

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Kerney¹ R15613

f29VA

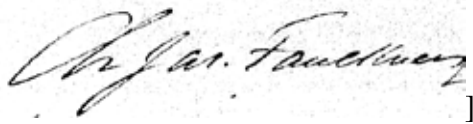
Transcribed by Will Graves

11/19/13

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 6: Power of attorney given by John Boyle, agent for a widow in Fayette County Illinois on November 3, 1847 in powering his attorney to act for the recovery of the half pay due Captain John Kerney of the "Illinois Brigade" under General George Rogers Clark and Colonel Joseph Crockett in the subjugation of the post of St. Vincent's [Vincennes] and Kaskaskia in the war of the revolution. Note: the name of the widow is not given.]

[p 3: Power of attorney dated January 23, 1850 granted in Berkeley County Virginia by Charles James Faulkner, administrator of the estate of John Kerney by which he empowered his attorney to seek half pay due John Kerney as an officer in the Virginia State Continental line for services during the War of the Revolution.



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[p 23]

The Deposition of Major Henry Bedinger of the County of Berkeley in State of Virginia taken to be read before the executive Council of Virginia upon the application of the heirs of Captain John Kerney for the proportion of land allowed for one year four months services beyond six years. The said Henry Bedinger being first sworn Question. State if you are acquainted with the military services of Captain John Kerney during the War of the Revolution and how long he served. Answer. I was well acquainted with John Kerney I knew him both before and since the revolutionary war he entered the service as a first Sergeant in a company of which I was Lieutenant in July 1776. He was taken prisoner with me at Fort Washington [November 16, 1776] and except during the period of his imprisonment he was in service and behaved as a sober and efficient officer from the time he entered until November 1783. I entered the service in July 1775 one year before my friend Kerney we continued in the service until about the same period. I have received from the State of Virginia my original land bounty and also the additional proportion for 2 years 4 months and some days beyond six years.
Berkeley County Sct.

Henry Bedinger this day personally appeared before the undersigned Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that the above statement of the services of John Kerney

¹ Va. Half Pay

is correct. Given under our hands and seals this 11th day of October 1830
S/ D. Campbell
S/ Benjamin Conngers [?]

[p 25]

State of Kentucky Jessamine County

I Joseph Crockett Lieutenant Colonel commander in the war of the Revolution do certify that George Walls Major John Kerney Captain & Charles Greer Surgeon was duly commissioned as such and as such served in the Virginia State line and was attached to the Regiment commanded by me and that they continued in service until the close of the war.

Given under my hand &c

July 29, 1828

S/ Joseph Crockett Lieutenant Colonel
Commandant of Virginia State Regiment

[Both the affidavit by Bedinger and the affidavit by Crockett were certified as being true copies from the records in the executive Department in Richmond Virginia as of January 26, 1850]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 14-page file

[Note: The following depositions are posted online in split images making it extremely difficult to transcribed them. I believe the nincompoop who copied the documents posted online by the State Library of Virginia would be a fit subject for a court-martial resulting in his or her summary dismissal from the service if no harsher penalty could be imposed. Obviously, a great deal of the documentation copied and posted online was posted without the benefit of the thought process. Just my personal opinion: Will Graves]

The deposition of Major Henry Bedinger,² now in his 77th year taken at the Globe Tavern in the town of Martinsburg County of Berkeley, in the State of Virginia, in pursuance of notice given to the attorney for the Commonwealth for this County, to be used as evidence in a suit to be instituted in this County of this State to recover for certain officers attached to Colonel Joseph Crockett or the Virginia State Regiment, their compensation of half pay for life. Major Henry Bedinger, first duly sworn

Question 1st State if you were and Officer in the revolutionary war and what were your opportunities of being Personally acquainted the events of that period.

Answer, Yes, I was an officer in the War of the Revolution. I entered for one year as a volunteer as early as July 1775 in a company of Rifle men under the command of Captain Hugh Stephenson, we were sent immediately to the Siege of Boston, at the expiration of our term, to wit: on the 9th Day of July 1776, I was appointed a Lieutenant in Captain Shepherd's Company attached to Colonel Hugh Stephenson's Rifle Regiment. The Company was raised principally from what was then Berkeley, now Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. I was taken a prisoner at Fort Washington on the 16th of November 1776, and remained a prisoner for some years, as soon as discharged, I again enlisted into service and continued in service in the Grade of a Captain until the 5th of November 1783. I have received my land bounty and my commutation from the United States, and within the last 2 years, have drawn \$40 a month, Captain [?] full pay, under a

² [Henry Bedinger S8059](#)

recent law of Congress, My services were altogether in the Continental line.

