

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Kay VAS1018

vsl 4VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/4/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

The Petition of Jonathan Kay of the County of Norfolk to his Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council of Virginia Your Petitioner sets forth and humbly represents that he is now in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year and he resided chiefly in Norfolk County aforesaid. Though too young himself to take part in the Revolutionary contest subsisting [?] between the United States and Great Britain, yet he has a distinct and positive recollection of the events of that war as well as a present knowledge of many of the officers engaged in that contest.

Your Petitioner avers that his father John Kay was an officer in the Army in the division of troops attached to the command of General Thomas Mathews stationed in and about the town of Portsmouth and its vicinity known as Fort Nelson at which time he held the rank of Ensign. That he was subsequently transferred to the naval service of Virginia as an officer of Marines and in the early part of Arnold's [Benedict Arnold's] invasion [in early 1781] of Virginia was attached to the Galley the longing to the Navy of Virginia called the "*Henry*"<sup>1</sup> commanded by Captain Michael James. That [several indecipherable words] period near the close of the year 1781 he was attached to the armed vessel "*Nicholson*"<sup>2</sup> which vessel was shortly thereafter captured by the enemy. Your Petitioner's father, Surgeon William Johnston, officers of the said Navy were attached to the said vessel at the time of her aforesaid capture, there were others but he does not recollect their names. Your Petitioner's aforesaid father died sometime in the year \_\_\_ and left children of whom your Petitioner is the eldest surviving. Should it appears that his said father under the laws of Virginia is entitled to Land Bounty he humbly prays that the same may be awarded. As witness my hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord 1848 and as in

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<sup>1</sup> Ken Kellow lists a number of vessels by this name as belonging to the VA Navy during the Revolution as follows:  
1. *Henry*. Coggins:102, VANavy:157, M:389, ND5:938, ND7:1061, ND8:446, ND9:869, ND10:628, ND11:1159, 1166, galley in VA Navy, 1776-79, Capts Robert Tompkins, Joshua Singleton, and Wright Westcott, dismantled in 1779. C64.

2. *Henry*. Robertson(1959):72, armed schooner of Norfolk, VA, captured by British in 1778 and carried to Jamaica.

3. *Henry*. M880:3, ND11:689, VA private sloop, Capt James Moody, captured Mar 1778 by British *Loyal Subject*, crew members to New York prison ship *Felicity* in June 1778.

4. *Henry*. NR:332, LCP:116/117, LM VA/MD schooner, 5 guns, 12 men, Capt Birket Falcon, Sep 1780.

5. *Henry*. Williamson:188, ND6:784, VA Navy galley, Capt Robert Tomkins, which burned at Hampton in 1780 during British attack while undergoing repairs.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20H-I.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ken Kellow has no listing for a vessel named *Nicholson*.

duty bound your Petitioner will ever pray &c

S/ Jonathan Kay

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Kay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.