

JOHN KITE

SERVICE	NUMBER
Va.	Kite, John
	S 21334
CONTENTS	Carded

Jonesborough 29, 832

John Kite

of Washington Co. in the State of Tennessee
 who was a Private in the company commanded
 by Captain Cawin of the Regt. commanded
 by Col. Morrison in the Virginia mil.
 for 6 months

Inscribed on the Roll of Jonesborough
 at the rate of 20 Dollars ~~per~~ per annum
 to commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 6th day of March
 1835 and sent to New S. Bunch
 Tenn. ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~State~~ ~~of~~ ~~Tennessee~~

Arrears to the 1st of March 35.	80 00
Commut. allowance ending 1st Sep. 35.	10 00
	\$ 90 00

{ Revolutionary Claim, }
 { Act June 7, 1832. }

Recorded by Daniel (Amos) Clerk
 Book 6 2 Vol. 7 Page 131

Let it be by Justice
 Knoxville Feb 6 '37 -

Pension application of John Kite S21334

f12VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/4/13

[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.]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: SS: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Session 1835

On this 23rd day of February 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid now sitting John Kite a resident of said Hawkins County & State of Tennessee aged about seventy-one 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That whilst residing in Rockingham County in the State of Virginia in which County he was born – this declarant was drafted to serve three months under Captain Cravens [Robert Craven], in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Harrison [Lieutenant Colonel been human Harrison] of the Militia in the spring of the year 1780 about the first of April of that year and was accordingly marched under said officers with others whose names are not now distinctly remembered, to Tygers Valley [Tygart's Valley] in Greenbrier County, where the people had fortified and were threatened with an attack by the Shawnee Indians, Before reaching that place – the Indians made an attack on the whites, but were repulsed and when this declarant reached the battleground the whites were still apprehensive of another attack, by an increased force of the Indians, in consequence of which, this declarant, with his company, under the command of Captain Cravens, was stationed at a Fort called George West Falls¹ fort [George Westfall's Fort, ¼ mile south of present Beverly in Randolph County West Virginia], called by the name of the owner of the ground on which said Fort was built – and this declarant remained in Service at said Fort until his three months expired which was about the first of July 1780 or thereabout, having served fully three months from the first of April 1780 and was accordingly discharged or permitted by Colonel Harrison to return home – but no written discharges were given that declarant knows of –

This Declarant further states that in the spring of the year 1780 another call for troops was made to march to Norfolk Virginia to guard that place against the incursions of the British and accordingly this declarant volunteered to serve six months in Captain Stephen Conrad's company in the Regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Nall [William Nail or Nolle was the County Lieutenant of militia], and was marched from Rockingham County, where declarant still

George West Falls Fort

lived to Norfolk by his officers about the middle of March 1781 and was stationed at Norfolk, when he with other troops remained until about the middle of September, or thereabouts when his company was discharged by his Captain Stephen Conrad, but if he got a written discharge (which he is not certain he did) it has long ago been lost or mislaid having served altogether in said two campaigns nine months –

He does not recollect serving with any Continental troops and knows not the name of any regular officers being at either of the above places, though it is possible & he saw some at Norfolk but he does not recollect their names. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no other person than George Kite, who resides in Hawkins County, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services – He has no record of his age – He is acquainted with David Rowan and Samuel Spears a revolutionary pensioner at the Knoxville agency – and who reside in his neighborhood, besides George Kite also a neighbor of his – and who will testify as to his veracity and services – there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood. He has lived in Virginia & Tennessee since the Revolutionary war.

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 & subscribed in open Court this day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Kite, X his mark

And on the same day personally appeared in open Court George Kite aged about sixty-seven years residing in the neighborhood of the above declarant – and said George Kite being first duly sworn states that he is the Brother of the said declarant John Kite, that he resided in Rockingham County Virginia when he and his said brother were both born during the Revolutionary War and he well recollects of his said Brother being drafted under Captain Cravens and Colonel Harrison – and of his leaving home under said officers, in the spring of 1780, and of his having been gone better than three months against the Indians on Tygart's Valley in Greenbrier County Virginia – He also well recollects of his said brother volunteering in the spring of 1781 for six months to go to Norfolk Virginia under Captain Conrad and Colonel Nall, and that he did not return until the month of September 1781 –

This affiant was not with his brother in either of said campaigns, but he saw him march under the command of his said officers, as stated in his said declaration and heard his said officers say that he served during said periods faithfully and honorably amounting to 9 months in all.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ George Kite, X his mark

[Samuel Spears and David Rowan gave the standard supporting affidavit]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

[This affidavit was provided by John's brother, George Sizemore Kite (1768-1844), who is buried in the Kite Family Cemetery in Persia, Hawkins County.]

WAR DEPARTMENT.

REVOLUTIONARY CLAIM.

