

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Record of John DeKalb BLWt1002-1100 f15Non-US
[Jean Baron DeKalb]
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/9/14
Annotated by C. Leon Harris

[cover sheet]

Continental (Bavaria) Kalb, John de B.L.Wt.1002-1100
or DeKalb

The heirs of Baron [right margin of paper damaged and text missing]
a Major General
in the Army of the US

Warrant Issued November 2 [right margin of the paper damaged and text missing]

Paris 30th September 1820

Dear Sir

The following applications have been made to me for services rendered to the United States during the revolutionary war viz.

1^{stly} the children of General DeKalb killed at the battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780]. They have applied to Congress by petitions, one of which I transmitted to the Secretary of State, and the other I gave to Mr. Lowndes when at Paris.

2^{ndly} the widow of William Nicolson, Captain of Marines by a commission of Congress dated December 1782, and previously appointed a first Geographer on 26 August 1781 by Thomas Hutchins. She will had given a power of attorney to Mr. Monroe when he was in Europe, and I have once written to him on that subject.

3^{rdly} John Vicomte de Lomagne,¹ Captain on 2nd February 1778, Major on 6th January 1779 in Colonel Armand's [Charles Armand Tuffin, Marquis de la Rouerie] Legion with the rank from 11th April 1778, left the service by permission of Congress on account of his health on 24th of September 1781. His letter to you, claiming lands, and copies of his papers are here with transmitted.

I will thank you to enable me to answer the repeated inquiries of these persons, & to let me know whether they are entitled to either land or money, and, if they are not legally so, whether it is worth their while to make further applications to Congress.

I beg you to accept the assurance of my attachment and to believe me sincerely and respectfully

Your most obedient Servant
S/ Albert Gallatin

The Honorable
John Calhoun [John C Calhoun]
Secretary of the War Department Washington

War Department

¹ [Jean Baptiste de Lomagne BLWt1003-400](#)

Section of Bounty Lands January 10th, 1821

The Honorable John C Calhoun, &c &c &c
Sir,

The Communication addressed to you by the Honorable Albert Gallatin, Min^r. Plenipo [Minister Plenipotentiary] of the US in France, bearing date of Paris 30th September 1820 appears to have for its object to call up for investigation certain Claims upon our Government of very ancient date, in Right of several Foreign Officers who served in the Army of the United States in our Revolutionary War; and who, as the actual Claimants allege, thereby acquired a Right to the Territorial Gratuity proposed by the Authority of said State for such Military Service.

It is generally known that the Conflagration of the War Office at the Seat of Government in the year 1800 of my related the Regular and most Authentic Records of Military Service during that memorable War: but fortunately the Treasury Department was enabled to furnish correct Citations by which most Claims of this Class have since been tested at the Department of War.

On a Register of the Names of many Foreign Officers who took service in the US Revolutionary Army, and whose accounts were adjusted at the Close of the War, the name of the Baron De Kalb appears with the Quality of "Major General" annexed to it, together with a Remark that he was killed at the Battle of Camden, August 16th, 1780." It does not appear that any Military Land has ever issued to satisfy this Claim: – therefore, as his Heirs are said to have applied for that gratuity, they should be held to adduce due proofs of their Heirship and, it appears to me, the competence of the authority from which such Certificate emanates [sic], should be attested by the Representative of their nation in the United States.

Another Foreign Officer is mentioned in the Letter of Mr. Gallatin: viz. "John Vicomte de Lomagne" who is stated to have been Commissioned by Congress on the 6th of January 1779 as "Major in Colonel Armand's Legion with rank from the 11th April 1778: and left the service by permission of Congress on account of his Health on 24th September 1781." –

On the Register of names of above-mentioned that of "De Lomagne" does not appear; which seems to indicate that his account with the United States was not adjusted at the Close of the War: but that may reasonably be accounted for by his being absent from the Country, at that period, in virtue of special permission from Congress.

Among the Documents transmitted on the part of this Claimant by Mr. Gallatin, there are "Copies" of his two Commissions in the United States service and of the furlough signed by Charles Thompson as Secretary of Congress. In the Letter of Mr. "De Lomagne" addressed to Mr. Gallatin he indicates that he has already exhibited to him the Original Commissions and Furlough, up alias, "Leave of Absence" above mentioned; and as that he is ready to produce them whenever requisite.

The Claimant has taken the precaution to accompany his application to the government by Notarial Certificates that he was still living dated the 8th of February 1820.

Perhaps some corroboration of his pretensions may be found among the Ancient records of the Treasury Department, or in those of the Department of State: – if not, permit me to suggest that if a Military Land Warrant should be granted to him, it may be transmitted through the intervention of the American Minister at the Court of Paris, with directions that the said Claimant should deposit his Commission as Major in the US service, together with the original "Leave of Absence" with said Minister at the time of the Land Warrant being delivered to him; – for which Warrant, he should subscribe a Receipt of form & tenor to be prescribed by yourself. In his brief

address to the Secretary of State and of War at Washington City which is annexed to his Letter to Mr. Gallatin, he requests that if a grant of Land shall be made to him, it may be in the southern portion of the United States if possible: – it is presumed that he wishes in this respect cannot be gratified, excepting through the medium of a special Act of Congress.

With respect to the 3rd case stated in Mr. Gallatin's Letter, I have only to observe that I do not know of any president to authorize a grant of Military Bounty Land to a native of the United States for service in quality of and Officer of Marines: I think that the Representative of Captain William Nicholson can only obtain that gratuity through the medium of a Memorial to Congress.

All which is respectfully submitted

S/ Nat. Cutting

A handwritten signature in cursive script, enclosed in an oval. The signature appears to read "Nat. Cutting".

Paris 2nd March 1822

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit the receipt of the heirs of the late General DeKalb for the land warrant of 1100 acres which I have delivered to them. The documents proving that they are the heirs are also enclosed. I have not yet received the papers required for Vicount Lomagne; and his land warrant is still in my hands.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Sir,

[the signature has been cut out and is missing from the file]

[Note: all of the other documents in this file are in French, a language with which this transcriber is totally unschooled. Thankfully, C. Leon Harris is conversant with French and he provided the following annotation:

The file contains a copy in French of a document dated 7 June 1809 in Rambouillet in the Département of Seine-et-Oise listing the following two heirs of Jean Baron deKalb: 1) Madame Marie Anne Caroline De Kalb, widow of Jean Luc Geymuller, who died at Romainville in the commune of Magny-les-Hameaux; and 2) Mr. Elie Baron de Kalb, Knight of the Royal Order of Military Merit. The file also contains copies of the birth certificates of these two children of Jean de Kalb and his wife, Anne Elizabeth Emilie Van Robais, which show that Marianne Caroline de Kalb was born on 25 May 1767, and Elie de Kalb was born on 19 June 1769.]