

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Karr (Kerr) W9093

Mary Kerr

f96NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/23/16

[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.]

[p 8]

Commonwealth of Kentucky Logan County, Sct.

James Karr declares & states that in the year 1775 he enlisted as a Sergeant in the regular Army of the United States for the term of six months – That he enlisted in the State of North Carolina where he then lived, & into the company of Captain George Davidson, belonging as well as he recollects to the 2nd North Carolina Regiment, commanded by Colonel Alexander Martin – That in that company and Regiment he served faithfully the term of his enlistment & one month longer as a Sergeant Major – That he was afterwards & sometime in the year 1776 appointed & commissioned by the State of North Carolina first Lieutenant in Captain Cole's Company belonging to the 4th Regiment commanded by Captain Thomas Polk – And in the said last mentioned Company & Regiment served seven months as first Lieutenant – that at the expiration of the last mentioned period he was promoted to a captaincy in the said 4th Regiment & in that capacity served therein for the further term of eight months – The said Karr also states that in the course of his said service he was in six engagements with the public enemy, & received two slight wounds. He also declares that all the services aforesaid were rendered during the revolutionary war of the United States – And that during all of the periods aforesaid he served in the capacities & stations aforesaid in the Army of the United States upon the Continental establishment, & against the public enemies of the United States – He also declares that he does not remember what has become of his discharge from the service as a Sergeant – He further declares that upon his resignation & leaving the Army he deposited his commissions both as Captain & Lieutenant with his Colonel, Thomas Polk – And that it is now out of his power to obtain them, if they exist, which he thinks very improbable – He further states & declares that he is now old & indigent, & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support – He also states that on the 9th day of May 1818 he made a declaration of the same import & substance with the above, with the view of obtaining a pension under the late Act of Congress, & that, from the best information, he believes that the said declaration was lost in its transmission by mail to the City of Washington – And he also states that the said declaration, lost as aforesaid, was made & sworn to before the Honorable Benjamin Shackelford, one of the Judges of the General Court of this State – Upon the premises the said Kerr [sic] applies for a pension under the provisions of the late act of Congress made for the relief of the officers & Soldiers of the revolutionary war – And that no pension has been granted to him by any State or government.

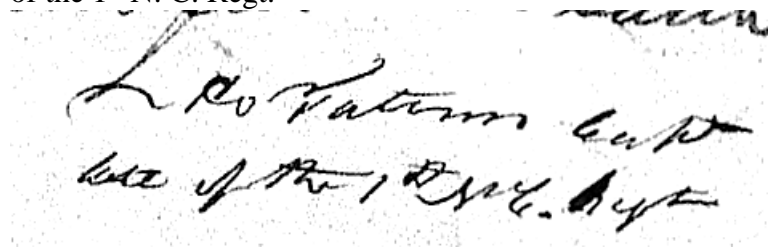
S/ James Karr

*copy
to him by my state
James Karr*

[p 78]

I Certify that the first of my knowing James Kerr [sic] was as a Captain in the 4th North Carolina Regiment early in the month of April 1777 and on the first day of my knowing of him he resigned his commission as such, I was then informed and believed he had served as Lieutenant and Captain in that Regiment from the time it was first raised which was on the 16th of April 1776 as well as I can recollect or within the few days of that date, this information I received from a number of Officers of that Regiment that were respectable men and if there information was correct he must have served between Eleven and Twelve months as an officer in the Continental line, I also understood from them that he had served a tour of enlistment of six months with a detached party of the 1st Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Martin of the 2nd Regiment who was detached to preserve peace and order in the back part of the State of North Carolina and have no doubt but he performed that Tour for the Term Mentioned, and further Sayeth not.

