

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Bounty Land Warrant of Robert Kirkwood BLWt1102-300 DE
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 June 2013.

State of Delaware

New Castle County, S.s. [1 Jan 1825]

Personally appeared before me James Anderson one of the Justices of Peace in and for said County, Mary K. Whiteley and makes Oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that she is the legitimate daughter of Capt. Robert Kirkwood who together with her brother Joseph Kirkwood of Ohio are the legal heirs of said Capt. Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware line who served during the Revolutionary war and who was killed at St. Clair's defeat [defeat of Gen. Arthur St. Clair , Battle of the Wabash, 4 Nov 1791], and that they are his only legal heirs and are justly and legally entitled to all right and title to his military bounty land. [signed] Mary K Whiteley

[The following are among the [bounty-warrant papers of the Library of Virginia](#). Some documents in this file are illegible in the online images.]

[1831] The petition of the heirs of Cap. Robert Kirkwood respectfully represent to his Excellency the Governor [John Floyd of Virginia] & the Honorable Council that their father was a Captain in Col. John Haslets Regiment (Maryland [sic: Delaware] line) and served during the whole of the Revolutionary war with distinguished reputation as will appear by reference to any history of those times. That in 1780 he was ordered to the South with his Regiment and was in the Battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780], that the Regiment from its loss in that battle was reduced to two companies, one commanded by their father the other by Cap. Peter Jacquett [sic: Peter Jaquett, pension application S46500], and was by a general order transferred to Col. William Washingtons Legion [William Washington's Light Dragoons], and continued with said Legion until the close of the war (1783.)

Your petitioners are informed that their father was entitled to Land Bounty for his services under a Resolution of the State of Virginia, they pray that it may now be allowed to them.

Wm. Lambert atty for the heirs of R. Kirkwood.

New Castle County State of Delaware SS.

Personally came before me George Russel one of the Justices of the peace for the county aforesaid Mary K Boyer the only Daughter of Major Robert Kirkwood deceased who was an officer in the revolutionary army and on her solemn Oath does say that the said Major Robert Kirkwood died leaving two children only & that Joseph Kirkwood who now lives near bridgeport belmont county in the State of Ohio is the brother of her the said Mary K Boyer & only son of the said Major Robert Kirkwood aforesaid Sworn & subscribed this sixth day of January eighteen hundred and thirty one – 1831.

Before George Russel

[signed] Mary K Boyer

[Russel certified that Mary K. Boyer lived in Newark DE.]

I do hereby certify that I was for a considerable length of time during the Revolutionary War acquainted with Captain Kirkwood of the Delaware line, and that the said Capt. Kirkwood did serve in the Southern Army first under Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates & after under Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]. That the Maryland line and the Delaware line were ordered to the South in the Spring of 1780 & we marched from Elkton the 8th day of May in the same year for the South, and remained there untill the close of the War and that Capt. Kirkwood was an officer in the Delaware line (a Captain) aforesaid, and was transfered to Gen'l. Lees Legion [sic: Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion] by Gen'l. Green, and the said Captain Kirkwood

certainly was an officer of much respectability and distinction. I acted first as Lieutenant and after as adjutant & paymaster in the 2nd Maryland Regiment — Given under my hand at Bohemia Manor in Cecil County & State of Maryland this 23rd day April 1832. Hezekiah Foard [pension application S47187]
Witness/ Jos. Bryan/ E. Oldham



Baltimore May 15th 1832

The subscriber having served as a Dragoon in Lees Legion Virginia troops during the Revolutionary War well recollects that Captain Robert Kirkwood was a highly distinguished and meritorious Officer and that he commanded the Delaware Battallion or Blues as called, and to the best of his knowledge and recollection believes that Kirkwood and his command were transferred to Col. Lees Legion and that they performed Infantry duty in said Legion most probably to the close of the War.

[William McDonald, pension application W6806]

Witness Present
Sam'l. McDonald



Baltimore May 15th 1832

Hon Geo. E Mitchell

Dear Sir Your favour of 1st Inst. is received – I have been absent a few days which accounts in some measure for a delay in not forwarding sooner the enclosed paper.

