

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Kinneair S8793

f34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/2/09: rev'd 4/21/16

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 27]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions December Term 1832

On this the 11th day of December A.D. 1832 virtually appeared in open Court before Edward D. Dudley, Charles Henry and Henry J T Newkirk Esquires Justices of the Court aforesaid now sitting John Kinneair a resident of New Hanover County in the State of North Carolina aged eighty years the third of September last, 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a Captain in the militia & served as herein stated.

1. He was commissioned a Captain by a Court martial held at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County at which John Abel Campbell Colonel Commandant presided as chairman in the year 1775 as he believes, his commission was signed by John Abel Campbell Colonel Commandant, and he took command of a company of fifty privates, under General John Ashe; Colonels Young & Thomas Bludworth [Thomas Bloodworth], William Wright Major and served nine months, that he resided in New Hanover County North Carolina when he entered the service, that he volunteered, that he marched from Wilmington, through Elizabeth Town in Bladen County; to Rockfish Creek in Cumberland County in which vicinity it was reported the Tories were embodying for the purpose of marching down and joining the British, then on board shipping in Cape Fear [River], below Wilmington, from Rockfish he marched back to Elizabeth Town where he crossed Cape Fear, thence to Moore's Creek bridge, to intercept the Tories who had crossed Cape Fear at some point above Rockfish Creek, that from Moore's Creek Bridge he was detached with a wagon & a cart for provisions left on the road in his march up to Rockfish, that this was a day or two before the battle at Moore's Creek bridge [Battle of Moore's Creek bridge, February 27, 1776],¹ that he sent the provisions to Moore's Creek bridge, and came himself by Wilmington, thence to his company which he joined it between Wilmington & Moore's Creek bridge, thence to Wilmington, thence to guard below Wilmington as it was apprehended the enemy would disembark from their shipping, marched up & attacked Wilmington, that he continued just employed till the expiration of nine months, that William Buford was Lieutenant, and his company and James Portivent Ensign, that he has no

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

documentary evidence & knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

2. That he is so aged and of so bad memory that he cannot undertake to discriminate the several tours of service he performed, but he was almost constantly employed till the termination of the war as Captain, that his tours were always for six months, that while the enemy had possession of Wilmington he quartered at Fishing Creek at Clarke's landing on Long Creek, at Herringham a place on the road leading to South Washington, at the Big Bridge and at George Moore's on the road aforesaid, that he was in three skirmishes, one at the Big Bridge, one at Rockfish bridge between Duplin & New Hanover [perhaps the engagement at Rockfish Creek, August 2, 1781];² and one in Onslow County between the Richland & the Crane Ponds at which latter place he was severely wounded in the head, that he was sometimes under the command of Colonel James Kenan, or Colonel Henry Young but mostly under the command of Colonel Thomas Bludworth, that he cannot state the precise length of time he served, but is satisfied and feels confident in asserting that his services taken together, wood, at least, amount to four years, that he was informed by one William Braxton, that a reward of thirty guineas was offered for this applicant dead or alive, by a Cornet of the enemy's cavalry, for this applicant was a troublesome fellow, that he, this applicant after this preferred being in service, and kept constantly out, that his marches were principally in New Hanover, Duplin and Onslow Counties, that the Tories were troublesome and required vigilance to guard against their depredations, that on some occasions they killed some viz. one Andrew Bass, in Duplin County below Limestone bridge, Absalom Davis also in Duplin, not far from the above mentioned place, & Rice Bass in New Hanover County near Black River, that he does not recollect to have served with any Continental regiments or companies, the regular officers he knew were Captain John James, Captain John Walker, Lieutenant Samuel Ashe, Ensign Samuel Ashe, Captain Joseph Rhodes, Curtis Ivey, & Daniel Williams, that he has no documentary evidence, that he was always a volunteer, and that he knows of no person by whom he can prove any continual course of service, but thinks he can prove that he was occasionally seen acting as Captain of militia by Captain James Devane, James Lee,³ Stephen Felyaw [sic, Stephen Fellyaw] and James Moore of this County.

