

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Kennedy VAS1039

[vsl 24VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/14/13

[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.]

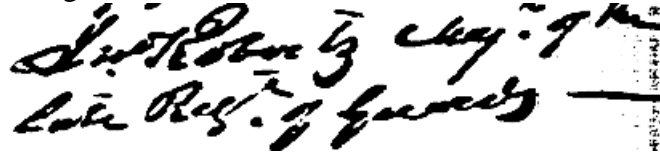
[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 1]

At request I certify that Ensign William Kennedy served in the Regiment of Guards that guarded the Convention Troops of Burgoyne's Army at the Barracks in Albemarle County Virginia. I knew him well, and that he served as an Ensign, until the Regiment was discharged which was in or about May 1781 – & have seen a Muster Roll signed by myself as Major of the Regiment shows that the date of his commission to be on the 16th of June 1780, He was promoted from the ranks or staff departments, and was a meritorious officer. I have no doubt he would have reentered the service if he had been requested or ordered to do so.

Given under my hand this 9th day of March 1834

S/ Jno. Roberts, Major 9th [John Roberts]¹
late Regiment of Guards



[p 2]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 12th day of November 1783, in the name of William Kennedy, as a Soldier of infantry for £54 point 11.7, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
3rd day of May 1839.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers

¹ [John Roberts W2347](#)

of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the first day of May 1784, in the name of William Kennedy, as a Ensign & QM for £127.4.9, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

To wit pay as in Colonel Taylor's Regiment of Guards from 15th June 1780 to 15th June 1781

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
5th day of July 1837.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 3]

Department of War
Bounty Land Office
June 4th 1838

I certify it appears by an original Muster Roll of Captain James Burton's Company of the Regiment of Guards at the Barracks in Albemarle County Virginia commanded by Colonel Francis Taylor for the month of March, April, May, June and July 1780, signed by John Roberts, Major Regiment, which Muster Roll, was filed with other papers in this office in 1833, in relation to a claim for land in right of Captain James Burton, that William Kennaday [sic] whose name appears on said Roll, was commissioned an Ensign in said Regiment of Guards on the 16th of June 1780.

S/ Wm Gordon, First Clerk

[p 5: Poor image of a printed document being a report to the committee on revolutionary Claims in the U.S. Congress dated January 1831 relating to the claim of Captain Garland Burnley.]

[p 7: What appears to be extracts from a number of entries showing receipts from William Kennedy for amounts paid to him by various officers including Garland Burnley, Captain White, Captain Burton, Lieutenant Samuel O Pettus]

[p 11: illegible]

[p 15]

Petition for bounty land

William Kennaday [sic] Ensign C. L. [Continental Line]

Ensign William Kennedy settled his accounts, for a service from June 15th 1780 2 June 15th 1781, & received therefore £127.4.9. He was in the Regiment of Guards, which was raised about the first of the year 1779 [last digit unclear could be 1777 but the context suggests that the date is 1779], and disbanded in June 1781. It was raised for a special purpose – to guard the Convention troops. The heirs of Ensign Kennedy do not attempt to set up their claim for a service any where but in the Regiment of Guards. That Regiment was not in service three years. After the purpose was answered for which it was raised, the Regiment was disbanded. The officers would not have been supernumerary. The sole object for which they had been commissioned was accomplished, & they were discharged; disbanded; and all their duties &c as officers ceased.

There is a deposition filed by Major John Roberts; to which your Excellency is referred.

Respectfully submitted
S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c
May 13th, 1834

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

[p 17]

William Kennedy was appointed & commissioned an Ensign in a company commanded by Captain James Burton in the year 1780. – The Military services of the said Kennedy was the same as that of Captain Burton – Excepting that he (Kennedy) was appointed a staff officer from the line and performed the duties of Quarter Master to the Regiment whilst he was an Ensign in said Regiment & acting in the double capacity of Ensign & Quarter Master. In the year 1781 the prisoners of Burgoyne's Army were removed from Albemarle and the Regiment of Guards there in continual service were disbanded and the officers became supernumerary for the want of command. –

The above facts I am personally known to – and the services of Quarter Master Kennedy are such that I speak with certainty. – It was in May 1781 that the Regiment was disbanded. Given under my hand this 6th day of April 1839

S/ John Roberts, late Major
of the Regiment of Guards

[pp 18-19: are excerpts from Thomas Jefferson's Memoirs, p. 178, as the following:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Williamsburg, November 28, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's letter on the discriminations which have been heretofore made, between the troops raised within this state, and considered as part of our quota, and those not so considered, was delivered me four days ago. I immediately laid it before the Assembly, who thereupon came to the resolution I now do myself the honor of enclosing you. The resolution of Congress, of March 15th, 1779, which you were so kind as to enclose, was never known in this state till a few weeks ago, when we received printed copies of the Journals of Congress. It would be a great satisfaction to us, to receive an exact return of all the men we have in Continental service, who come within the description of the resolution, together with our state troops in Continental service. Colonel Cabell was so kind as to send me a return of the Continental regiments, commanded by Lord Sterling, of the first and second Virginia State regiments, and of Colonel Gist's regiment. Besides these are the following, viz. Colonel Harrison's regiment of artillery, Colonel Bayler's horse, Colonel Eland's horse, General Scott's new levies, part of which are gone to Carolina, and part are here, Colonel Gibson's regiment stationed on the Ohio, Heath and Ohara's independent companies at the same stations. Colonel Taylor's regiment of guards to the Convention troops: of these, we have a return. There may, possibly, be others not occurring to me. A return of all these would enable us to see what proportion of the Continental army is contributed by us. We have, at present, very pressing calls to send additional numbers of men to

