Pension Application of Barney Karren S15906
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected.]
State of Virginia }  SS
Randolph County }
Person ly appear d bef ore m e the Su bscri ber an acti ng Ju stice of the Peace i n an d for t he County
of Randolph and State of Virginia on the 4th day of November 1833 Barney Karren a Resident of
the County of Randolph and State of Virginia aged 82 years who being first duly sworn
according to law doth on his oath make the following Decleration in order to obtain the Benefit
of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he Enl isted in the Service of the United States
under the Following named officers and served as herein after stated that in the year 1776 the
day nor month is not recollected by affiant, but he distinctly recollects that he inlisted under
Captain John Nevell [sic: John Neville or Nevill] a Captain in the Virginia line. Our first march was
to Fort Pitt (now Pitt Burg [sic: Pittsburgh]) at this place we were stationed as well as I recollect
about one year, at the time of the expedition the Indians were in possession of this post, until
our army arrived in the vicinity of the Fort where they evacuated the fort and in a few days we
marched in & took possession. We made many excursions in quest of Indians and to procure
provisions. On one occasion I was with others sent from the fort by water up to Brownsville then
call’d Redstone Fort, for the purpose of procuring a load of flower which we were fortunate
enough to get and brought it safe to the fort in a boat at the time of my enlistment which took
place in Winchester. Andrew Waggoner was our first Lieutenant and continued so during the
term which expired whilst we remained at Fort Pitt at the expiration of this my first tower, we
were still at Fort Pitt. I was verbally discharged and my Captain told us that the British had
landed at New York [15 Sep 1776] and that if I would again enlist we should march to the east in
order to oppose the British Army at this time I am not positive whether Andrew Waggoner was
the Captain [promoted to Captain 20 Jun 1776] or whether John Nevell still commanded. this I
know that Capt Nevell was promoted to Major but at what time I do not distinctly recollect.
From fort Pitt we marched back to Winchester. from Winchester we marched to Lancaster in
Pennsylvania from thence to Philadelphia from thence we marched to Trenton in the State of
New Jersey from thence to MorrisTown, at this place our Company joined the Army and I
believe that General George Washington was then with the Army. I am strongly impress’d with
the belief that I saw him there I often saw him after wards in the course of my service. I have
forgotten how long we lay at Morristown. from thence we marched to Philadelphia. here we
stayed but a short time as we were often out upon excursions out to Jerman Town and in
various directions through the country and was in the Battle at Jermantown [sic: Battle of
Germantown, 4 Oct 1777]. On this day General [Charles] Scott & Stevenson [sic: Adam Stephen]
commanded. (I am not positive whether the latter General was call’d. Stephenson or Stevens).
after this action the Marquis Delafaeet [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] suspended the last named
general in the command If this affiant recollects right the glory of the day was lost to the
American arms by the improper conduct of Major General Stevenson, who this affiant believes
was afterwards broke for his untimely retreat [see endnote]. at the time of this battle I well
recollect that our troops were in high spirits and calculated fully upon the capture of the British
Army at this place having marched all the night before for the purpose of surprising them. as
well as affiant recollects the army was marched to the Vally Forge. This he well recollects that
they were stationed at the Vally forge during the winter succeeding the Battle of Jermantown.
Some short time after the Battle of Jermantown we received information that there was a boddy
of Hessians not far from us but the name of the place at which they were stationed I do not
recollect. this I well recollect that the night before we march’d the place that we expected to find
them we had to wade through the Schuylkill River which was so deep & rapid that we were
compell’d to hold to each other to prevent our being washed down, the weather being very cool
and we were not permitted to build fiers to dry and warm ourselves, we suffered very much
from cold & wet but we did not obtain our object as the Tories gave the Hessians notice of our
approach and they fled before our arrival. in the spring of the year [1778] after we wintered at the Valley Forge I was discharged having served out my second term of enlistment of twelve months each. From this place I returned home to Hampshire County in the State of Virginia. I then concluded to leave the army having served my country two years and having also lost two brothers who fell nobly fighting for America. My brothers John and Edward both fell but in what battles I do not know as they both served in the Pennsylvania line. My brother Peter Karren had also served his adopted country in the Virginia line one year. I say adopted for my Farther moved to this country from Ireland to America, bringing with him five sons, four of whom was actively engaged in the Revolution in behalf of the American cause.

I continued to reside in Hampshire County until I heard the news that Cornwallis was at Yorktown. at this time we received information that General Washington had sent an invitation to his old soldiers and comrades in arms to repair to him and he would soon put an end to the conflict. Many of us repaired to Romney to take into consideration what was best to be done. At this time the late Col. Edward McCarty asked this affiant if he would volunteer to go and aid our old commander. This affiant replied to him that if he said McCarty would go that he said affiant would go also. There was soon a Company of volunteers raised and commanded by James Safly as well as affiant recollects, we marched by the nearest & best routs from Romney in Hampshire County to the Town of York where we joined the main army commanded by General Washington. This affiant remained with the army at Yorktown until the surrender of Cornwallis and was one of the guard who marched with the prisoners to Winchester in Frederick County Virginia. This affiant was detain'd some time to guard the said prisoners until a relief was raised and came home. The length of this service this affiant does not recollect. This affiant will now state the names of some of his comrades in arms whilst discharging his duty in his first & second enlistment. Andrew Lilburn was our Orderly Sergeant at Fort Pitt. Michael Brady & John Ryan served with me in my first tower in my second tower the same persons again enlisted with me and also James & John Hagarty...

