

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Valentine Kautzman R59 VA Sea Service/ Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 July 2020.

These are to certify that Mr Jno. V Kautzman was appointed a Lieutenant in the State Navy the
24th April 1779

March 27, 1783 Wright Waistcoat Capt. [sic: Wright Westcott R106]
[Certified copy]

I do hereby certify that Mr Jno Kautzman was Midshipman an Clark [Clerk] from the 14 April 1777 and
then appointed Lieutenant the 24th of April 1779 and continued to act as such 'til captured by the Enemy
[Certified copy] James Markam [R72]/ Decem'r 27th 1783

Council Chamber 7th May 1784

I do certify that John Kautzman is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Lieutenant of the State
Navy for three years service. Thomas Meriwether
Benjamin Harrison

A Warrant (no 3054) for John Kautzman of 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres issued the 7th May 1784.
[Certified copy from records of the Land Office of Virginia.]

Friday the 16th of November 1787

A Petition of John Valentine Kautzman was presented to the House and read, setting forth, that during
the late war he was engaged in the service of his country as an officer in the Navy of this State, and
continued in service until April 1781, when he was taken prisoner by the enemy, and the vessel on board
of which he was doing duty captured [at Osborne's on James River 20 mi S of Richmond]; that he
remained a prisoner on parole without being exchanged till the end of the war; and praying that he may
be allowed pay during his captivity.

Resolved. That it is the opinion of this Committee, That the petition of John Valentine Kautzman, setting
forth that during the late war he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Navy of this State under Captain
James Markham, Commander of the Ship Tempest, and had the misfortune on the 27th day of April 1781
to be captured on board of the said Vessel by a party of British Troops, by whom he was paroled and
continued without exchange until the end of the war; That the Auditor in the settlement of his Accounts
has refused to allow him his pay longer than the fifth of November 1781 that being the time when the
Navy of this State was reduced; and praying that his pay as a Lieutenant in the Navy of this State may be
allowed him to the time he was exchanged or liberated from his said parole, is reasonable.

[From Journal of the House of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia, certified 10 Aug 1837.]

[The following table was certified on 30 Aug 1837 as being copied from “a paper to be found in the 2nd Vol. of papers concerning the Army of the Revolution.” The original stretches across two pages.] A Return of Officers, Soldiers, Sailors & others of the State of Virginia taken & parol’d by the Enemy

Names		Rank	Regiment	When taken
Markham Ja’s.		Captain	Navy	Apl 28 th 1781
Kautzman Jn’o.		Lieut	The Temp’t.	D’o D’o
Steele Wm. [William Steele R96]		D[itt]o	Navy	D’o D’o
By whom taken	When Parol’d	By Whom Parol’d	When Exchanged	Remarks
Gen’l Philips D’o [Benedict] Arnold		Maj Needham Gen’l Philips [see endnote] D’o		Fauquier Richmond Staunton

[A document in the file shows that on 4 Sep 1799 a court rejected Kautzman’s appeal from a decision of the Auditor of Public Accounts to reject his claim. The following two documents were with the appeal:]

City of Richmond Sct.

John V. Kautzman appeared before me David Lambert an Alderman for the City aforesaid, and made oath that James Markham Capt. of the Ship Tempest, was taken a prisoner by the British Troops under the command of General Philips on the 27th day of April 1781, and the said Markham was not exchanged, but remained a Prisoner until the close of the War.

Given under my hand this 14th day of June 1791 David Lambert

This is to certify that at the time I commanded the Ship Tempest in the American War that John V. Kautzman acted as a Lieut’t. on board of the said Ship, and discharged his duty as such until the 27th day of April 1781, at which time the said ship was captured by a detachment of British Troops under the command of Gen’l. Philips – the said Lieut’t. Kautzman was made a Prisoner by the said detachment on the 27th day of April 1781 and was not exchanged during the War

