

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Kelso (Kelsoe, Kelso) W9493 Margaret Kelso f66NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/29/09; rev'd 4/1/16

[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 29]

State of Indiana, Morgan County: SS: Morgan Probate Court November Term 1832

On this 1st day of November 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable John Matthews, Probate Judge within and for said County, Alexander Kelso, aged 75 who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the seventh 1832.

That he was drafted about the first of November in the year 1775 for no particular time for the purpose of going out against a body of the Tories headed by one Fletcher [sic, Thomas Fletchall] and after he was drafted he was marched in the direction of 96 under the command of Colonel Richardson [Richard Richardson] the Captain under whom he served was by the name of John Bartley, the Lieutenant was by the name of John Kenneday [John Kennedy?] and the Ensign not recollected. He lived in the Waxhaw Settlement in the State of South Carolina. He says they crossed the Catawba River from thence they crossed the Broad River then crossed the Congaree River thence the River called the Saluda and from thence on in the direction of 96 and about that time the Americans Army were dispersed and we returned home which was about Christmas which time was about seven or eight weeks that I was out that time.

This declarant says he was drafted again in the course of two or three weeks to go to Charleston for the purpose of preventing the British from coming into the town at which time he says he did not go himself but got his brother to go in his place which was a term of about two months it being about the first of January when he went and returned about the 15th of March following; he went on to Charleston during said term of time and was there sometime and was then dismissed and returned home.

This declarant says he volunteered on or about the first of September in the year not recollected the battle was at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]; that he marched under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby, the Major's name was Evan Shelby, the Captain's name was George Maxwell, Lieutenant and Ensign not recollected. We marched from Sullivan County in the boundary of North Carolina towards the mountains on to a River called Watauga where we lay one or two days and then we marched into the mountains and crossed the same where we went into what was called Ferguson's trail and then pursued after the British and continued to the Cowpens and continued to pursue until we overtook the British, it being the 7th day of October at a place called Kings Mountain at which place we had an engagement with the said British Army at which time and place they were defeated by the Americans in which battle the Americans wounded, killed and took prisoners all of the said British Army. That night we lay on the battleground it being nearly night when the battle was ended. The next morning it being Sabbath morning we marched with the prisoners up toward the mountains until we came to a ~~place~~ farm called Walker's, there we lay one or two days and the officers held a court-martial for

the purpose of trying the Tories at which place and time the court condemned about 70 and hung about 9 or 10 of the Tories until they were dead. From thence we marched on with the prisoners until we came into a County called Wilkes in the State of North Carolina and there we lay one or two days with the prisoners and was then dismissed by the officers of the Army. I received no written discharge and each man went to his own home in the best manner he could without provisions & money & he says he suffered very much with hunger & fatigue.

Next he was drafted to march out against the Cherokee Indians near the close of the Revolution and he being not able to go himself he hired as a substitute to go in his place by the name of Charles Logan for which services he gave him \$15. That afterwards he was drafted to go out again against the said Indians he thinks sometime in the year 1780 or there about, he marched out under the command of Colonel John Surveyor [sic, John Sevier] and the Captain's name was Hubbard [James Hubbard]. We marched on until we came to a Creek called Cloud's Creek and there the officers held a counsel and concluded to return home which we did. He says he was out at that time about three weeks.

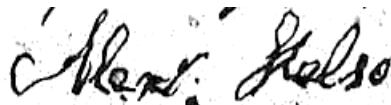
At another time he says he volunteered again and went out against the same tribe of Indians. He went under the command of Colonel Doherty, the Captain's name was either Hugh Kelso, his brother, or Robert Carson, he does not for certain recollect which. They marched to a place and River called hightower [sic, Hightower or Hiwassee?] where they had a battle with the Indians and defeated same and then we returned home after some time, we were out at that time about five or six weeks. This declarant says the different times he was out when added together make six months or more as he verily believes.