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year first above written. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and thinks his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. [signed] Barney Karren

I was born in Ireland in the County of Monahan [sic: Monaghan] in the year 1753.

I have no record of my age.

I was living in the Town of Winchester. as soon as my two first towers ended I came to the County of Hampshire to reside where I resided some years from there I removed to the County of Randolph where I have resided ever since now about eleaven years.

I enlisted twice but never received any bounty but one Bole of Toddy. I also volunteered once and served as guard to the Tories once but do not recollect how I was call'd to this service. Col. James Wood commanded the 12 Regiment and Major John Nevell commanded in the same regiment. Andrew Waggner was first our Lieutenant and afterward our Captain.

Stephen Ashby belonged to the same Regiment and was a Captain.

I have often seen General Morgan during my service & several times in particular at Valley Forge. I also saw him in Winchester where I understood he went to take Quebec [captured there 1 Jan 1776].

I saw General Washington a short time before the battle of Jermantown, but have no recollection of seeing him that day. I saw him often during the winter we stayed at the Valley Forge. Some time after the surrender of Cornwallis I saw the General in Hampshire County.
I did receive a discharge; I believe it was signed by Col Scott but am not certain. in those days I was fond of a dram and in a frolick I lost it

Mr. John R Goff and Mr. Harsten are two of my neighbours to whom I can refer for my veracity and their belief of my being a soldier of the Revolution and also to an affidavit of John Chenowith [John Chenoweth, pension application S18899] taken before Godfrey Hille and Acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Randolph. I also refer to Joseph Vanmeter [S16010] (if alive) of the County of Hardy

Subscribed & sworn to this day & year first written [signed] Barney Karren

Randolph County } To Wit
Virginia }
This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said County John Chenaweth and made oath and Deposeth as Follows Viz  Says that he was personally acquainted with Barney Kerns formerly of Hampshire County in Virginia but now a Resident of the County of Randolph aforesaid,. Deponent says his first acquaintance with him was in the Virginia Line and thinks that the said Barney Kerns belonged to the 12th Va. Rgt and Captain Vossey [sic: William Vause] Company, as he the Deponent belonged to the 8th Virginia Rgt, and that they where both Soldiers in the Revolutionary War and this deponent says that he has no Recollection of the Field officers that Commanded the 12th Regt at that Time, as the Lapse of Time has Oblitterated Them from his mind

State of Virginia } SS
Hardy County }
Personally Appeared before me the Subscriber one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County of Hardy and State of Virginia, Col. Joseph Vanmeter and after being duly sworn doth upon his oath say that in the year 1777 he was personaly acquainted with Barney Karren then a soldier in the Army of the United States and as this affiant Beleaves in the Company Commanded by Captain Vass [sic] in the 12 Regiment of the Virginia Line  It is possible that the said Barney Karren was not in Captain Voss Company but affiant is certain that he the said Barney Karren Belonged to the said Twelfth Regiment Commanded by Col. James Wood. Affiant beleaves that the said Barney Karran served as he states in his declaration in which he Refers to him; during his acquaintance with Barney Karren he maintained a Reputable Character. I the said Justice do here by state That I have been acquainted with Col. Joseph Vanmeter for many years and Beleave his statement Entitled to Credit given under my hand & seal this 11th day of November 1833 Mortimer D Williams J.P.

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. On Karren’s report Singleton wrote “Entitled.”]

Barney Karren Alias Kerns. draws $80—
on the 4th November 1834 Karren gave the following statement of his age and service as a soldier in the War of the Revo to Wit. is a native of Ireland came to the U States when a child. dont know his age - but thinks he cant be less than ninety years old - he resided in Hampshire County at the commencement of the war, that he thinks it was in the year 1776 (he is not positive about the year) he Enlisted in Winchester Va. under Capt John Nevil, for one year, and marched to Pittsburg pursuing the Braddock road. there was but the one company. - Served out the time at Pittsburg. at the expiration of which he reenlisted for one other year under the same Captain, who marched his company back to Winchester, thence to Lancaster & thence to Philadelphia - from there to Trenton & Morristown at the latter place joined Washingtons army which went to Pennsylvania. marched all night, got to German town just before day - where a Battle was fought. from there army went to Vally forge & remained there all winter. - he belonged to the 12th Regt. - his year expired after which he returned to Winchester Virg; - & volunteered under Capt. J Tussly[?]. marched to Yorktown. was there at the Battle. returned to Winchester with the Prissoners. continued at the garrison near Winchester all Winter - proved
his services by Joseph Vanmeter & John Chenoweth - James Camp & Bird who wrote his Declaration robbed him of all his money. took all but $100—
Note this man can tell the names of all his messmates - officers - his account was exceeding minute - he is clearly Entitled. whether this statement agrees with his Declaration or not he was wounded at the Battle of German town - his wound was exhibited

A Copy

W. G Singleton Nov. 26, 1834

NOTE: In the dense fog at the Battle of Germantown Gen. Stephen accidently attacked the rear of the American troops of Gen. Anthony Wayne, probably costing Washington a signal victory. At a subsequent court of inquiry Stephen was found to be frequently drunk, absent, and guilty of “unofficerlike behavior.” With the approval of Washington he was drummed out of service and replaced by Lafayette as commander of the division.