

BROTHERS JAMES KEELE AND RICHARD KEELE
Battle of Kings Mountain

First Settlers and Soldiers, page 336, by Edward C. McAmis

"Arthur Keele, born 1715 and his wife, Sarah Mennote, born 1719, resided in London England where they had three sons all born in London, Jacob, John and **James Keele**. Arthur emigrated with his family except for son Jacob, to America, landing in New Castle, Delaware in the year 1747. The family migrated later to Wythe County, Virginia, where five more sons were born, Jesse, Robert, **Richard**, Thomas and William.

William Keele, born c. 1762 Henry County, Virginia, married Livia Ann Bewley in the year 1793 in Washington County, TN. She was the daughter of Anthony G. Bewley. William and Livia later moved to Greene County. They had eight children, the first being born in Greene County and the last in Hawkins County. The Keele Cemetery in Bulls Gap is their family cemetery: William [1770-1817]; Livia 'Livy' Ann [1778-1850].

The brothers James and Richard Keele were Soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Both were in the battle of Kings Mountain with John Sevier. In the year 1783, James Keele was shown in today's Greene County owning land."

Other than this lone record of land ownership in Greene County, no other Greene County records are found on the Keele Family. The sole 'footprint' left in Greene County of this family is the long abandoned Keele Graveyard in Bulls Gap. No photograph of the actual graveyard is available. Find-A-Grave gives this brief information:

"The cemetery is on private lands. It is not maintained and the woods have completely grown up around it. You can still see the fence that surrounds it once you are up close. It is a moderate size cemetery sitting on the top of a knob. Before visiting the cemetery, *it would be wise to ask permission.*"

James Keele

James Keele did not file for Pension, which is a strong indication, he was deceased by 1830. No information is known about this brother, not even a reference to him is found in a Family Tree on Ancestry.Com.

Richard Keele

Richard Keele was living in Bedford County, Tennessee, at the time of the 1820 Census.

SERVICE	NUMBER
<i>N. C.</i>	<i>Keele Richard</i>
<i>Va.</i>	<i>S 1977</i>
CONTENTS	<i>Carded</i>

7498
 West Tennessee
 Richard Keeler
 of Kentucky in the State of Tennessee
 who was a private in the 2nd Regt. commanded
 by Captain Logan of the 1st Regt. commanded
 by Col. Sevier in the year
 1776 for 12 months

The Md. Public Records corrected
 Inscribed on the Roll of ¹⁸³³ ~~1832~~
 at the rate of 40 Cents per annum
 to commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.

Exposures of Pension from the 1st day of ~~1832~~
 1833 and ~~1834~~
~~1835~~ ~~1836~~
 Amount to the 1st of ~~March~~ ~~1834~~
 Payment allowance ending ~~1834~~ ~~1835~~
 \$100.00

Recorded by *[Signature]* Clerk
 Hook *C* Vol. *7* Page *86*

{ Revolutionary Claim }
 Act June 7, 1832 }

1752
 Richard Keeler
 Tennessee.
 from 1776 private
 12 months.
 \$40.
 P-13.

2. 3. 4. 5. 13.

See letter Nov 17. 1832
 to J. M. Kinsick
 Shelbyville
 Tenn.

Continued

Pension application of Richard Keele S1977

Transcribed by Will Graves

f21NC/VA

rev'd 10/29/09 & 3/25/16

[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 6]

State of Tennessee, Bedford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of said County

On this day personally appeared in open court now sitting before the Justices presiding therein Richard Keele a resident citizen of Rutherford County in the state of Tennessee about 74 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 passed June 7, 1832.

That he thinks in the spring of the year 1776 he entered in a company of Rangers to guard the frontiers of Virginia. That it was in Henry County in Virginia where he enlisted. That he marched soon afterwards to the frontiers under his Captain James Lyon. That after serving out his time he got a discharge (which discharge accompanies this his declaration) from P. Hartson [sic, Peter Harston] who had taken the command, James Lyons the Captain under whom he first enlisted having resigned. That afterwards he marched and removed to the frontiers of North Carolina on Nolichucky River. That soon after the Tories and British penetrating into the country, he joined a volunteer company under Samuel Williams at Washington County. That they joined the volunteers under Col. Sevier [John Sevier] & was in the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] when Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] was taken. That he served he thinks at least twelve months.

He further states that he has no documentary testimony except what accompanies this his declaration. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes all & every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll or agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jas. McKissick, Clk

S/ Richard Keele, X his mark

[John Rushing, a clergyman, and Theo F. Bradford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p8]

This is to Certifie that Richard Keel Served As a Good Suldier in my Company and agreeable to Order are Discharged thee 19 Day of July 1777.

