

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Kirkland R20391

f20SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/22/09: rev'd 4/22/16

[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 3]

For the purpose of obtaining the amount of pay accruing to me for the half-year ending on the 2nd day of September A.D. 1828 under the act entitled an act for the relief of revolutionary officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved the 15th May A.D. 1828. I Robert Kirkland of Captain Jesse Stead's Company in the State of South Carolina and District of Cheraw being eighty-two years of age and now a resident of the parish of St Helena in State of Louisiana do hereby declare and most solemnly swear that I was a private soldier in the company of Captain Jesse Stead of the Army of the revolution in the Continental line as was more fully set forth in my application for the benefits of said act and that I have been found by the Secretary of the Treasury under that act to the pay of a private Soldier in said line. Witness my hand this 29th day of January A.D. 1829 –

S/ Robert Kirkland, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed this 29th day of January 1829 before me

S/ Adriel Mixon, JP

Note: The Honorable Treasurer of the United States will please Issue his Draft on the Branch Bank of the United States at New Orleans and addressed to me at Marburyville Post Office St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

And Oblige

S/ Robert Kirkland, X his mark

[p 17: John Dicks and John Vernon gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 19]

At a Special Parish Court holden in and for the Parish of St. Helena State of Louisiana on Monday the fourth day of February in the year of our Lord 1829 Present Barlin Childress [?] Judge of said Court then came into Court Robert Kirkland Personally and stated that he had obtained the affidavits of John Dicks and John Vernon residence of said State, that he was a private soldier in the Continental line under Captain Jesse Steads Company and agreeable to an act of Congress for the Relief of Revolutionary officers and Soldiers of the Army approved the 15th of May 1828 he the said [Kirkland] intending to apply for said Pension forward for the purpose of having an estimate of his property and Samuel J Runnels and John Vernon were sworn to appraise the same he stated that he had one Section of Land lying in said Parish containing six hundred and forty acres which was appraised at two hundred fifty dollars and then the said Kirkland stated that he possessed nothing else and is in indigent circumstances and being

old and decrepit that he is entitled to the Pension he the said Kirkland is now 82 years of age.
Sworn & Subscribed this 4th February A.D. 1829

S/ Robert Kirkland, X his mark

S/ Barlin Childress, JP

[p 4]

Revolutionary Claims
Treasury Department,
9 April 1829

Robert Kirkland of St. Helena Parish in the State of Louisiana has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued until its termination, at which period he was a Private in Captain Stead 's Company, in the __ regiment of the South Carolina line; ~~and that he received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars, provided by the resolve of the 15th of May, 1778; and further, that he was not on the 15th of May, 1828, on the pension list of the United States, and that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March, 1826, __;~~

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,
Third Auditor's Office,
13th March 1829

~~It appears by the records of this office, that a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars has been issued to __ in the __~~

It further appears that Robert Kirkland is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd March 1826 ~~at the rate of __ dollars per month.~~

The name of Robert Kirkland cannot be found among those of the South Carolina line to whom Certificates for the gratuity of eighty dollars were paid.

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

[p 5]

War Department: Bounty land Office April 1829

The records of this Office do not show that Robert Kirkland of the South Carolina line ever received or is entitled to bounty land of the United States.

S Robert Taylor

[p 12: in a letter dated November 26, 1829 addressed to Captain George Turner,¹ Cincinnati, Ohio, the writer describes Robert Kirkland as having been in the Battle at Eutaw Springs, Bunkers Hill & some skirmishes with General Marion [Francis Marion]. The writer also describes Mr Kirkland as "a tall man, raw bone and weighed about 175 to 185 pounds strong & active in his youthful days." The writer [Elias H. Murray, on behalf of Robert Kirkland] was

¹ [George Turner S6283](#)

seeking Captain Turner's corroboration of Kirkland services.]

[p 14: Turner's response reads as follows:

Cincinnati February 9th, 1830

Sir

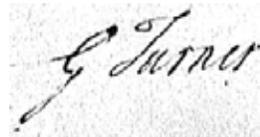
According to request (though so indisposed that I can hardly hold a pen) I transmit the enclosed. I well remember the name of Captain Kirk, and if¹ mistake not -- his character was coupled with that of a brave and active officer -- But as to the period his friend alludes, I have little no recollection; being at that time a prisoner on parole.

With great respect, I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your very Obedient Servant

S/ G. Turner"



[I could not find a document in this file which would lend itself to being interpreted as the enclosure referred to by Captain Turner unless it is contained in the document appearing on pages 15 and 16 of the Fold3.com file, said document being largely illegible. However, that document appears to be a letter originating from Marburyville on July 21, 1829 and therefore is unlikely to be the referenced enclosure.]

MurburyVille July 21st 1829

Sir

Your favor bearing date 1st May came to hand some time since and the contents have been duly considered. As it regards positive testimony I believe it to be impossible for me to produce any of having served in the Army of the Revolution after a lapse of 29 years since I left that part of the country where I could produce such testimony as having never had the advantages of Education I could not write to my friends nor do I suppose any of them to be now living whose testimony would make good my claim. I was at the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]² in which I was wounded probably there may be found among some records my name among the wounded at that place -- also in the Battle at Saunders Creek above Camden under General Gates at his defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780],³ Besides many little skirmishes some of which were under General Marion. My Colonel I cannot recollect the name of. [The next 4 lines of text are so faint as to be illegible: I can discern a reference to Captain J Stead. Likewise, the image of the 2nd page of this letter is so faint that only a few words can be discerned among which appears to be a reference to the fact that Robert Kirkland is "perfectly illiterate." The letter is signed by Elias H Murray who appears to be writing for and on behalf of Robert Kirkland.]

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

³ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html