the southward. No inclination is wanting in either the Legislature or Executive, to aid them or strengthen you: but we find it very difficult to procure men. I herewith transmit to your Excellency some recruiting commissions, to be put into such hands as you may think proper, for re-enlisting such of our soldiery as are not already engaged for the war. The Act of Assembly authorizing these instructions, requires that the men enlisted should be reviewed and received by an officer to be appointed for that purpose; a caution, less necessary in the case of men now actually in Service, therefore, doubtless able-bodied, than in the raising new recruits. The direction, however, goes to all cases, and, therefore, we must trouble your Excellency with the appointment of one or more officers of review. Mr. Moss, our agent, receives orders, which accompany this, to pay the bounty money and recruiting money, and to deliver the clothing. We have, however, certain reason to fear he has not any great sum of money on hand; and it is absolutely out of our power, at this time, to supply him, or to say, with certainty, when we shall be able to do it. He is instructed to note his acceptances under the draughts, and to assure payment as soon as we shall have it in our power to furnish him, as the only substitute for money. Your Excellency's directions to the officer of review, will probably procure us the satisfaction of being informed, from time to time, how many men shall be re-enlisted.

By Colonel Mathews I informed your Excellency fully of the situation of Governor Hamilton and his companions. Lamothe and Dejean have given their paroles, and are at Hanover Court-House: Hamilton, Hay, and others, are still obstinate; therefore, still in close confinement, though their irons have never been on, since your second letter on the subject. I wrote full information of this matter to General Phillips also, from whom I had received letters on the subject. I cannot, in reason, believe that the enemy, on receiving this information either from yourself or General Phillips, will venture to impose any new cruelties on our officers in captivity with them. Yet their conduct, hitherto, has been most successfully prognosticated by reversing the conclusions of right reason. It is, therefore, my duty, as well as it was my promise to the Virginia captives, to take measures for discovering any change which may be made in their situation. For this purpose, I must apply for your Excellency's interposition. I doubt not but you have an established mode of knowing, at all times, through your commissary of prisoners, the precise state of those in the power of the enemy. I must, therefore, pray you to put into motion any such means you have, for obtaining knowledge of the situation of Virginia officers in captivity. If you should think proper, as I could wish, to take upon yourself to retaliate any new sufferings which may be imposed on them, it will be more likely to have-due weight, and to restore the unhappy on both sides, to that benevolent treatment for which all should wish.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

Th: Jefferson.

[This letter was submitted by the attorney for the veteran's heirs.]

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Addendum to William Kennedy VAS1039

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 28 July 2020.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Parts of the file are not legible enough for transcription.]

To the Honourable The Speaker and house of Burgesses

The Memorial of the Officers, in behalf of themselves and the Soldiers raised to guard the Convention troops [see endnote]; Beg liberty to represent to your honors, That they have been hitherto badly supplied with cloathing, [undeciphered word] and necessaries, allowed to the other part of the Army of the United States; and flattering themselves that they were to be entitled to all the emoluments granted to the Troops in Continental or State services, so frequently and generously [undeciphered word] by several passed Assemblies; that they have served upwards of sixteen months, and have hitherto received only part of one half years cloathing; That the Officers were at considerable trouble and expence in recruiting their respective quotas of men, and the noncommissioned officers & soldiers received only the inconsiderable bounty of thirty dollars each; That the Officers and soldiers, from the depreciated state of the money, and [undeciphered word] allowance made, are unable to cloath themselves, and are at present greatly distressed on that account particularly, and see no prospect of being relieved unless your honourable house will interpose. They [undeciphered word] convinced you never intended any distinction should be made in troops raised as guards, troops on continental service, or [undeciphered word] regiments, Do request that a Store may be provided for the Officers and Soldiers at Barracks; That they be refunded passed deficiencies, and be in future furnished with necessaries, at the reduced price [two or three undeciphered words] as allowed other troops. And to induce a continuance of those already in service and such as may hereafter enter to continue in service, That they be allowed such proportion of back[?] lands and other emoluments as you in your wisdom may think are adequate compensation for dedicating their services to the United States and this State in particular.

And your memorialists will ever pray

[undeciphered] Barracks June 3 1780

[signatures of Col. Francis Taylor and others illegible]

Winchester June 7th 1781

Rec'd of William Kennedy QMG;l [Quarter Master General]

Twenty Blankets & six [undeciphered word] D'o.

W. Darke [William Darke BLWt598-500]

Winchester June 7th 1781

Rec'd of William Kennedy QMG;l One Hundred and Fifty Six Guns Thirty Six Bayonets Sixty Seven Bayonett Belts & One Hundred & Thirty One Cart'g [Cartridge] Boxes

David Kennedy

Colo 1st Bat[talio]n [undeciphered]

NOTE: The Convention troops, or Convention Army, were Hessian and British troops captured at the surrender of Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga on 17 Sep 1777. By an agreement, or "convention," arranged with the American Gen. Horatio Gates, they were to have been returned to Britain, but Congress considered that too lenient an arrangement. After being held near Boston they were marched to the hastily erected Albemarle Barracks about 4 miles NNE from Charlottesville VA early in January 1779 and guarded by the Convention Army Guard Regiment until February 1781, when they were marched to Winchester Barracks to prevent their rescue by British forces under Cornwallis.