Signed, P. Harston

This is to certify that Richard Keele served
as a good Soldier in my Company
and a braceable to order on the 19th Day of July 1777
R. Harrison

[p 20]

State of Tennessee Bedford County

Personally appeared before me William Galbreath a Justice of the Peace for said County Richard Keele, who being duly sworn deposed & 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 & in the following grades: (viz.) to the best of his recollection he entered the service in the spring of 1776 and served as a private Soldier as a Ranger until the time of his discharge (which accompanies his declaration) but during the time he was suffered to go home to recruit but returned and that he was in that service eleven months, and that he served one month as a volunteer private under the officers named in his declaration in the expedition in which Ferguson was taken in all making twelve months for which he claims a pension; -- He also swears that at the time he made his declaration he was not aware that it would make any difference in what County he made his declaration, That it was but a short time before he made said declaration that he removed into Rutherford County in which he now resides, and that he is poor & lives with one of his sons whose house is not more than half mile from the Bedford County line, that the majority of his friends & acquaintances live in Bedford where he also lived 16 or 17 years previous to his removal and to Rutherford.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 11th February 1833

S/ W. Galbreath, JP

S/ Richard Keele, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the North Carolina and Virginia militias for 12 months.]



Bedford County, Tennessee



Richard S. Keele

BIRTH	10 Jan 1757 Halifax County, Virginia, USA
DEATH	1849 (aged 91–92) Rutherford County, Tennessee, USA
BURIAL	Keele Cemetery Bedford County, Tennessee, USA
MEMORIAL ID	54765220 · View Source

Richard S Keele, married to Lydia Richmond Keele , was 19 when he enlisted in the Revolutionary War in the spring of 1776 at Pittsylvania County (Henry County wasn't officially created until December 31 1776 but later noted as Henry County on records. Served as a private in Captains James Lyon"s and P. Hartson's Rangers, guarding the frontiers of Virginia, which he officially discharged on the 19th of July 1777, and served eleven (11) months. James, John, and Richard were in Henry County when they signed the oath of Allegiance to their new country, The Common-wealth of Virginia, renouncing allegiance to Great Britain on Oct 31 1778. On Sept 18 1778 after Richard was discharged, he married Lydia Richmond, daughter of John Richmond of Virginia and moved to the frontiers of North Carolina in Washington County. He once again enlisted in Washington County N.C. Regiment and was in the Battle of King's Mountain in South Carolina, which was the turning point of the war in the South. This gave him the full year of military service and qualified him to received the military pension when it became available. He was also eligible for land offered by N. C. along the Nolichucky River for serving. He lived in Bedford County, Tennessee 17 years while he raised his family. Sometime after Lydia died in 1849 he moved to Rutherford County to live with one of his sons. Richard and Lydia were the parents of twelve (12) children. Rev. John Keele married Nancy Green about 1797, Rev William M Keele married 1st Jemima Moreland about 1799, and 2nd Ann "Annie" Epps 1837, Jacob Keele married Annah Wireman about 1819, Richard Richmond Keele married Sara Vandergrif Card Aug 10 1830, Mary Keele married William Moreland about 1800, Sarah Keele married Rev. John R Rushing about 180, David Keele married Nancy Ann Jacobs Sept 14 1812, Thomas Keele m. 1st Sabina Belt June 16

1814, 2nd Nancy E Kuykendal Nov 16 1865, Nancy Keele m. Jacob Dukird Apr 4 1810, Lewis Keele born before 1792, Philmore Keele m. 1st Margaret Ann Box July 1818, 2nd Martha Ann Hamby, James Alvin Keele m. Nancy Ann Eaton about 1825.

January 4, 1937

The Quartermaster General
Memorial Branch
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Richard Keele
S. 1977
BA-J/ANF *over*

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your request for information in regard to Richard Keele, who served in the War of the Revolution in Captains James Lyon's and P. Hartson's company of Rangers, and died in 1849 in Rutherford County, Tennessee.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, S. 1977, based upon the service of Richard Keele in the Revolutionary War.

The date and place of birth of Richard Keele were not given, nor were the names of his parents stated.

Richard Keele enlisted in Henry County, Virginia, in the spring of 1776, served at various times as a private in Captains James Lyon's and P. Hartson's Company of Rangers, guarding the frontiers of Virginia, and was discharged July 19, 1777, having served eleven months.

After the expiration of this service he married and moved to the frontiers of North Carolina, on the "Holachucky River", and volunteered in Washington County, served in Captain Samuel Williams' company, in Colonel Sevier's North Carolina regiment, was in the battle of King's Mountain, length of this service one month.

He was allowed pension on his application exe-

cutted August 7, 1832, at which time he was aged about seventy-four years and living in Rutherford County, Tennessee, with one of his sons, where he had lived "only a short time", having moved there from Bedford County, Tennessee, where he had lived about seventeen years.

Names of his wife and children were not given, and there are no further data relative to his family.

The application for headstone for Richard Keele is returned herewith, as is, also, a letter addressed to your office, from Rebekah Jetton of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Very truly yours

A. D. HILLER
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