Question 2nd. When [?] did first become acquainted with the Regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Crockett, where was it stationed at different periods of the Revolutionary War and to what periods did that Regiment continue in service?

Answer, My personal acquaintance with Colonel Crockett's Regiment was in the fall, after my return as a prisoner of War, that Regiment was then stationed at Albemarle Barracks guarding the prisoners taken at the surrender of General Burgoyne. I went there on business and I think in company with Captain James Glenn, now residing in Jefferson County, I there saw all Colonel Joseph Crockett, Major George Walls, Captain John Kerney Officers of that Regiment, Major Walls and Captain Kerney were from the same part of the County that I came from, and had been old acquaintances of mine in the North, Captain Kerney particularly, he entered Captain Shepherd's Company of which I was Lieutenant in July 1776 as a Sergeant and was taken prisoner with me at Fort Washington. That same fall, or perhaps the fall following, Colonel Crockett's Regiment which had been from the first raised for the defense of the Western parts of this State was ordered to Shepherdstown on their way to the West, it remained in Shepherdstown during the whole winter I was then staying in Shepherdstown, and became intimately acquainted with all of the commissioned Officers of the Regiment. Early in the spring following, they took up the line of march to the falls of Ohio in Kentucky then a part of this State, and remained in the West until late in the spring of 1783, and continued after peace was established between the United States and Great Britain, they were then discharged by proclamation of the Executive of this Commonwealth. I know that Colonel Crockett's Regiment was retained in service longer than most of the other Virginia State regiments for the Indians aged and instigated by the British and Canadians, continued to annoy the Western settlements for a considerable time after the British had evacuated the Eastern parts of the State.

Question 3rd. Can you state what was the extent of the services of that Regiment in the West? Answer. I cannot, I was not in Kentucky at the time, from what I have learned however they were very efficient in protecting the settlers from the hostilities of the Indians.

Question 4th. State from your present recollection who were the Officers of that Regiment during the winter it was stationed at Shepherdstown?

Answer. It has been many years ago and I cannot recollect all of them, there was first Colonel Joseph Crockett, Major George Walls, Captain Beverly, Chapman, Young, Purvis, Kerney, Tipton in one or 2 other Captains whose names I do not remember, Lieutenant Browning, Green & Ensign McGavock, Daring, Price, book and Thomas Walls, son of Major Walls, and Surgeon Charles Green.

Question 5th. State which of the above officers were from your own knowledge served until the end of the War, or until the Regiment was disbanded by the Governor of Virginia?

Answer. I cannot speak from my own knowledge as to any but Colonel Joseph Crockett, Major George Walls, Captain Kearney and Purvis and Ensign Walls, the 4 last returned after the Regiment was disbanded, to this County; and remained for some time here. Major Walls remained in command at the falls later than the rest. Captain Kerney [indecipherable word] in this County in 18___. Ensign, afterwards Lieutenant Walls was killed by the Indians in 1785 as he was descending the Ohio River. I recollect the circumstance well, for I had entrusted some money and important land papers to him.

Question 6th State the character which the Officers of Colonel Crockett's Regiment sustained during the War of the Revolution.

Answer Colonel Crockett was always considered a very brave and skillful soldier, and an

exact disciplinarian. Major Walls was [indecipherable word] through the whole Army as a daring and Enterprising officer, he was frequently selected by General Washington when in the North to lead reconnoitering parties and was notoriously known in the Army as the "Old Reconnoiter." Captains Kerney and Purvis and Lieutenant Walls sustained good character's as officers and gentlemen. I have given a good deal of attention to the military claims of this Officer of the Revolution, having always felt a deep interest for my brother Officers, particularly those with whom I was intimate in the service – such as Walls and Kerney, and have always been surprised that they had not earlier obtained their compensation of half pay. I have no [indecipherable word] doubt about their right to it. It was a Virginia State Regiment, and they were in service until the end of the War.

S/ Henry Bedinger, late
Captain 5th Virginia Regiment
Revolutionary Army

Berkeley County

Personally came David Hunter before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and after being sworn as the law direct Deposeth and saith that he knew Captain John Kerney deceased during the Revolutionary War and that his services were those described in the annexed certificate, written by Colonel Moses Hunter deceased and described by the late General William dark that at the time of writing and subscribing said certificate the services of said Kerney were fresh in the memory of the writer & or.