S/ [indecipherable] Tatum Capt. [probably Howell Tatum]¹
of the 1st N. C. Regt.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howell Tatum Capt of the 1st N.C. Regt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sworn to before me this 30th September 1818
S/ R. Weakley, JP Davidson County, Tennessee

[p 89]

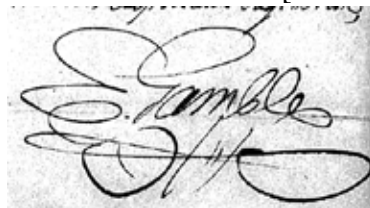
State of Tennessee Davidson County

The Subscriber came before me E. Goodrich a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made Oath that sometime in the month of August 1776 he became acquainted with Captain James Kerr [sic] of the 4th Regiment of North Carolina Continental Troops commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, then on their march from Charleston South Carolina to Wilmington in North Carolina. The deponent then a Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Infantry as aforesaid commanded by Colonel Frances Nash & that he the deponent did do duty under him as a subaltern as aforesaid & that to his knowledge & belief he the said Kerr did serve in the Line aforesaid from the time of his Appointment until he resigned at least Eighteen Months if not two years.

Further this deponent sayeth not

Sworn to Before me September 25th, 1818

S/ E. Gamble [Edmund Gamble]

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

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Schedule

State of Kentucky County & Circuit of Logan Sct.

¹ [Howell Tatum R2027](#)

On this 25th day of May 1821 personally appeared, in open Court, in the Circuit Court for said County, being a Court of Record for the said Circuit composed of the said County of Logan, James Karr aged between 67 & 68 years resident in the said County & Circuit who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows – that he first entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War with Great Britain in Captain Davidson's Company in the Regiment commanded then by Colonel Alexander Martin which he believes was the 1st or 2nd of the State of North Carolina, he served out his enlistment as a Sergeant and then was promoted to first Lieutenant in Captain Cole's Company of the 4th Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Pogue [sic] of the North Carolina line on Continental Establishment and served as in his former declaration is stated in which was forwarded to the Department of War of the United States and is dated as he believes on the 9th day of May 1818 upon which a certificate of Pension issued to him in conformity to the law of the United States of the 18 March 1818 dated 16th June 1819 which Certificate is numbered 11,860.

And I do solemnly affirm, that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner, disposed of any 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 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 – and is as follows

1 Horse creature	\$40
4 Cows & Calves	40
3 Sows Piggs & 12 shoats	25
1 Ewe & lamb	3
1 Bureau	15
1 Cupboard 12\$ 2 Tables 14\$	26
Monies due	30
House hold & Kitchen furniture & plantation utensils	<u>65</u>
necessary bedding & Wearing apparel excepted	244.00

S/ James Karr

That by Occupation he is now a farmer, but from his advanced age and infirmities being afflicted with the Rheumatism is not able to labor but little – that his family Consists of his Wife about 64 years, and 3 Children living with him, 2 females & one male – the eldest son named James Karr now aged about 43 years, has never been able to walk or labor and is now scarcely able to feed himself and is almost blind, the Eldest Daughter of the said 3 children named Polly Karr is about 23 years old, and is also unable to walk and has been from her birth nor is she capable of any labor worth speaking of – the other daughter named Matilda Karr is about 20 years old and is healthy and sprightly – and an orphan boy named James Karr a brother's son aged about 17 years which is all the family he hath living with him

[p 69: Certificate dated July 3, 1845 issued by the Comptroller of Public Accounts for the state of North Carolina showing payments made to James Kerr [sic] for military service during the revolution as follows:

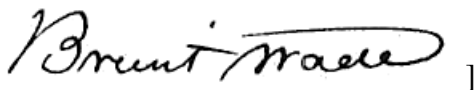
Palmer A. ©
Comptroller of Public
Accounts in and for the State of North
Carolina do hereby Certify that the Name
of James Kerr appears of record in
this office as having had issued in his
favor the following Special Certificates
for Military Services (viz) One for Thirteen
Pounds Four Shillings (£13.6) see Book No 5
page 34 another for Fifteen Pounds (£15)
see Book No 2 page 64. Another for Seven
Hundred and Eighty five Pounds sixteen
Shillings (£785.16) see Book No 6 page 33 Another
for Seven Pounds Five Shillings and Six
Pence see same Book page 41. Another
for Thirty four Pounds sixteen Shillings
(£34.16) see Book No 8 page 34 and another
for Two Pounds sixteen Shillings and six
Pence see Book A. M. No 15 page 18 given
under my hand and seal this 3rd day
July 1845.