And the said declarant in answer to the questions propounded by the Court as requested by the instructions from the war department says that the best of his knowledge and belief he was born in the month of March 1758 on the 30th day of that month in the State of Virginia, Augusta County. That he has no record of his age at this time. That at the time he was drafted he lived in the State of South Carolina about March following he removed from that place into Virginia [at a place] called Greenbrier River in Botetourt County and lived there until about the last of August following and from there he moved into a County called Rockbridge in the same State and remained there that winter and then moved across the Blue Ridge to a County called Bedford in the same State and there stayed about three years and then moved into North Carolina into a County called Sullivan and stayed about one year and from there crossed Holston River and went into Washington County near to Jacksonborough and lived there about three years and from thence to a River called French Broad in Jefferson County and lived 15 or 20 years and from there in 1809 into Knox County in the State of Tennessee and lived there until 1828 at which time he moved into the State of Indiana where he now lives in Morgan County in Jackson Township. That he is known to Thomas Kitenburgh [?], William Balls and James Kelso who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services and that he has no documentary evidence thereof.

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 or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Alex^r Kelso



[Andrew Shell, a clergyman, and James Blair gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 35]

Indiana Morgan County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Alexander Kelso, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, to wit: In the tour in his declaration mentioned in 1775, he served for not less than one month and 20 [days] as a private soldier -- that he volunteered for his second tour on the first of September in 1780, which he knows from the fact that it was on the first of September next preceding the battle of Kings Mountain; and that he continued in this service and till towards the last of November next ensuing said battle making a period of at least 2 months and 20 days during which time he served as a private soldier -- that his third tour was performed in the fall of [words obliterated] he now thinks, instead of the [words obliterated] as stated in his declaration; That the Colonel under whom he served was one of the same who had commanded at the Kings Mountain & that the deponent is informed his name should be written Sevier instead of Surveyor, that on this expedition he served at least twenty-one days as a private -- that on his last tour he entered the service as he now thinks in February or March in 1782 at which time he served at least one month and five days as a private -- For answer to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War department he saith, 1st He was born in Augusta County Virginia in 1758 -- 2nd He has in his possession no record of his age -- thirdly when first called into the service he was living in the Waxhaw settlements near the Catawba River South Carolina, the 2nd time he entered the service he lived in Sullivan County North Carolina, the 3rd time, when he entered the service he was living in Washington County North Carolina, and he thinks when he entered the service a 4th time in what was called Green County North Carolina. He resided in the State of Tennessee from the close of the war until about 4 or 5 years since when he moved to the County of Morgan where he now resides -- 4th He entered the service under a draft in 1775 -- in September 1780 he volunteered -- 3rd time he entered the service he was drafted in the 4th time he volunteered. 5th For the names of his officers, the Continental and militia regiments with which he served and the general circumstances of his service he refers to the preceding declaration -- 6 He never received a written discharge from the Army --

Sworn to and subscribed before me this first day of June 1833.

S/ C. G. Butler, JP

S/ Alex^r Kelso

[p 47: On January 2, 1837, John Balch gave a deposition in Jefferson County Tennessee stating that he was well acquainted with Margaret Balch and Alexander Kelso; that they were married in 1781; that he was personally present at the marriage; that they were married in Washington County Tennessee then North Carolina.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Balch". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

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[p 64: On March 7th, 1838 in Morgan County Indiana, Margaret Kelsoe, 82 or 83 years old, a resident of Jackson Township in said County and state made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Alexander Kelsoe, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him sometime in the month of May

1781; that he died September 3, 1835 and that she remains his widow. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 4: On April 24, 1843 in Monroe County Indiana, Margaret Kelsoe, a resident of Perry Township, Monroe County, Indiana, aged eighty-eight years, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Alexander Kelsoe; that she was married to the said Alexander the next spring after the battle of Kings Mountain in the month of May; she recollects that she was 26 years old at the time of her marriage; "... She resided in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina near the Town of Charlotte in the early part of the War. She recollects well when Captain Scott's company of volunteers started out on the Snow Campaign (so called on account of the Snow being on the earth at the time). She had two brothers James and William Balch in said Company. She remembers that she furnished her brother William who was the Ensign in said Company with a silk Handkerchief for a flag for his company. She recollects being at meeting at Captain Scott's when the Company arrived upon its return, whilst the preacher was preaching, and recollects the exclamation of the captain's wife & the feeling it produced. She recollects very well going from the South side of the Catawba River where she lived across the River a journey of thirty miles to her brother's to ascertain if he had returned from Gates defeat. As she was going on her way where she crossed the River at Beatties Ford, there was a guard -- they stopped her & questioned her about her name and business. She answered them. One of them said he knew her connections and that they were all good Whigs. She then understood from them that they were stationed there to keep the Tories from crossing the River. Her youngest brother John Balch went out for the Battle of Ramsour's Mills and was in it as she was informed and believes.

