

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Kelley W9095

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Simpson County Sct

On this 13 day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court for the County afs'd. John Kelly a resident of s'd. County aged 70 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – that he volunteered in the army of the united States for 8 months in 1777 in Pittsylvania County Va to guard the frontiers of Kentucky under this term He served under Capt. Dillard, he marched under s'd. Dillard alone to Boonsborough [sic: Boonesborough] Ky & from that place s'd. Dillard returned to Va & he was put under the command of John Montgomery as Capt. & Col. Geo. Rogers Clark [George Rogers Clark] & went with s'd. Clark to Kaskaskia, where he aided in taking the town [4 July 1778] – this was on the Va State line Service – he went from Louisville Ky in boats to below Shawneetown on the Ohio River & thence marched by land to Kaskaskia & thence marched back to Louisville & thence to a station at Haradsburgh [sic: Harrodsburg] – he was discharged from s'd. service in Ky at the end of s'd. 8 months service, but he has now lost his discharge.

He hereby hereby relinquishes evy claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year afs'd.

[signed] john kelley

Kentucky, Simpson County Sct.

November County Court 1839.

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1839 personally appeared before the Justices of the Simpson County Court, it being a Court of Record Ann Kelly a resident of the State & County aforesaid, aged Eighty 83 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath in open Court, make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July the 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled an Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows.

That she is the widow of John Kelly Dec'd. who was a resident of said State & County when he died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1838. And all that she knows of her husbands Revolutionary services, in the Revolutionary War is from his statements to her and others, in his different conversations upon that subject, during his life, the substance of which in relation to his campaign, she will attempt to state, as well as she can, from a decayed memory & a weak intellect to wit –

He John Kelly in the fall of 1777 or winter of 1778 in his sixteenth year volunteered as Indian Spy in the County of Pittsylvania State of Virginia, where he then lived and resided, and enlisted under one Jo. or John Montgomery who was a Captain of the volunteer company & who marched directly for the defence of Kentucky, and marched on through said State, passing Boonsborough, a little town in the upper part of said State, called after Daniel Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] and then to a place call the "Falls" [at present Louisville], on the Ohio River to George Rogers Clarkes who was Col. and commander in Chief of the little army, & here Col Clarke made an encampment for some little time, on an Island in the Ohio River above its "Falls" until Captains [Joseph] Bowman & William Harrod & some other Captains came to his Col Clarkes camp on said Island in the Spring of the year 1778

And then & here it was disclosed by Col. Clarke for the first time to his soldiers that he intended an expedition against the British Post Kaskaskia West of the Ohio River & as such some of Col Clarkes Troops deserted him & left his Camp, for Kentucky again. and notwithstanding which Clarke put off down the River in flat Boats with his little army [175 men], and the day the Boats crossed the Falls, the sun was in Eclipse which made much darkness over the River & which alarmed the troops very much, this

was in the month of June [see endnote] & Clarke continued his rout down the River to the mouth of the Tennessee River, which empties into the Ohio River, and landed at an Island which had a Name, but not now recollected. The Boats then dropped then dropped a short distance below, but above Fort Massac, and then the Troops marched by land in a Northern direction across the Country in the State [now] of Illinois to the ancient Village Kaskaskia, which was taken by Col Clarke without the fire of a Gun & without any Bloodshed, and the British Governor Rocheblave or Rocheblave [P. F. Rastel de Rocheblave] was taken in his bed Chamber Some little time after Kaskaskia was Captured, Col Clarke dispatched Captn John Montgomery to Richmond Virginia in charge of Rocheblave the British commandant of Kaskaskia John Kelly came under Captn Montgomery from Kaskaskia to Richmond Virginia & was discharged, in writing either from Clarke or Montgomery, which discharge John Kelly, while he resided in North Carolina, gave to Billy Karmifax, who was coming to the Western Country, to obtain his Kelly's Bounty land of 300 acres which Congress had promised to the soldiers who served in the Kaskaskia Campaign But Billy Karmifax died, and with him the written discharge was lost, and consequently Kelly never obtained the land which the Government had promised him & others from that day to this. In this campaign Kelly served a period of nine months or thereabouts. Bur for greater certainty as to dates particularly, and a more specifick detail of said Kellys campaign, reference can be had to his Declaration now on file, at the War Department showing the time he entered the service as aforesaid & the date of his discharge which was some time in the fall of 1778 She cannot state more particularly than this which Declaration is prayed to be taken as a part hereof marked (A) – She has no Documentary evidence of her of her husbands services, with the exception of his Pension Certificate, which shows at what time he was Pensioned and the annual amount of his stipend, and on which he drew his Pension to the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1838 & which is hereto exhibited to be taken as a part hereof marked B.

She further declares that she was married to said John Kelly on the [blank] day of February 1779 in Pittsylvania County Virginia & that she is four years older than he was at their marriage and at his Death; and in which County they lived about 24 years, and from thence they moved to Stokes County North Carolina, where they lived about 34 years or 36 years and from thence they moved to Logan County Kentucky & that part of said County, now Simpson, and here lived in the latter two named Counties about 24 years & that her said Husband died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1838 as is already stated herein. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1794, to wit at the time above stated.

She would further state that she has no record of her age, birth or marriage, that her Agent P. H. Basseau has written twice to the Clerk of the County Court of Pittsylvania fo obtain copies of the marriage bond, License the Ministers Return [illegible word] showing the precise date of her & John Kelly marriage, but so far, from some cause unknown, have failed, as he informs her, and in the event of said copies coming on in time, they will be sent on & prayed to be taken as a part hereof marked C. – She would further state, that all the foregoing statements made by her are made merely from he best recollection and if they are not entirely correct in all their particulars they are the best that she can do at this advanced stage of life. and that she has not married since her husbands Death nor neither does she intend such a thing at this time

Sworn to and subscribed before the Honorable Justices of the Simpson Count Court on the date above

Ann herXmark Kelly

#### NOTES:

There was a total solar eclipse on 24 June 1778, but George Rogers Clark stated in a letter to George Mason dated 19 Nov 1779 that he departed the Falls on 26 June.

In a 22 May 1840 letter, Ann Kelley's agent referred to her brother, John Templeton of Pittsylvania County and added the following: "I must confess, that I am tired of the case or any other that might be presented under that act of Congress – For to pay some person to ride from here to Pittsylvania to obtain

the required certificate would eat up the intended bounty of Congress." Ann Kelley made another application on 31 July 1844.