Given under my hand this 28th day of Octo’r. 1791. James Markham

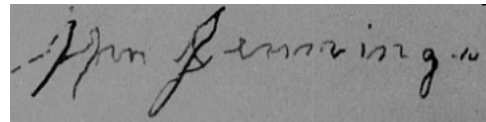
The deposition of Benjamin Marnex taken this 23^d day of July eighteen hundred and thirty six – I do hereby certify that during the revolutionary war and long since that time I was intimately acquainted with John Valentine Kautzman who was a Citizen of Virginia & a resident of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, after the war. Said Kautzman was an officer in the state navy in the revolution and was taken prisoner in the year 1781 along with several officers, and continued a prisoner, to the best of my recollection for nearly two years. Said Kautzman died just after the celebration in 1823 or 24 at York Town in honour of Fayette [sic: Lafayette during his American tour, at Yorktown in autumn 1824]. He was present at the celebration together with many officers & soldiers of the Revolution, was taken sick then died in a few days after. He left two grand children John Williams and Judith Williams, who are his only descendants and heirs at Law

B Marnex

Deposition of Henry Buchanan [S37807] of the County of York made this 5th day of July 1836. I do hereby certify that I was intimately acquainted with John Valentine Kautzman formerly a citizen of Henrico County in the state of Virginia & more recently of Elizabeth City County in this state. Said Kautzman was a Lieutenant of the state navy in the war of the Revolution and was taken prisoner on board the Tempest in the year 1781 & continued a prisoner until the end of the war. The last time I saw

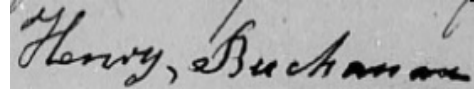
the said John V. Kautzman was in the year of the late Jubilee at York Town in honour of Lafayette in the fall of the year eighteen hundred and twenty three or twenty four, to the best of my recollection. He was taken sick while there and died a few days after the celebration in the month of October. He left one Daughter Anne who intermarried with Samuel Williams & left two children John Williams & Judith Williams, both of whom the said Anne & Sam'l. Williams are dead, so that the said John Williams & Judith Williams are the only grand children & heirs at law of the said John V. Kautzman aforesaid. Given under my hand this 5th July 1836. Henry Buchanan

Affidavit of William Jennings [S5615] made this 25th day of August 1831 before Gill A. Cary, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Elizabeth City. I certify that I knew John Kautzman of Elizabeth City County in the revolutionary War and since. Said Kautzman was a Lieutenant of the State Navy of Virginia and was taken prisoner in the year 1781, together with Captain Markham of the Ship Tempest, both of whom the said Kautzman & Markham remained prisoners of war until the end of the War. I served in the Navy myself and rec'd land Bounty for my services.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Jennings". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

The deposition of Henry Buchanan made this the 23rd day of October 1837—
Question 1st. Did you know John V. Kautzman in the revolutionary war, if so state, what you know of his services in that war. Answer. I became acquainted with John Valentine Kautzman during the revolutionary war while he was in the Navy of Virginia. I know that he was taken prisoner with several others by a party of British troops in the time of Arnold's invasion which circumstance made much talk at the time. I recollect that it was then talked of that one of the officers of the vessel in which Kautzman was taken, jumped overboard, rather than be taken prisoner, and swam ashore, that officer was named Parker, the Christian name I do not recollect [William H. Parker R82]. I often conversed with Kautzman about these matters during his life time. Question 2nd. Where did the said Kautzman reside after the war. He resided in Henrico County in this state several years after the war, as I have heard from himself. He removed to Elizabeth City County nearly fifty years ago, a little more or less, and lived at a house near the County bridge in that county, just over the line between York & Elizabeth City Counties, about half a mile from where I now live, and have lived ever since the revolution. He lived there until his death, which took place at the Jubilee in York Town in honor of Lafayette at which Kautzman & myself were both present. Question 3rd. Do you know when he was married & to whom? Answer. I do not. When he came to Elizabeth City he was married, where he married & whom I cannot state. His wife died at his residence in Elizabeth City County many years before the said John Kautzman's death. Question 4th. How many children had the said Kautzman? Answer he had one child that I know of, that was raised and that one a daughter called Anne Kautzman was born before Kautzman removed to Elizabeth City and came there with him, he had other children but none that were ever raised to any age — Question 5th. What became of Anne Kautzman the daughter of the said John Kautzman? Answer, she intermarried with Samuel Williams of the County of King & Queen [King and Queen] in this state, by whom she had several children, of whom two only are alive, viz John Williams & Judith Williams, who reside as follows. John Williams in Henrico County and Judith Williams in King & Queen County. Question 6th. Do you know these children of Anne Kautzman or Anne Williams of your own knowledge? Answer I do. They were frequently at their grandfathers in his life time, they staid with him often as also his daughter the aforesaid Anne Williams. Question 7th. Do you know whether the said Anne & Samuel Williams are dead? Ans. They are both dead & left no other children that I know of, and I believe there are no others. Question 8th. Do you know the occupation of the said John and Judith Williams. Ans: I do not. Except that John Williams himself informed me, that he cultivated a small farm in Henrico. The said

