

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Jesse Kerby W9489

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Sgt.
Warren County }

On this 23^d day of July 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Warren, now sitting Jesse Kerby resident of the s'd County of Warren & State of Kentucky aged seventy five years on the 23^d of October next 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1st He was drafted into the service, on a three months tour, in the month of June 1780 from the County of Henry & State of Virginia under the command of Capt George Waller of the 3^d Regiment Va Militia, commanded by Col [Ralph] Faulkner (he thinks) and under the general command of [Gen. Horatio] Gates. He rendezvoused at Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] (N.C.) and marched thence toward Camden [SC] with the main army, but did not reach that place. He hired a substitute whom he paid himself, and received the pay of the government, and the discharge of his Col. himself.

2^{dly} He volunteered into the service a second time for about 20 or 30 days under Capt James Terrence [sic: James Tarrant or Torrance] - Col. [James] Lyon & Major Peter Haston [sic: Capt. Peter Hairston] - intending to join Gen. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. This was about the 1st of February 1781. He rendezvoused at Capt Shaws - marched to Williams Mill on Sandy creek [probably Sandy River in Pittsylvania County] - and was here discharged. Gen Green refusing to receive a regiment whose time of service was so short. At this time he was lying on the Va side of Dan River opposite to L[or]d Cornwallis on the N.C. side. He received a discharge from his captain.

3^{dly} He was drafted for a three month tour on the first of May from the s'd County of Henry under the command of Col James Cowden, Maj [St. George] Tucker & Col [John] Holcomb. Marched down from Henry C.H. where the troops rendezvoused, to the main army under the command of Gen. [Robert] Lawson, near Jamestown, Va. was not present at the engagement between our army under [Gen. Anthony] Wayne & Campbell [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], but marched on the ground that night - the enemy having crossed the river before we reached. We then retreated to the Morbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill] on James River 16 miles below Richmond where we remained till we were discharged - which happened on the day orders arrived for us to march to Yorktown. His discharge was signed by his Captain. He was acquainted on this campaign with Asa Delasier[?] of Capt White's company of Horse, which company belonged to Col Washingtons Regiment [Lt. Col. William Washington's Light Dragoons]. He also knew a Lieutenant Marshall of Washington's Regiment but he is not certain what Capt he was under.

4^{thly} He was drafted again on a three months tour from the same county under Capt James Terrence, his Lieutenant named Reuben Daniel commencing about the 1st of November 1781. He was orderd out by his Col. [Abram] Penn to guard prisoners taken in S. Carolina. He took possession of these prisoners at Henry C.H. and marched with them thence near Winchester when the news of Cornwallis's surrender [19 Oct 1781] reachd them and the prisoners being destitute of clothing &c were put out upon the farmers & country people, who were required to keep them safely and return them when required. Our company was then discharged & my discharge signed by my Capt. Our discharges being for the three months tour - most of the prisoners above alluded to had been taken at the Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781]. He has retained no documentary evidence of his services - his discharges having been lost, after he had retained them long enough to believe they would never be of service to him. He served two tours with Leneard T Kerby [Leonard T. Kerby, pension application S31183] as will be seen from his certificate herewith forwarded. S'd Kerby is apprised also of his other services as will he also observed. His age is recorded in his Bible, now at home After leaving Henry Co, Va, he moved to

South Carolina & then to Ky. He can not conveniently procure a clergymans certificate

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Jessee hisXmark Kerby

I Leonard T Kerby a resident of the County of Warren & State of Kentucky do hereby certify that I served two tours in the army of the Revolution with the above named Jesse Kerby — the first beginning about the 1st of Febuary 1781 and ending about a month thereafter, the other beginning about the 1st November 1781 & ending about three months thereafter - both under the officers & under the circumstances above stated by him — and I further testify that I knew of his sitting out on and returning from the other tours & from the reputation of the cuntry & other reports of his fellow soldiers on their return I verily believe that he did serve on those tours as by him stated

Leonard T hisXmark Kerby

NOTE:

On 10 Feb 1853 Sophia Kerby, aged 92 years, two months, and 25 days at the death of Jesse Kerby on 17 Dec 1852, applied for a pension stating that she married him on 18 Mar 1778. Her application was supported by the following deposition:

The deposition of Jesse R Kerby Taken on the 10th day of February 1853. This affiant states that he is sixty one years of age, and is a son of Jesse Kerby and Sophia Kerby named in the foregoing Certificate, that he was born in South Carolina, and has been residing in the County of Warren and State of Kentucky, fifty five years last March. He further states that said Jesse kerby and Sophia Kerby lived together as husband and wife ever since his recollection of them, that neither of his parents had ever been married prior to their intermarriage. The said Jesse & Sophia Kerby have had born thirteen children and raised eleven of them, and that their descendants from the best information he has, amount now to four hundred and fifty eight#

Jesse R Kerby

Also in the file is the following family register:

Jesse Kerby Snr, was born oct 23rd 1757

And Sophiah Kerby wife of Jesse Kerby was born Sept. 23rd 1760 & married 18th March 1778

David Kerby first son of Jesse Kerby & Sophia Kerby was born Jan 27th 1779

Nancy Kerby was born oct 23rd 1781

Lucy Kerby was born Nov. 27th 1783

William Kerby was born Feb. 15th 1785

Sirus Kerby was born Decr. 25th 1787

Elizabeth Kerby was born Jan. 27th 1790

Jesse Kerby was born march 6th 1792

Isaiah Kerby was born August 5th 1794

John Kerby was born Feb. 27th 1797

Polly Kerby was born Feb 26th 1799

Tully Kerby was born Novr. 11th 1802

J.R.K.

The file also contains the following newspaper clipping:

For the Western Recorder.

A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER FALLEN!

Died, at his residence, in Warren county, Ky., on the 17 h of December, 1852. Mr. Jesse Kirby, aged ninety-five years, one month, and twenty-five days. He was born in Virginia, Oct. 23d, 1757. Mr. Kirby left a wife, who, at his death, was ninety two years, two months, and twenty-five days old. They were married the 18th of March, 1778, and lived together seventy-four years, eight months, and twenty-nine days. They had lived in Warren county fifty-four years.

Mr. K. served as a volunteer soldier for three tours in the Revolutionary war, and was honorably discharged. Alas, the patriots of the Revolution have nearly all passed away, and when shall such another race of men appear? They were men who did not consider liberty too dearly bought, though purchased with their blood. — May the spirit which animated them live in their posterity.

Mr. K. joined the Baptist Church in 1812, of which he remained a consistent member till

his death. His last affliction was borne with patience and resignation. He died of a cancer on his mouth, and for some weeks before his death he was anxious to depart and be with Christ. His surviving relations and friends have reason to believe, that while his blood rests in the grave, his spirit enjoys the bliss of heaven. May they all follow him to glory!

Mr. K. had thirteen children, one hundred and thirty-five grandchildren, three hundred and three great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren—making his descendants number four hundred and fifty-eight! It rarely happens that a man has so numerous a progeny at his death; and, so far as the writer knows, Warren county, in this instance, is in advance of every other county in Kentucky. “Honor to whom honor is due.” P.