th objections, That he entered the militia a year or two or more before the war commenced to wit at sixteen years of age = that he was born in or about 1756 & commence service in the militia about 1772 & that he was in service in the militia during the whole of the War = that after the 9th Virginia Regiment was marched away in 1776 this County was undefended excepting by the militia = that the County was between the Atlantic & the Chesapeake Bay & was much exposed to the enemy who kept the citizens in constant alarm = that the enemies barges frequently came into the various creeks to plunder & rob the people = that guard was kept by the militia almost all the time during the War = that he kept guard stately & regularly for 8 or 10 days each tour wants in 3 or 4 weeks during each & every year of the War and besides there regular tours of duty he attended a good many alarms when the enemy were supposed to be about to land = that it is utterly impossible to state the dates of entering upon or finishing said tours as no man could possibly recollect them well enough = that he kept his regular tours of 8 or 10 days once in 3 or 4 weeks during each and every year of the War & was certainly under arms on duty more than two years in the term of the War. In answer to 17th objection (4th interrogatory) he says that he was regularly enrolled in the militia according to law at 16 years of age – that he performed his tours of duty according to some arrangement or classification made by the Officers being required so to do by their Officers = that at all alarms he volunteered = that he never enlisted & never was a substitute.

S/ Houston Kellam, X his mark

The deposition of Hillary Mears¹ aged about 75 years who says he served in Captain Polks company of militia in the time of the Revolutionary War & that he has always lived within ___ miles of Houston Kellam & To guard & attended alarms with him at various times during the War & knows that said Kellam did serve as he states in the above deposition & has no matter of doubt that he was in service more than 2 years & probably 3 years in the time of said War

S/ Hillary Mears, X his mark

The deposition of Matthew Floyd² who says that he has known Houston Kellam from the time of the Revolutionary War to this time – & have resided near him most of the time – & that he knows said Kellam was under arms keeping guard & attending alarms during the war.

S/ Matthew Floyd

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Floyd". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 8: on September 30, 1850 in Accomack County Virginia, Elizabeth Kellam made a claim under the 1832 act as the widow of Houston Kellam stating that her husband's stipend was discontinued for some cause unknown to her and not again resumed prior to his death on January

¹ [Hilary \(Hillary\) Mears S18508](#)

² FPA S18402

15, 1847. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 31: On July 28, 1853 in Accomack County Virginia, Elizabeth Kellam, 84, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Houston Kellam, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him June 5, 1822; that her husband died January 15, 1847; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the Virginia militia ; the pension was suspended for some reason on August 12th, 1843 but was reinstated and paid from August 12th, 1843 and ending 13th January 1847. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]