John Williams applied to me himself at the last Court of Elizabeth City to prove his place of residence and identity which I did. Question 8th. [sic] Are the said John Williams and Judith Williams the grandchildren of the identical John V. Kautzman who was an officer of the navy? Answer. I know they are the grandchildren of the John V. Kautzman whom I know to have been an officer of the Virginia Navy.



Pension Office/ June 28, 1839

I certify that I have examined the claim of the Heirs of the late John V. Kautzman, deceased, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy during the revolutionary war; that he served until he was made a prisoner of war in 1781, and continued in captivity until May 1783; that he died in Virginia in May or June 1799; that the case is embraced by the provisions of the act of the 5th of July 1832, entitled “An act to provide for the liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia;” that the claim should therefore be allowed at the rate of one hundred and eighty two dollars and fifty cents per annum, from the twenty second of April seventeen hundred and eighty three, when the war terminated, to the tenth of May seventeen hundred and ninety nine, the date of Kautzman’s will; and that the amount is payable to William Lambert, Esq’r. administrator of said Kautzman, deceased.

Approved/ Secretary of War

Commissioner of Pensions

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Kautzman, John.]

The devisees of John Kautzman respectfully represent to the Governor and Council of Virginia that their testator[?] was a Lieutenant of the State Navy during the war of the Revolution and was allowed 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres of land in May 1784. He was entitled to the land bounty of a Captain, in the army. Lieutenants in the navy according to the Resolution of Congress ran [ranked?] with Captains in the army, and have always been so considered by the Executive of Virginia in granting land bounty.

They pray that the difference between a Lieutenant and Captains and bounty, amounting to 1333 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres may be granted to them.

Wm Lambert Atty for the devisees

NOTES:

The file includes a copy of the last will and testament of John V. Kautzman of Richmond bequeathing to “Mistress Mary Bond, spinster, of the said City, the whole of the said claim after paying unto Edmund Randolph esq’r. £100, as a compensation for his services in recovering the said claim at law, and the further sum of two hundred pounds unto Sarah Barker, daughter of William and Elizabeth Barker.” The will was signed 10 May 1799 and probated on 14 June 1799.

In a letter dated 20 Aug 1837 John Williams referred to Kautzman as his grandfather.

On 9 Jan 1838 J. H. Strobin of Richmond wrote to the Pension Commissioner as follows: “I knew the old gentleman very well, being very often at my fathers house, who was a Mason; and Kautzman, at that time, was Tyler of the Lodge. He occupied a room in the Masons Hall, where he died. His death is recorded there. I have every reason to believe that he never was married; for, to the best of my knowledge, he was never heard to say so – We all considered him an old Bachelor.” William D Wren, Sergeant of the City of Richmond, as well as Thomas Diddep and George Greenhow, made similar statements.

Two files in the [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Kautzman, John and Kautzman, John V consist of copies of documents transcribed in the federal file plus a document that is mostly illegible.