Interrogatories propounded to John Kinneair the aforesaid applicant with his answers thereto.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. On Long Creek in New Hanover County North Carolina September third 1751—2

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have a record of my age at home in a Bible;

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans, In New Hanover County, where I have ever since lived except when I was working out of the County as a mechanic, and I now live in New Hanover County.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I always volunteered:

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. No regular officers with the troops where I served as I can recollect. I remember that Captain Joseph Rhodes enlisted three Men out of my company viz. Edgerton Mott,

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_rockfish_creek.html

³ [James Lee S7145](#)

Benjamin Mott and Daniel Mott. I recollect no Continental Regiment but I do, a company enlisted and commanded by Captain John Walker, and a company or part of a company mustered by Captain Joseph Rhodes at Duplin old Court house. The militia regiments I remember were Colonel James Kenan's, Colonel George Lillington's, Colonel Richard Caswell's, Colonel Henry Young's, Colonel Owen's, of Bladen, & General John Ashe's, I saw Colonel Washington [William Washington] in Wilmington towards the close of the war on his way from South Carolina to Virginia. While in Onslow County I went in a detachment of 20 men commanded by a Captain Battle to reconnoiter the enemy's line. The enemy were lying in ambush for us, and when we had advanced to a bottom, they stopped to hail a man discovered by Captain Battle whereupon the enemy closed in upon us on both sides & demanded a surrender but most of us escaped, one David Johnson was taken prisoner. I was closely pursued and wounded; this occurred in the night. I know no circumstance calculated to throw any light upon the matter except what is stated.

6th Did you ever receive a commission; & if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it?

Ans. I received a commission signed by John Abel Campbell Colonel Commandant I wore it a long time being around my neck under my coat, till it became so dim, rotten and illegible that it was of no use; it entirely decayed.

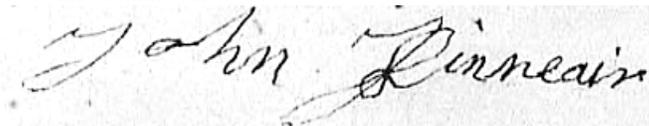
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

[Ans.] James Moore, Anthony G. Bardeaux [?] , Isaac Lamb, Washington Collins, John Crews, Robert Larkins, Reverend Robert Tate, Reverend William Armstrong, Edward Pigford, Jeremiah And & others I could name.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Kinneair



[Robert Tate and William Armstrong, clergymen, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

Personally appeared before me, the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County John Kinneair, who being duly sworn deposes and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; for two years, __ months man __ days I served as a Captain – For __ months and __ days I served as a __ and for such services I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 26th day of April A.D. 1833

S/ John Kerr, JP

S/ John Kinneair

[p 33]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

Personally appeared before me the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said

County John Kinneair who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades; For nine months I served as a Captain in my first tour; for six months I served as a Captain in my second tour; for six months I served as a Captain in my third tour; for six months I served as a Captain in my fourth tour; for six months I served as a Captain and my fifth tour; & for six months I served as a Captain in my sixth tour and for such service I claim a pension. This deponent further declares that the court martial that granted him his commission convened for the purpose of making a draft to be in readiness for the enemy.

Sworn & subscribed the 12th day of September 1833 before me

S/ W. Collins, JP

S/ John Kinneair

[p 3]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

On this the 28th day of March A.D. 1835 before the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared John Kinneair a resident of the State & County aforesaid aged eighty-two or eighty-three years the 3rd of last September who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following explanatory amendment to his original declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 --

This applicant is very aged, consequently his memory is very bad; he is liable to be mistaken in his statements herein set forth; but he cannot be mistaken in the fact that he rendered service and considerable service to his country in the War of the Revolution and he will endeavor as well as his memory serves him to make a true and correct statement of his services -- be the consequences what they may. Previous to the War of the Revolution, this applicant was appointed or elected Captain of the militia of Long District in New Hanover County North Carolina by the Company of the district, and in the Fall of the year as he believes in 1775, one Cornelius Harnet [sic, Cornelius Harnett?] reported that he had discovered at sea with a spyglass, a large Fleet which he supposed to be the enemy's, from the Sound about twelve miles from Wilmington, & the next day he heard heavy firing at sea -- whereupon the militia of New Hanover were ordered out by Colonel John A. Campbell with a draft and collected at the Big Bridge in New Hanover. This applicant always volunteered rather than stand a draft -- was willing to serve his country when his services were needed. It strikes him he was commissioned a Captain by a Council of Officers at that time. The length of time that has since elapsed, together with a decay of memory, also the affidavit of Captain James Devane⁴ accompanying these, induce him to believe that he may be mistaken. He knows and recollects very well that he served the greater part of his service under Colonel Thomas Bludworth, who was the Brother-in-law of this applicant. Captain James Devane, in whose statement this applicant has confidence swears that Thomas Bludworth, was Captain of a company of Minute Men in the last of 1775 & first of 1776. From the fact that Thomas Bludworth was Captain of a company of Minute Men -- and that this applicant was in service at the time of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge & therefore, he believes and seems to have some faint recollection that he was in the minute service and was required to be ready at a minute's warning: That by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service as a minute man but according to the best of his recollection he served 6 months. Marched from the Big Bridge in

⁴ [James Devane S8317](#)

