

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Austin Knight W8010

Elizabeth Knight

f25VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/4/13

[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.]

State of Virginia Amherst County SS

On this 19th day of July 1843 before me William M Waller a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Mrs. Betsey Knight a resident of said County, aged seventy years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838; entitled An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows: That she is the widow of Austin Knight deceased of said County – who was a private soldier of Militia from said County in and during the Revolutionary war –; and served two tours as such. One tour of 3 months duration, he performed at the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina in March 1781 under Captain Landrum [Younger Landrum] of Holcomb's [probably John Holcombe's] Regiment and the other tour he performed under Captain John Steward [John Stewart or Stuart] in said Holcomb's Regiment at Yorktown Virginia in October 1781 – and at Winchester Virginia to guard the British prisoners – which was also of 3 months duration or more – making at least 6 months services her deceased husband the aforesaid Austin Knight performed in and during the Revolutionary war, as a militia-man – besides one tour he paid a substitute to perform. She further declares that she was married to the said Austin Knight in said County by the Reverend Mister Dameron on the 23 day of March 1789; That her husband the said Austin Knight, died in said County on the ___ day of September 1817; that her maiden name was Ham – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 –: Viz., at the time above stated – all of which will more fully appear by the proof annexed.

Witness

S/ Robert N Gray

S/ Elizabeth Knight, X her mark

[p 4: Copy of a marriage bond dated February 24, 1789 issued in Amherst County Virginia to Orsson Knight [sic] and Thomas Wood conditioned upon the marriage of said Orsson Knight Bachelor to Betsey Ham Spinster both of Amherst County.]

[p 5: Finding by the Amherst County Virginia court that William Knight is the administrator of the estate of Elizabeth Knight who died a pensioner of the United States in the County of Amherst on December 25, 1843 leaving 2 children to wit, William Knight and Ann Mays.]

[p 12]

State of Virginia Amherst County

On this 16th day of September 1843 before me Charles Mundy a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally came Mr. Matthew Ricketts¹ a respectable resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he is 83 years old – and was well acquainted with Austin, alias Orston, Knight – during the Revolutionary War – the same man that married to Elizabeth Ham of said County about 54 or 55 years ago – or about the year 1789 or 1790 – deponent knows of two tours of service that said Knight performed in and during the Revolutionary war. The first from said County under Captain William Tucker in company with deponent at Yorktown, in the winter of 1779 and 1780 – that they Knight and deponent left home under said Tucker about the __ day of November 1779 and returned together about the __ day of February 1780 – having served there 3 months faithfully out and received their discharge. This was eighteen months or more before the capture of Cornwallis.

After deponent was at home about twelve months he was again called into service – say, the last of February 1781 – to go to Guilford North Carolina said Knight was in service also on said occasion under Captain James Dillard of the Rifle Company – and who marched to Guilford some 6 or 8 days before deponent did, who was under Captain Upshaw – who never got his men into action – but retreated at the sound of the British fire arms and never stopped until he got home – having left his coat and hat behind him on the road. But deponent is well satisfied that said Knight under Dillard served his three months faithfully out – as Dillard was an officer that was not afraid to fight. Said Knight's given name was always pronounced Austin – though he may have spelled it differently.

S/ Matthew Ricketts, X his mark

[facts in file: in an affidavit dated August 16, 1843 given by Charles Mundy of Amherst County the affiant makes reference to William Knight, the brother of the veteran, who the affiant says also fall in the revolution; the same affiant also makes reference to a son of the veteran by the name of William Knight who the affiant thinks must be at least 50 years of age

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband service for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

¹ I could not find this veteran among the applicants for a pension from the federal government. Consequently, this may be the only reference to his services contained in the pension records.