

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Prosser R8500
Transcribed by Will Graves

Elizabeth

f86VA
12/3/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Carter: Sct.

On this 14th day of March in the year of 1855 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid, Elizabeth A. Kouns [?] a resident of the County of Carter, in the state of Kentucky, aged fifty years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain in right of her Mother, Elizabeth Prosser, the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

That she is one of the children of John and Elizabeth Prosser, that her Mother, Elizabeth Prosser, was the widow of John Prosser who was an officer in the war of the American Revolution, and entered the service of his country as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Line and served in the capacity of Lieutenant and Captain in the Virginia Line 3 years and was honorably discharged.

She states that her father was a citizen of Westmoreland County Virginia during the time he was in service of his country, that her Mother Elizabeth Mastin [Elizabeth Martin?]¹ was married to her father John Prosser in the year of 1784, that her father died in the year of 1815 [last digit unclear could possibly be 1818]² and her Mother died on the 8th day of August 1838. She does not know of the existence of any record evidence to prove the services of her father but she refers for proof of his services, and for the rank in which they were rendered to the Muster Rolls of the Virginia Line which are on file (as she has been informed) in the Pension Office. She refers likewise to an account against the State of Virginia in her father's handwriting, and now on file in the Pension Office as part of the declaration of her husband, George W Kouns, in support of this claim, and which declaration of her said husband she prays may be taken as part of this declaration.

She states that she always understood her father had expended, out of his private fortune, a large sum of money, to support the cause of American Independence.

She states that her Mother was not married to her Father 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.

¹ Elizabeth Mastin
² 1815

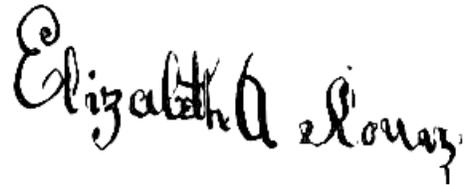
She states that after the death of her father, her Mother continued a widow until her death and she never made application for a pension, having lived and died in ignorance of her right to one.

She states that for children now survived her Mother, viz.: Dorothy M Prosser, now Dorothy M Judd, Mary H Prosser, now Mary H Hoy, Samuel M Prosser, and Elizabeth A. Prosser now Elizabeth A. Kouns, and the person who makes this declaration.

She states that she was only about 12 years of age when her father died, and she recollects to have heard that he had performed the [word written over and illegible] of Captain while in the service, and she well recollects he was called Captain Prosser before he died, but whether he was promoted and commissioned a Captain she does not know, but she hopes the Muster Roll of the Virginia Line will prove whether he was commissioned as Captain or not. His Commission as Lieutenant and his discharge were long preserved in the family, but ultimately both were lost. She has saw her father's Commission, she does not recollect to have heard of more than one commission.

She makes this declaration from information obtained from her Mother, and from the older members of her father's family, which she believes to be true.

S/ Elizabeth A. Kouns

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Kouns". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

State of Kentucky County of Carter: Sct.

On this 8th day of January in the year of 1855, personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Carter, George W Kouns, a resident of the State of Kentucky, in the County of Carter, aged fifty years, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain, (in right of his Mother-in-law, Elizabeth Prosser deceased) the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

He states that his Mother-in-law, Elizabeth Prosser was the widow of John Prosser deceased, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia Line, in the war of the American Revolution, and served in the capacity of a Lieutenant and Captain three years and was honorably discharged.

He states that his father in law of John Prosser deceased was a citizen of the County of Westmoreland in the State of Virginia when he entered the service of his country, which was about the year 1777 or 78 and he was discharged about the year 1780 or 81.

He further states that John Prosser Commission and discharge were long preserved by his family, but ultimately they were both lost, and he has no documentary evidence to produce in support of the claim, but he refers to the Muster Rolls of the Virginia Line, on file in the pension office for evidence of his Services. He refers also, to the account of John Prosser against the State of Virginia for the sum of about three hundred fifty pounds and eighteen shillings advance by him to promote the service of his country and advance the cause of American Independence in which account is marked B³ and made a part of this declaration, and which is in the handwriting of Mr. Prosser himself.

He further declares that Elizabeth Mastin, his Mother-in-law was married to John Prosser

³ Perhaps I missed it in this lengthy file, but I did not find this document in this file.

his father-in-law, in the year of 1784 – that John Prosser died in the year of 1815, and Elizabeth Prosser died on the 8th day of August 1838, and four children now survived her, viz. Dorothy M Prosser, now Dorothy M Judd, Mary H Prosser, now Mary H Hoy, Samuel M Prosser and Elizabeth A Prosser, now Elizabeth A Kouns, and the wife of this affiant.

He hereby declares that Elizabeth Mastin was not married to John Prosser prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1784, viz. at the time above stated.

He further declares that Elizabeth Prosser continued a widow, after the death of her husband, until she died, and she never made application for a pension, having lived and died in ignorance of her right to one.

He makes this declaration from information obtained from the family of John Prosser deceased, and which he believes to be true.

S/ George W. Kouns



[f p. 22]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 2nd day of October 1784 in the name of John Prosser as a Seaman and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £48.16.6, delivered to Josh Singleton but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 16th day of July 1855.

S/ G. W. Chilten
Auditor Public Accounts

[No Seal of Office]

[Note: Though not marked "B" it is possible that the document below was part of what was intended to be that document.