Wilmington and kept guard at the Lower Battery, at the Lower end of town where was cannon fired & at Green's Mills at which two places this applicant recollects to have stood guard. A guard was also kept at the Upper barracks just above Town. Hearing that the Tories were collecting above to march *down to join the enemy below, he marched to Rockfish in Cumberland, and while there, under*⁵standing that the Tories had crossed Cape Fear [River] higher up, thence marched, across Cape Fear at Elizabeth [Elizabeth Town] for Moore's Creek Bridge -- was not at the battle, having been detached after provisions, left on our march to Rockfish; which he took and carried to Wilmington, where he rejoined his company. While in Wilmington, the Enemy's Purser came ashore from the vessel in the River opposite the Town (there being several vessels in company) and demanded provision from the citizens and threatened upon refusal to set fire to the Town -- which produced a great alarm. The provision however was refused without receiving the threatened injury. This was two days after the battle at A Moore's Creek Bridge. He supposes he served these six months as a private -- has no documentary proof but refers to the affidavit of Captain James Devane. For some time after he came to Wilmington as last mentioned he believes he again kept guard at the lower battery & at Green's Mills -- but do not recollect where he was discharged.

2ndly -- He recollects to have marched down to the lower Flats of Cape Fear River below Wilmington and thence to the Inlet to see if we could make any discoveries of the enemy -- thence along the Sea Board to New River under Colonel Thomas Bludworth, he thinks he was Captain; but it might have been during his six months minute service, at all events he thinks it was, if not during his minute service immediately after it -- was stationed some considerable time at the lower Flats. If not a Captain he was a Lieutenant in all his other service except this minute service -- but will only claim as a private for part of them.

In the last of 1780 or first of 1781 he entered the service in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Bludworth; he supposes in the company of Captain James Devane and served three months as Lieutenant in said Company of New Hanover militia -- though he does not distinctly recollect of having served under Captain James Devane he might have done so, as he recollects of being in service with said Devane -- was at the Big Bridge at the time of a skirmish in March 1781 -- two of our men wounded and one viz. Braxton taken -- recollects of keeping guard war being stationed, during his services, at Fishing Creek, Clark's landing on Long Creek, Herringham, Forks of the road between Long Creek & Moore's Creek, at Forsprit between 2 & 3 miles from Wilmington, the enemy having possession of the Town -- (refers to the affidavit of Captain James Devane to prove he was in service about that time. --

3rdly In April 1781 he entered service in a company of New Hanover militia -- he does not recollect who his Captain was, marched together with a considerable force of Duplin militia into Onslow County, all being under the command of Colonel James Kenan; collected at Limestone Bridge in Duplin marched to the Richlands of New River -- stationed at Richmond Chapel -- took excursions out -- while in Onslow was under the command of Captain Battle -- in one of his excursions was pursued by the enemy, being then on horseback overtaken & badly wounded, returned home & stayed a fortnight or 3 weeks, before he entered service again, having served this time according to the best of his recollection two months as a private. In this tour he marched on towards New Bern -- he has no documentary proof & knows of no person by whom he can prove this service.

In July or August 1781 he entered service in a company of New Hanover militia and served as a Lieutenant in a company in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Bludworth -

⁵ The words in italics are missing from Fold3.com but can be found on HeritageQuest.

- and according to the best of his recollection served three months as a volunteer -- was in service at the time of the skirmish at Rockfish above So. Washington -- After the battle marched to Wilmington after the British left the place -- In some of his services, he joined a Regiment at Herringham under Colonel Lillington -- His memory is very bad & confused -- He is satisfied he served more than herein stated but cannot recollect his several tours -- was always a volunteer -- for whenever the militia were called out he always chose to volunteer -- he has no documentary evidence whatever -- refers to the affidavit of James Blanton⁶ of Duplin to show that he was in service at Rockfish -- might have been a Captain -- cannot prove he had a commission -- but actually had a commission signed by John A. Campbell chairman of a Council of War or Collection of officers at the Big Bridge as before stated -- will accept the pay of a private and in part of a Lieutenant if so entitled and feels justified in claiming a pension from his government under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Kenneair

S/ John Moore, JP

[p 11]

I agree to except a pension Certificate of \$40 per annum for John Kinnear [sic], of North Carolina, with the understanding that this agreement will not be a bar to any increase of his stipend, should he exhibit further proof, or show to the satisfaction of the Department that he is entitled to and augmentation of his Pension.

