

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Peter Kent W85

fn45Va.

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Greene County Circuit Court, March 1833

On this 5th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court before this Hon. Sam. Powel, one of the judges of the circuit courts of Law and Equity of the State of Tennessee now sitting for the county of Greene, Peter Kent, a resident in the county of Green, aged seventy three years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passes June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as therein stated. That he was born on the 5th day of March 1760 in Fairfax County in the state of Virginia. That, as well as he recollects, he entered the service of the United States on the __ [blank in the original] day of March 1777 or '78 as a volunteer in the company commanded by Captain Charles Little. That at that time he lived in the county of Fairfax in the state of Virginia. That he volunteered for their guard in Capt. Little's company, and served that length of time under him. He was not all the time in actual service but was frequently called out to guard the country against the incursion of the British who frequently came up the Potomac River and destroyed such property as was within their reach. Another object of the company to which he belonged was to guard Mount Vernon, the residence of General Washington and to prevent the British from destroying it and this affiant, was frequently with the balance of Captain Little's company, called out to effect that object, and always continued in actual service until it was ascertained the enemy had left the river. At the end of three years and he was discharged by Captain Giles Cooke, -- who had obtained the Captaincy and wrote and signed his Discharge. In the year 1791 all his property and papers were consumed by fire, and he is consequently unable to produce his discharge. During his three years and service afore said he was acquainted with Col. Dennis Ramsey, Major (formerly Capt.) Charles Little and Captain Giles Cooke, and it was said to and believed by this affiant, that Lord Dunmore, during that time, was commander of the British fleet, which sometimes continued in the bay, sometimes came up the Potomac and sometimes for a short period would leave the bay and river both.

While living in Fairfax, he again volunteered in the service of the United States in that company commanded by Captain Harrison, on the __ [blank in the original] day of __ [blank in the original] 1780, '81 or '82, as well as affiant can remember Capt. Harrison's company in Prince William County and marched from there to Portsmouth, when affiant joined it. Captain Harrison's company joined the regiment commanded by Col. Arnold or Col. Broadwater [Col. Charles Broadwater?] (which of the two affiant does not recollect) with both of which officers affiant was acquainted. They were stationed at Portsmouth, and toward the close of the six months for which he volunteered, an American vessel loaded with provisions, came up and grounded opposite Portsmouth. Captain Harrison's company (affiant among them) had orders to go on board and assist the vessel in getting off. While engaged in this service a British vessel came up, fired on them, killed some of the men, and the balance prisoners, except four, who escaped by swimming across the river, and this affiant among the number. He went home, and was afterward discharged by Capt. Harrison, having on this occasion served six months. This

discharge was also destroyed by fire on the occasion above mentioned. While living in Fairfax, he again volunteered on the ___ [blank in the original] day of ___ [blank in the original] as well as he recollects under Capt. Thos. Mallory in Stafford County Virginia. From thence he marched under Capt. Mallory down to Little York, where they were stationed on what was called the Gloucester side on the left of Lafayette's army and continued there until after Cornwallis' surrender, when he was discharged by Captain Mallory and went home. Affiant then knew Generals Washington and Lafayette, Col. Darnes [?], Major Mark McPherson and several other officers whose names he does not recollect. Affiant does not recollect precisely how long he was on this occasion in the service but is confident he was out there three months if not more. He has also, for the reason above assigned, lost this discharge.

From Fairfax county he moved forty two years ago, to Wilkes County in Georgia, where he resided until 1825, when he removed to Greene County, Tennessee, where he has resided ever since. He has no documentary evidence by which to establish the veracity of his statements and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquished his every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except that present, and declared that his name is not on the pension roll or the agency of any state.

S/ Peter Kent

Sworn to & Subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ M. Payne

[Philip Henkel, a clergyman, and John Freshour gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee, Greene County

Be it remembered that on this 3rd day of September 1833 personally appeared before me ___ [blank in original] one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County Peter Kent and in amendment of his original declaration and exclamation thereof made and swore to the following declaration to wit: that in the statement contained in his original declaration as regards his having volunteered for three years in the year 1777 or 1778 & blending the different tours or periods so as to make up that term of time, that the same was so made without a knowledge of the necessity of separately setting forth each & to remedy which, he states that said service began in the month of March 1777 as well as he can now recollect; that at that time he volunteered to excuse the class of militia to which he belonged in Fairfax County Virginia for six months in Captain Charles Little's Company when the British fleet was in the bay & rivers & was put under Colonel Ramsey and served out his term of time of six months – and immediately after the expiration of his six months he again reentered under the same officers for another term of six months to continue guard on the Potomac River and built a readout on the farm of General Washington at Mt. Vernon, and there continued from time to time for six months successively for three years. Dunmore was in the Capes Bay & Potomac River & had frequent attacks said Dunmore who was in the [illegible word] Back, said service consisted of six several six months tours in immediate succession in guarding the margins of the Potomac where the depredations were committing on said River in the burning of property & taking Negroes and when the enemy had left the River he & the other volunteers were discharged which discharges he obtained as set forth in his original declaration by Captain Cook upon the promotion of Captain Little to the rank of the Colonel which three years in six several tours of six months each – and the six months

tour to Portsmouth (which on more mature reflection he believes was in the year 1780, being about the time of Gates defeat) and that of three months to the surrender of Cornwallis was three years & nine months which he served in the revolutionary Army (and which last three months was in 1781) and for which he claims to be pensioned.

That he has a record of his age in his possession in his father's Bible; & that from said record he was born as in said declaration is stated the 5th of March 1760.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year first written.

Attest: S/ William M. Crawford, JP

S/ Peter Kent

[On March 25, 1844, Sarah Ann Kent filed in Greene County, Ky, for a widow's pension stating that she married Peter Kent on May 7, 1779; that her husband died on December 23, 1843.]

[On January 28, 1845, Sarah Ann Kent filed another application in which she stated: she married Peter in Fairfax County, Virginia on May 7, 1779; they were married by the Rev. Mr. L. Massey