There are other circumstances occurred to me which I now mention & corroborating what was stated in my last namely, – A Sergeant Whelan of Kirkwoods Command & attached to Lees Legion was killed by a Sentinel of our Army at the Seige of Ninety Six [22 May - 19 Jun 1781] under the following circumstances – Whelan in going the rounds on a very dark night happened to approach too near the Enemys line & on his discovering it turned towards our line of sentinels, one of whom fired on & killed him in consequence of their being a standing & general order to the outpickits & sentinels next the Enemy not to challenge any approach from that direction – I knew him well – his death was much lamented & you who have seen service know full well how to appreciate the value of an intelligent enterprising officer of his grade. The Delawares were with us also at the Eutaws [Battle of Eutaw Springs, 8 Sep 1781] the last general action in S. Carolina & left Charleston in an English Ship chartered for the purpose, arrived in Hampton Roads early in August 1783 – Capt M Randolph chartered a schooner & proceeded up the Bay stopped at Annapolis, thence to the head of Elk [Elkton] where we arrived & were disbanded on or about 23 of same month. I might state in addition the reason why Gen'l Green thought it adviseable to strengthen the Legion & which will remain with you as matter of record should it not answer anything [one or two illegible words] in favour of the claim in question – namely, immediately after the battle of Guilford Ct House in N.C. [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] Cornwallis finding he was out-generalled & could not enter Virginia in that direction & in the face of our Army commenced a retreat across the country towards Deep River where he had a great many friends in the neighbourhood of Rock River [sic: Rocky River] & the Scotch settlements the place of residence of Colo Pyles [sic: John Pyle] whose Corps of Tories we had encountered some time prior & cut to pieces [Pyle's Defeat at present Burlington NC, 25 Feb 1781] – Serjeant Whelan & thirteen Indians being with us who dispatched them almost as fast as the Dragoons cut them down from their Horses Tarletons Legion [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion] with a body of foot at the same time within less than a mile from the scene at a Major – whose name I forget (– was known a Whig) this lucky hit at Pyles broke up the golden views of the Tories & Tarlton scampered back to Hillsborough. Gen'l Green came up just as the Enemy's rear was in the act of crossing on a Bridge thrown over for the purpose [on Deep River at Ramsey's Mill], but finding

him too strong, abandoned the pursuit then the Legion was ordered to the Low Country & here it was when separated from the main Army that the Delawares & Capt Oldham still continued & did act with the Legion & so far as my memory serves remained & did act with us to the close of the War in order to break up the Enemys Posts. We then joined Gen'l [Francis] Marion & Pickins [sic: Andrew Pickens] & reduced the Posts on the [illegible word] River called the Indian Mound [siege of Fort Watson on Santee River, 15-23 Apr 1781] – then [illegible word] Widow Watts', Fort Congaree [siege of Fort Granby, 2-15 May], Augusta Georgia (two forts [Fort Grierson, 23 May; siege of Fort Cornwallis, 24 May - 1 Jun] & a [illegible word] 12 miles lower down the Savannah River [Fort Galphin, 21 May]) a rich prize of stores of every description for the Indians & their own Army – immediatly after the fall of Augusta we joined the Army at the seige of 96 – No corps endured more fatigue & hardships in any service than during this Campaign.

Most Respectfully/ your Obt & Humble Serv't./ Wm. McDonald

NOTES:

A paper in the federal file reads: "Warranty No. 1102 issued to Joseph Kirkwood of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Line for 300 acres of land January 25th 1825."

The Library of Virginia file includes a letter from Lt. Whiteley of the US Army, a grandson of Robert Kirkwood, the legible portion of which reads in part as follows: "It is a well authenticated fact that the Del. regiment after its reduction to 2 companies was attached to Lee's legion, and then served 3 years in the south under Colo. Washington, thereby giving them a firm title to their quota of lands."

A statement in the Virginia file by Peter Jaquett is illegible in the online image. However, additional details relating to Robert Kirkwood's service and family can be found in Jaquett's pension application S46500.

Documents in the Virginia file refer to Foard as a Major General in the Maryland Militia.