S/ Jas. J. McKay

Washington City February 12, 1836

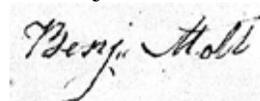
[p 14]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County July 2nd 1832

Personally appeared before us John Moore & Washington Collins two of the acting Justices of the peace in the County of New Hanover and State aforesaid, Benjamin Mott,⁷ of the County of New Hanover & State of North Carolina and after being duly sworn upon the Holy Gospel of God, Deposeth & saith, that he the said Benjamin Mott, was well acquainted with John Kenneair, of the County of New Hanover & State of North Carolina before, during and ever since the Revolutionary War, and the said Benjamin Mott further saith that the aforesaid John Kenneair served as a Captain in the militia of North Carolina more than two years and that the said applicant John Kenneair now before me, Benjamin Mott, is the very identical man, who served, in the militia of North Carolina, in the Revolutionary War. Sworn to by Benjamin Mott and signed in the presence of

S/ John Moore, JP

S/ Benj. Mott



S/ W. Collins, JP

⁶ [James Blanton S6653](#)

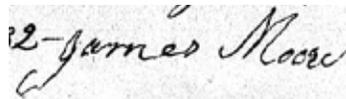
⁷ [Benjamin Mott S46327](#)

[p 15]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County:

Personally appeared before John Moore & Washington Collins two of the acting Justices of the peace in the County of New Hanover and State of North Carolina James Moore Seignor [Senior]⁸, about Eighty four or five and after being duly sworn upon the holy Gospel of God, depose and saith that he the said James Moore, Senior, was well acquainted with John Kinneair, before during & ever since the Revolutionary War, and believes him to be the same man, identical in the above affidavit, Sworn to and signed before us this second day of July 1832

S/ James Moore



[p 18]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

On this the 27th day of March A.D. 1835 before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared Stephen Fellyaw⁹ a resident of said County of New Hanover in the State aforesaid aged seventy-two years the fourth of January last who being first duly sworn doth on his oath depose & say that he is well acquainted with John Kenneair also a resident of said County of New Hanover, aged about eighty-two years, he has known him ever since the Revolutionary War, having lived in his neighborhood he saw him in service at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County during the Revolutionary war that is, in the time of the War of the Revolution viz. in March 1781 -- serving as a private of militia Infantry in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Bludworth [Thomas Bloodworth] in a company as he believes commanded by Captain John Larkins; he saw him the said John Kenneair in service on several occasions serving as a private -- how long he served he cannot tell. This deponent understood and it was generally reputed and believed, that said John Kenneair acted as Captain of a company of New Hanover militia Infantry immediately after he saw him at the Big Bridge aforesaid at the time aforesaid, and he has ever since been called Captain Kenneair; is a gentleman of respectability and credit and is believed to have rendered his country material service in the war aforesaid, by all who know him -- and to have been an active and indefatigable soldier doing the enemy all the damage in his power, so that it has been a common report & believes that Major Craig [James Craig] offered a reward of Thirty Guineas for his (Kenneair's) head.

S/ Stephen Fellyaw



[p 21]

State of North Carolina New Hanover County

On this 4th day of September A. D. 1834 before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared James Devane a resident of New Hanover County

⁸ [James Moore S8899](#)

⁹ [Stephen Fellyaw S8467](#)

aforesaid in the State aforesaid aged seventy-seven years the first of August last who being duly sworn doth on his oath depose & say that he is well acquainted with John Kenneair a resident also of the State & County aforesaid who is very aged -- and an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June seventh 1832: that he knew him before the Revolutionary War that he knows that said John Kenneair served as a private in the minute service, in a tour for six months in the last of 1775 and first of 1776 under Captain Thomas Bludworth = he is not certain that said Kenneair served the whole tour of six months as he was not in the same company with him but he is under the impression he served the full term out. This deponent further swears that said Kenneair was in service under this deponent who was Captain and served as a Lieutenant in this deponent's company in the first of 1781 against the British who then had possession of Wilmington and served three months -- this deponent cannot say that Kenneair had a commission as Lieutenant but he knows he acted as such part of the time.

Sworn & subscribed day & year aforesaid before me & I certify that said James Devane is well known to me & entitled to full faith & credit
S/ Owen Fennell, JP

S/ James Devane

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Devane". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 24]

State of North Carolina Duplin County

On this the 23rd day of March A.D. 1835 before the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared James Blanton a resident of said County of Duplin aged seventy years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say, that he knew John Kenneair (now a resident of New Hanover County) in the time of the Revolutionary war and saw him in service acting as Captain of a company of New Hanover militia in Colonel Bludworth's Regiment at Rockfish in the summer of 1781, How long the tour was for he do not know.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me and I do hereby certify that it is made appear to me that said deponent James Blanton is entitled to full faith and credit.
S/ Jeremiah Pearsall, JP

S/ James Blanton, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 years in the North Carolina militia.] <https://img6.fold3.com/img/thumbnail/24649846/100/100.jpg>