

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Andrew Keyser S5651

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

Page County, towit:

On this 23^d. day of July 1832, personally appeared in open Court before Dan. Strickler, Wharton Jones, Dan. Blosser and G. Donall, the County Court of Page now sitting, Major Andrew Keyser Sen'r. a resident of the said County of Page and State of Virginia, aged near 74 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832: That he will be 74 years of age on the 16 day of December next. That he was drafted for a tour of duty of 18 months in the year 1780. he then resided in the County Shenandoah in Va., his rendezvous was at the Town of Winchester. there he got a permit to come by his home again, which lay in his route, and was to meet his Regiment at Albemarle Barracks. When he arrived at the Barracks, he was informed by an officer, that the Regiment had passed on. he followed and joined it at James River. From thence we marched to Mecklenburg in North Carolina where we joined the main army, then under Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates, but which in three or four days afterwards was taken command of by Gen'l. N. Green [Nathanael Greene]. deponent thinks this was in the month of Dec'r. [2nd] 1780. We then marched to the Cheraw Hills [in SC]. whilst the main army laid at the Cheraw Hills, Green having before detached [Gen. Daniel] Morgan, [Lt. Col. John Eager] Howard and [Lt. Col. William] Washington with their commands, it soon resulted in the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], in which Tarlton [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] was defeated. Cornwallis to regain the losses occasioned by this battle marched his whole force, in consequence of which it became necessary for Green to fall back from Cheraw, which he did, and then kept retreating until he reached Halifax in Va [14 Feb]. As soon as Green was reinforced, he turned upon the enemy, and after much marching and maneuvering, the armies under Green and Cornwallis met at Guilford Courthouse on the 15 day of March 1781, and in the toil and struggle of the battle of that day, this deponent bore his full part. We then moved to Cambden [sic: Camden SC], and on the 25 of april he was again engaged in the battle at that place [Battle of Hobkirk Hill]. From this place we marched for Fort Granby, which however, was taken by Lee [15 May] before we arrived. We then continued our march to Ninety Six; which place we besieged [22 May - 19 Jun 1781], but Col. Cruger the commander being reinforced by Tarlton [sic: by Francis Rawdon], we had to raise the siege and retreat; — and after some active duty in skirmishing we took post for about a month at the High Hills of Santee. When we broke up from this place, we marched to Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC] and was engaged in that bloody and glorious battle, which was fought on the 8th day of September 1781. In this battle the commanding Colonel of my Regiment, Col. R'd. [Richard] Campbell was killed, and also the Capt. of my Company, Captain Conway Oldham. We then returned to the Hills of Santee to attend to the wounded and to give the Army rest; where we laid about a month, and from thence we marched to a place called Round O, near Stono — here our term of service expired on the last day of December 1781. We were marched however from this to Salisbury [NC], a distance of about 300 hundred [sic] miles, where we were discharged.

After our term of service expired, the soldiers were in the habit, as occasion offered on the march, of getting a discharge written by any person who could write, and then getting their commanding officer to sign it for them.

I accordingly got my Sergeant to write a discharge for me, (which is the one I now transmit) and then I got Lieut't. [Robert] Jouett, who then commanded my Company, (our Captain having been killed at Eutaw) to sign it, who accordingly did sign it for me. I then took the discharge to Major Edmond [Thomas Edmunds], our commanding Major, who, upon looking at it told me, that it had no Certificate for the amount of pay which was due me; that they were then engaged in making out Certificates and discharges, and that if I would wait an hour or two, he would give me one in due form. He accordingly gave me an, a few hours afterwards, a discharge signed by himself with a Certificate for arrearages of pay annexed to it. This last mentioned Certificate and discharge, I sold to Sam'l. Moore of Rockbridge [County VA] and he gave me the receipt which I

now have not - and this is the manner in which I in fact got two discharges. He does not know that there is any living witness, by whom he can prove the foregoing statement of facts; Though he has been informed that there is a fellow soldier by the name of Peter Crim still living, but his place of residence is unknown to this deponent.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] Andrew Keyser Senior

The Bearer hereof Andrew Kiser Soldier in First Virg'a Detachment and in Liut Jouetts Comp'y having served to the last day of Dec'r. 1781 being the term of his Engagement is hereby Discharged and we Certify that he has Behaved as a brave and faithfull Soldier

Given at Camp this 14th Day of Jan'y 1782

Rob Jouett