J. M. Collins Comptroller

[p 5: On September 11, 1843 in Todd County Kentucky, Jane Stinnet & Easter Wade made application on the half of themselves and the children of James Karr and his widow Mary for the pension due Mary under the 1836 act. They state that their father James Karr was a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$240 per annum up until his death on March 13, 1823 in Logan County Kentucky; that their parents were married in Rowan County North Carolina in 1776; that their mother Mary Karr died August 5, 1840; that they are not aware of any record of the marriage of their parents or of the births of their children. They signed their application with their respective marks.]

[p 7: On September 11, 1843 in Todd County Kentucky, Willis L Reeves, clerk of the County Court made findings that Mary Karr died August 5, 1840 survived by the following children, Margaret Ross, Jane Stinnett, Nancy Hunter, Sally Hunter, David Karr, Easter Wade & Matilda Barnett and that Brunt Wade is the administrator of the estate of Mary Karr.]

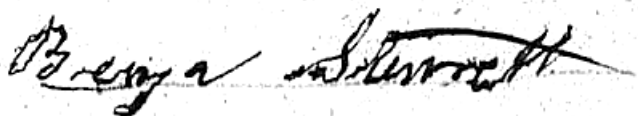
[p 86: On September 14, 1843 in Todd County Kentucky, Brunt Wade, 50 years old, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with James Karr deceased, a revolutionary war pensioner; that James Karr died in Logan County Kentucky on the 23rd day of March 1823 and his widow Mary died August 5th, 1840.

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[p 83]

I Benjamin Stennett resident of Todd County Kentucky certify that I have been intimately acquainted with the last party three years with James Kerr [sic] Deceased and family and knew James Kerr died in Logan County, Kentucky and drew a pension before his death I was well acquainted with James Kerr's son John and have always understood from his father and mother that John was there oldest child that he and I were near the same age the only difference I was born on the 6th day of January 1777 and John in the month of October following in the same year.

S/ Benja Stennett



[Acknowledged on May 5, 1846 in Todd County Kentucky]

[p 73: On September 5, 1846 in Estelle County Kentucky, Basil Eastes a resident of said County and state aged about 86 years stated that he was raised from a small boy in North Carolina, Rowan County and knew David Kerr [sic] and was well acquainted with his family including James Kerr who was an officer in the revolutionary war; that in the summer of 1776 James Kerr married the affiant's cousin Mary Kerr daughter of David Kerr in the County of Rowan North Carolina. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[p 89: On October the 21, 1848 in Todd County Kentucky, Jane Stinnett gave testimony that she is the daughter of James and Mary Kerr [sic] and that her parents had the following children now living to wit Jane Stinnett late Kerr and wife of Benjamin Stinnett, Esther Wade late Kerr and wife of Brunt Wade, Margaret Ross late Kerr and the wife of James Ross and Nancy Hunter late Kerr and wife of William Hunter. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing May 9, 1818, for service as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$283.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending when she died August 5, 1840.]