I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 7th June, 1832, *John Kite* of the State of Tennessee who was a Private in the War of the Revolution

is entitled to receive *Twenty* dollars and ~~cents~~ per annum, during his natural life, commencing on the *4th* of March, 1831, and payable semi-annually, on the *4th* of March and *4th* of September, in every year.

Given at the War Office of the United States, this *6th* day of *March* one thousand eight hundred and *thirty-five*

Leobop
Secretary of War.

Examined and }
Countersigned. }

J. L. Edwards
Commissioner of Pensions.

Revolutionary War Soldier John Kite is found in the 1850 Census living with his son, Martin Kite. The census annotation says John could neither read nor write. He died on October 2, 1851 and is buried in the historic Kite Cemetery in Persia. Many generations of the Kite family are buried there.

The Civil War took a terrible toll on the sons of Martin Kite, who had seven sons. Four sons served with the Confederate Army, Henderson, Reuben, Martin Junior, and Peter. Another son, William, was too young to enlist, but was bushwacked and killed at his home in Persia. Reuben Kite died in the Confederate Hospital in Chattanooga in 1863 from wounds he received in battle. Brothers Peter and Henderson were gravely wounded in the Battle of Piedmont in Virginia. Although Peter was shot in the face and blinded in the left eye, he survived his wound. Brother Henderson was taken to the Confederate Hospital in Charlottesville. Although he survived he never fully recovered and would die at the age of 42. Martin Kite Junior was discharged in 1864. He died at the age of 37. A cousin, William Anderson Kite enlisted at the age of 15. He was wounded during the fighting in the Shenandoah Valley, crippling him for life. William would later graduate from Tusculum College and become a Professor there. Most of the Kite Family are buried in the Kite Family Cemetery in Persia established by the Kite Patriarch, Revolutionary War Soldier, John Kite. Their stories are told by Donahue Bible in his book, *From Persia to Piedmont, Life and Death in Vaughn's Brigade*.

WILL OF JOHN KITE

Dated, October 2, 1850
Hawkins County, Tennessee

Proven, May Term, 1851

The last will and testament of John Kite, senr.
Made in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
fifty, on the second day of October, 1850. In the name of
God, Amen.

I, John Kite, of Hawkins County, state of Tennessee,
being of sound mind and memory, and wishing to dispose of
such of my property as I will hereinafter mention, in
manner and form as follows, viz:

First, my will and desire is that as soon after my
decease as is practicable, I desire that all my just debts
and funeral expenses be paid out of any money that may come
into the hands of my executor or administrator from the
sales of any of my perishable or personal property, or both
as the case may be required.

Secondly, my will is that should there be any money
remaining in the hands of my representative or representatives
after defraying the above mentioned expenses or any other
expenses that may become necessary or right to be paid,
then my will and desire is that the balance of money be
equally divided between my lawful heirs, viz., with the
exception of my son Martin Kite, and to him the said Martin
Kite, I will all my tract of land whereon I now live
containing one hundred and fifty acres more or less lying on
Dodson's Creek in District No. 15, adjoining the lands of
Henry Loudeback and others.

N.B. The reason that I have not given the names of all
of the persons that will heir a portion of my estate is
because I do not know their names. Now my will is that no
one or more of my lawful heirs attempt to break this my
last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed my seal the day and date above written.

Attest

Wm. Smith
James P. Bradley

John (his X mark) Kite



The Kite Farm in Persia remains in the Family. Today it is known as the Circle J. Farm. The Story of the Kite Family is relayed in the Application for the Century Farm Designation:

Circle J. Farm
William Joe Manes
Elizabeth Rose Kite Manes

A group of about 50 pioneers came into Hawkins County in March 1796 came through the unbroken forests of Virginia and settled in the Holston valley. Among them was George Kite. To protect the newly-settled community, a fort was built. Eventually, the site of the fort, located six miles south of Rogersville, became the property known as Circle J Farm. Under George Kite's ownership, the 600 acres produced horses, cattle, hay and corn. Married to Susan Barrett, the couple had three children.

John Kite, their son and a Revolutionary War veteran, was married to Betsy Louderback. They were the parents of six children. The family raised horses, cattle, hay and corn. The third owner of the land was Martin Kite, Sr. Married to Susannah A. Kite, the couple had nine children. In his turn, their son Martin Kite, Jr. and his wife Patsy Smith and two children made their home on the farm and raised wheat, hay, corn, hogs, horses and cows. During the Civil War, part of the farm was used as a camp by Union troops.

Davis S. Kite, the son of Martin and Patsy acquired 73 acres. After David's death, his son Joe bought out the other heirs and became the sole owner of the land. He and his wife, Mildred Burchette, were the parents of Elizabeth Rose who was the next generation to obtain the farm in 1989. Married to W.C. Manes, they are the parents of William Joe Manes. The family operated a diverse farm, raising a variety of crops and livestock. Joey Manes is the current owner of the farm.



The Kite Cemetery remains an active burial ground.