The deponent knows everything stated in said Certificate to be correct except as to the particular –

Given under my hand this first day of December 1827

S/ Isaac S. Sauck

The deposition of Captain James Glenn of the County of Jefferson and State of Virginia now in his sixty seventh year taken at the Tavern of John Buckmaster in Charlestown to be read in evidence in a suit to be instituted in the courts of this Commonwealth to recover from the State of Virginia for certain Officers attached to Colonel Joseph Crockett on the Virginia State Regiment – that commutation or half pay for life –

James Glenn being first duly sworn

Question 1st State if you were an Officer in the War of the Revolution and what opportunities of being personally acquainted with the events of that period.

Answer – I was not an officer in the Revolutionary War – I entered the service as a volunteer under General Lafayette and remained under him from the spring of 1781 until the harvest of that year – I then joined Captain Armstrong's troop of horse. We were discharged after the surrender of Cornwallis: I was then appointed to guard the prisoners taken at the siege of York Town, which I did for three months. I then returned home to Berkeley now Jefferson County. I subsequently was appointed an Officer in the Western expedition against the Indians – was an Officer under General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] and was at the defeat of St. Clair.

Question 2nd When did you first become acquainted with the Regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Crockett, where was it stationed at different periods of the Revolutionary War and to what period did that Regiment continue in service?

Answer. It was the fall after the invasion of Virginia I will not be positive whether it was Arnold's [Benedict Arnold] or Mathews' invasion, that I was at Albemarle Barracks in company with Major Henry Bedinger now living in Berkeley County We went there on business – Colonel

Crockett's Regiment was then stationed at the Barracks, guarding the Prisoners taken at the defeat General Burgoyne. I then saw and became acquainted with Colonel Crockett – Major George Walls and Captain John Kerney, Officers of that Regiment were also there. Walls and Kerney were from my neighborhood and I knew them before I saw them at the Barracks. That same fall or the fall afterwards the Regiment was ordered to Shepherdstown. I used to go occasionally there to see them while there – They remained in Shepherdstown during the winter. In the spring they were ordered to the falls of Ohio in Virginia where they remained until the spring of 1783 and as he believes until peace was formally ratified between the 2 Countries

Question 3. State the names of such of the Officers of Colonel Crockett's Regiment as you became acquainted with during their stay in Shepherdstown

Answer. There with Crockett, Walls and Kerney and Captain Purvis – there was a Captain Chapman who I understood was killed at the falls. Captain William Cherry I think also belonged to that Regiment – there were several other officers but I do not recollect them.

Question 4. State the names of each of the officers of regiments as from your own knowledge served until it was disbanded in the spring of 1783.

Answer. I can only speak with certainty of Captain Crockett Major walls – captains Kerney and Purvis – There was also Lieutenant Walls who served to the end of the War, and who it is said was burnt by the Indians sometime in 1785 or 86.

Question 5th. Read the deposition of Major Henry Bedinger now before you taken at the Globe Tavern in Martinsburg on the 27th of March 1830 before Isaac S Sauck and John McGowan and state the same is correct according to the best of your recollection.

Answer. I have read the deposition agreeable to your request. It brings to my mind many of the acts & circumstances which I have forgotten and did not mention in my deposition above taken. Captain Tipton I now recollect and several other officers there mentioned, I have no doubt of the entire truth and correctness of everything stated in that deposition. Major Henry Bedinger is a gentleman of the highest character and his opportunities of being acquainted with the facts above stated were better than mine.

S/ James Glenn

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

To the Honorable the Governor & the executive Council of Virginia

Your petitioner [name too faint to discern] Kerney one of the heirs & representatives of the late Captain John Kerney in behalf of himself & the other heirs & legal representatives of the said Captain John Kerney humbly sheweth: That the said John Kerney enlisted in the Continental Army in the year 1776 and served therein until he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Virginia State line in the year 1779, & served as such until the first day of July 1780 when he was appointed Captain of a company in the ___ Regiment and served in that capacity for 3 years or which he was entitled to 3500 acres of land or more by the laws of this Commonwealth, as your petitioner is advised. As your petitioner discovers a warrant has already issued for 2500 acres of this land, leaving a balance of 1000 acres, to which the said John Kerney was entitled, and to which your petitioner and the other heirs & representatives of the said John Kerney are now entitled. Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honorable body will direct the register of the land office to issue to your petitioner and the others entitled thereto a warrant for so much of the aforesaid 3500 acres as it may appear to your Honorable body remains still unsatisfied,

and that your petitioner will ever pray &c.

I do hereby Certify that Captain John Kerney enlisted in the service the first day of October 1776 and continued to serve till he was appointed an officer in Colonel Crockett's Regiment. He served till the 21st of December 1781 which was between 4 & 5 years. Given this 10th June 1783

S/ W. Darke
Colo.

[Note: There are several documents in this file which are illegible as posted online.]