

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Alexander Kelso W9493

Transcribed by Will Graves

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

On this first 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 hated 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 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 King's Mountain; 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 seventh day of October at a place called King's 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 [illegible word] 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 nine or ten 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. 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.

That 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 [illegible word] River called hightouon [sic, 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 winter 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 [illegible name], 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 Kelso