

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Knight¹ W8009

Mary Knight

f54VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/5/13

[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 '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 5]

At a Court held for Spotsylvania County the 7th day of September 1818

It appears from the evidence of Ephraim Knight aged about eighty years and Joseph Nelson aged about sixty-six years both sworn in Court that they both know that William Knight enlisted in the revolutionary Army and that he served in the same upwards of three years and about nine months. They were neighbors to the said William Knight's father and well know that the enlistment and services of the said William Knight. And at a Court held for the same County of Spotsylvania the 5th day of October 1818 William Knight residing in Spotsylvania County Virginia a soldier of the revolutionary [war] aged fifty-eight years being first duly sworn states that in the year 1776 he enlisted as a private soldier under Captain John Brock and was marched soon after to the North as far as West Point, his first enlistment was for three years. At Middlebrook he enlisted under Captain Thomas Fox for the war he had been given to him a furlough for six months & he came home after the expiration of which he joined in Fredericksburg Virginia the detachment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker and went with him to the South, he was as far as Savannah and was afterwards in Charleston when he was included among the prisoners taken at its surrender [May 12, 1780], he was sent by the British as a prisoner to Jamaica where he remained in Barracks till the end of the war. About the end of the war he escaped in a vessel which landed him at New London where he found the war ended and peace proclaimed. He never got a discharge from his officers owing to the circumstances above stated he served from the time of his first enlistment his capture at Charleston more than four years. He received after his return a certificate of his services from Beverly Stubblefield a Colonel in the service which certificate he has parted with, he states from his decayed circumstances and age that he is in need of public support and it further appeared to the Court from evidence sworn and examined at the bar and from the knowledge of two members of the Court that the said William Knight is in need of public support all which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of War.

State of Virginia Spotsylvania County to wit I Robert S. Chew clerk of the Court of Spotsylvania County in the state aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of my office. Given under my hand this 8th day of October 1818.

S/ Robert S Chew, Clerk

¹ BLWt43510-160-55

At a Court held for Spotsylvania County the 7th day of June 1819

William Knight an old revolutionary soldier who has heretofore made his declaration in this Court in order to obtain a pension from the United States this day came again into Court and being first duly sworn states that he was a soldier in the Virginia line and tenth Regiment commanded by Colonel Edward Stevens in which Regiment Thomas Fox was a Captain and the Court further diuretics it to be certified that from their own knowledge of William Knight that he is a person of good character and strict truth and that full faith and credit TO be given to his first and supplemental declaration all of which is ordered to be certified to the war Department.

[p 20]

State of Virginia Spotsylvania County

On this 7th day of November 1827 personally appeared in open court being a Court of record William Knight a resident in the said County aged 67 years, who being first sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision of the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and first of May 1820, that he the said William Knight enlisted for the term of 3 years under Captain John Brock, and at the expiration thereof he enlisted under Thomas Fox for the war as appears by his former declaration, that he continued to serve until the year __ when he was discharged from service.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension except the present, that his name has been placed on the pension list, that the number of his pension certificate is 13660. And that he never before exhibited a schedule of his property and his reason for not applying earlier to be replaced on the pension roll was his total ignorance of the necessary forms, and a belief that he would not be restored, and a belief he entertained that a soldier owning land as he did would not be suffered to remain on the roll – And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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, that since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property

Description of property	to whom sold	Terms of sale	amount received
101 acres of land	not sold		
One cow & calf	in possession now		
A few hogs	do		
One horse	died	bought one since	
One Bed & bed stand	now in possession		
One Cupboard	do		
One Pine chest	do		
2 plows	do		
Pots & pewter	do		
Chairs knives & forks	do		
Axes & hoes	do		

One Saddle & bridle	do		
One			
5 Head of sheep	dead		

S/ William Knight, X his mark

Sworn to and declared on the 7th day of November 1827 before the court.

[pp 53-4: The veteran filed yet another application/Schedule, this one dated March 5th, 1828 also filed in Spotsylvania County; the filing is substantially identical to the one he made in 1827 except that he appears to have actually signed this document instead of using his mark. His signature appears as follows



and the following is added at the end of the schedule which is identical to the one given in the 1827 application:

"That since that time up to the present I have not disposed of any of the said property & now hold the same very much injured by way heir & tear & natural decay – that the horse contained in the schedule is dead & his place has been supplied by another which I now have in possession & that the whole of the property now in my possession is of the value of \$261 that I am by profession a farmer – that my family consists of myself & wife, 2 daughters & a son who are not able to assist me in cultivating my land which is very poor."

[p 15: On February 16, 1853 in Spotsylvania County Virginia, Mary night, 83, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William night a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$96 per annum; that he died December 5, 1840; that she was married to him in Spotsylvania County Virginia by one Philip Pendleton a minister of the gospel on March 22nd, 1819 and that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Oakes. She signed this application with her mark.]

[p 12: On July 16, 1856 in Spotsylvania County Virginia, Mary night, aged about 90, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Knight, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Spotsylvania County Virginia in April 1819 she believes; that they were married by the Reverend Philip Pendleton, a minister of the gospel; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Oaks; that her husband died December 6th she thinks, 1840 in Spotsylvania County Virginia. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 11: Certificate of Philip Pendleton of Spotsylvania County Virginia that he joined together in holy matrimony William Knight and Mary Oakes, daughter of Major Oakes on March 27 [year not stated]. The certificate is dated April 5th, 1819.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 5th, 1818, for service as a private for 3 years in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum.]