Another version

Pension Application of James Karr [Kerr], Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1456, Application #W9093

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

*This pension application was inserted here in an effort to discover any evidence that this was the same James Carr who was appointed an executor of the will of **THOMAS [I] CLARK**. Unfortunately, while there is nothing in the pension that prevents him from being one and the same, there is also nothing in it to confirm that he is one and the same.*

Logan County, KY, 1819:

“James Karr declares and state that in the year **1775**, he enlisted as a sergeant in the regular army of the United States for the term of six months. That he enlisted in the state of North Carolina where he then lived and into the company of Captain George Davidson, belonging, as well as he recollects, to the 2nd North Carolina regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander Martin. That in that company and regiment, he served faithfully the term of his enlistment, and one month longer as a sergeant major. That he was afterwards, and sometime in the year **1776**, appointed and commissioned first lieutenant in Captain Cole’s company belonging to the 4th regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, and in the said last mentioned company and regiment, served seven months as first lieutenant. That at the expiration of the last mentioned period, he was promoted to a captaincy in the said 4th regiment, and in that capacity served therein for the further term of eight months.

“The said Kerr also states that in the course of his said service, he was in six engagements with the public enemy and received two slight wounds. He also declares that all the services aforesaid were rendered during the Revolutionary War of the United States, and that during all the periods aforesaid, he served in the capacities and stations aforesaid in the Army of the United States upon the Continental establishment and against the public enemies of the United States. He also declares that he does not remember what has become of his discharge from the services as a sergeant. He further declares that upon his resignation and leaving the army he deposited his commissions both as captain and lieutenant with his Colonel Thomas Polk, and that it is now out of his power to obtain them, if they exist, which he thinks very improbable...”

Sept. 30, 1818

Davidson County, Tennessee

Howell Tatum: “I certify that the first of my knowing James Kerr was as a captain in the 4th North Carolina regiment, early in the month of **April, 1777**, and on the first day of my knowing him, he resigned his commission as such. I was then informed and believed he had served as lieutenant and captain in that reg’t from the time it was first raised which was on the **16th of September, 1776**, as well as I can recollect or within a few days of that date. This information I received from a number of officers of that regiment that were respectable men, and if their information was correct, he must have served between eleven and twelve months as an officer in the Continental line. I also understood from them that he had served a tour of enlistment of six months with a detached party of the 1st regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Martin of the 2nd regiment, who was detached to preserve peace and order in back part of the state of North Carolina. I have no doubt but he performed that tour for the term mentioned and further saith not.”

Sept. 24, 1848

Davidson County, Tennessee

E. Gamble: “That some time in the month of **August 1776**, he became acquainted with Captain James Kerr of the 4th Regiment of North Carolina Continental Troops commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, then on our march from Charleston, South Carolina to Wilmington in North Carolina. The deponent, then a lieutenant in the first regiment of infantry as aforesaid, commanded by Colonel Francis Nash, and that he the deponent did do duty under him as a subaltern as aforesaid, and that to his knowledge and belief, he, the said Kerr, did serve in the line aforesaid from the time of his appointment until he resigned, at least eighteen months, if not two years.”

September 5th, 1846
Estill County, KY

“I, Basil Eastes...do certify under oath that I was raised from a small boy in the state of North Carolina and lived in the County of Rowan [*before Orange County, North Carolina was divided, it had been a part of Rowan County, NC*] near David Kerr, and was well acquainted with his family, and also James Kerr, who was an officer in the service of his country during the Revolutionary War. The said James Kerr, in the summer of 1776 married his cousin, Mary Kerr, daughter of David Kerr...The following summer after their marriage, James Kerr left the army and came home and went to housekeeping in the neighborhood...After he went to housekeeping, he was frequently out in scouts after the British and Tories, but these tours was not long, say some times not more that two or three weeks and at other times, a month or two. The said James Kerr was considered a fine ___ soldier, always ready to defend his country and to turn out after the enemy where his country required it.”

“January 11, 1915

Commissioner of Pensions
Washington DC”

“Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of a letter from the Rev. J. C. Wagner of Mason City, Iowa, a constituent of mine, in which he says, ‘I had an ancestor named James Kerr in the Revolutionary War and who went from Pennsylvania to North Carolina when a mere child and must have enlisted from Orange County, North Carolina. I have no documentary proof of this statement, except a letter written nearly 100 years ago. I should like further record of the fact. He had two brothers, Billie and John Kerr, who were killed in that war...’”