She had three brothers at Gates Defeat James, William and Amos¹, as informed and believes. After this (Gates Defeat) she with others fled with the intention of going to her brother's Stephen B. Balch a Presbyterian preacher at Georgetown in the District of Columbia, but being informed that grain was scarce in the District, they stopped at Staunton in Virginia and stayed there one winter and part of the next summer. Thence she with others returned to a place called Little Limestone in then North Carolina, now Tennessee. She remained there until the Spring after the Battle of Kings Mountain when asked as she before above stated she was married to the said Alexander according to an agreement made before the Battle of Kings Mountain.

They (this declarant and the said Alexander Kelsoe) were married in Washington County then North Carolina now Tennessee. She recollects that their marriage license was issued by Colonel Sevier the clerk of the Court of said County at Jonesboro. The minister who solemnized their marriage was John Cansson [or Canspon] a Presbyterian preacher who resided near to them, their regular preacher Samuel Doke being absent at Presbytery. After their marriage they remained in the same place about 2 years. She recollects the said Alexander going out for the expedition to Kings Mountain and his bringing back with him a lead horse said to be got there. She does not recollect whether said Alexander was in the foot or horse at Kings Mountain. She thinks he served part of the time on foot and part on horse.

In some of his tours he was in the foot service & most of which service was before their marriage as she is informed and believes.

After their marriage and after the battle of Kings Mountain her said husband served 2 tours of duty against the Cherokee Indians and Tories. One of those tours she thinks (it is her best impression) he performed on horse. She does not recollect whether in the other he was a footman or horsemen. She does not recollect the length of the tours; nor whether they were in

¹ [Amos Balch S2943](#)

the same year or not. She recollects that the Indian depredations which rendered the call necessary first [indecipherable word] out in Blount County. There were many forts in that County at the time. She had a sister in one of them as she was informed. She forgets the name of it. It was attacked with only two men in it. They assisted by the women kept up a fire & the enemy gave up the siege and retired. Another Fort about the same was burned.

She recollects the first family attacked by the Indians in that season. They were by the name of Kirk. The old gentleman & one son escaped. Just after this it was that her husband started out on the first of the 2 tours which took place as before stated after the Battle of Kings Mountain.

She recollects that about this time Young Mr. Cunningham went out with his sister to milk (in her neighborhood) and both were killed by the Indians. In the first of said 2 tours, she has the impression that her husband was under Captain Carson or that Captain was all along, his first name she has a faint impression was Robert. Her husband she has the impression (not confidently) in one of his said 2 tours was destined to a place called Hightower, as she supposed in the Cherokee Nation. The expedition was in warm weather. John Wallace was killed in that expedition as she was informed and believed. She recollects that after this a short time they brought a few Indian prisoners in the part of the country near where she lived. The young man above mentioned by the name of Kirk whose family had been attacked rushed among the prisoners and killed some of them was about to kill an old Indian woman, but spared her upon her protesting that her Indian son John had had never killed white man. She cannot state when her husband started to go in his 2nd tour. Both tours she thinks was not far apart.

She recollects that Samuel Hanby or Handy whether about this time of not she is unable to remember went to Cumberland Mountain with a company. Being attacked by Indians his men all fled, leaving him to stand alone. His company reported to him dead. He was much respected. His funeral sermon was preached by Mr. Henderson who was her preacher. She was present and heard it. It was highly affecting. She still recollects the words of one of his sentences describing the manner in which he died "so died our brave and noble Captain." In a few days afterwards and which reviled [?] the words upon her memory, Captain Handy returned sound and well. It was said his men appeared to be sorry that he lived.

Her husband the said Alexander may have been in the foot service at Kings Mountain she remembers his stating upon his return that the British overshot the Americans as they went up the side of the mountain.

She states that she well recollects that her oldest son (Charles) was a child when the said Alexander when out in one of said expeditions against the Indians. In one of the said Indian campaigns she thinks Dougherty was an officer what office he held she cannot state nor whether said Alexander was under his command or whether under the command of Col. Hubbard. Said Dougherty was at one time she recollects a Major or Colonel and was afterwards is her impression a general.

She states that about five years ago then residing in Morgan County in this State she made a declaration for the present purpose before Judge Huffman of said County. She is informed that the statement she then made was insufficient because of stating her marriage to have taken place in the year 1781 which is about the time as she is informed of the date of husband's last services as stated in his declaration. She does not recollect his statements nor has she any means of knowing what they were. She can account for the apparent disagreement in their statements only in one of 2 ways. The draftsman of her husband's declaration must have omitted to state these Indian tours of her husband war he from his great failure of memory must have forgotten to mention them to his said draftsman or must have stated his services in those tours too far back.

This affiant cannot be mistaken when she expressly and positively declares as she now

does that her said husband was out in the service in the Revolution after their marriage together and after the Battle of Kings Mountain and performed said Indian tours. Her and the said Alexander were promised to each other in marriage some time before and were married after said Battle and one of said tours against the Indians she is certain was after the birth of her son Charles, their first child born after their marriage.

She has been advised to claim under the Act of 7th July 1838. She cannot make any other statement or declaration than she has made and now makes. The facts as she has set them forth are substantially true and none other.

She states that their license for her and the said Alexander and the celebration of the marriage was had according to the laws then existing in said state. The said Colonel Sevier was the same who was afterwards Governor of Tennessee. The Clerk's Office from which the license was obtained as aforesaid was destroyed by fire. She is informed and believes from the information of a friend whom she employed expressly to ascertain that the records of marriage in said Office was consumed by fire at the said burning of said Office.

For corroborative testimony she refers to the Deposition of John Balch of Jefferson County Tennessee on file in the War Office.

She states that her and the said Alexander after their marriage also lived in the Counties of Jefferson & Knox in said State of Tennessee.

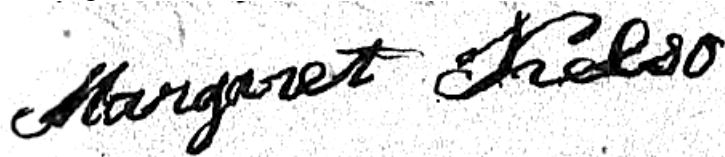
She states that (probably from the circumstance of her not living with any of her own family whilst single after being partly grown) she knows nothing of any record of her age. Her father and mother died when she was not grown. Several of her brothers have obtained pensions as she is informed and believes: among them the Reverend Stephen B Balch who formerly resided in Georgetown District of Columbia whose descendents she is informed now live in the District or in Maryland. One Thomas B Balch she is informed lives on the Eastern Shore. A daughter of ^{the said Steven [sic]} she is informed is married to General Macomb. She states that from bodily infirmity she is not able to appear in open Court without great suffering.

Her husband the said Alexander Kelsoe died either on the first or 2nd day of September 1835.

That she has remained a widow ever since the said period of her husband's death as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

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S/ Margaret Kelso



[p 14: On May 4, 1843 in Monroe County, Indiana, James B. Kelsoe, 47, a resident of Monroe County Indiana gave a supporting affidavit in which he states he is the son of Margaret Kelso; makes reference to his brother Charles Kelsoe.



[p 23: On April 26, 1843 in Morgan County Indiana, Charles B Kelso, 58, a resident of Jackson Township in said County gave testimony in support of the widow's application for a pension stating that he has known Margaret Kelso for upwards of 40 years having lived in the family of Alexander and Margaret Kelso for about 23 years. His relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated.

Charles B. Kelso

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in both the South Carolina and North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]