

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Rodham Kenner S1228

f48VA

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 '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.]

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State of Kentucky Logan County: SS

On this 8th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Logan Circuit Court now sitting Rodham Kenner a resident of said County of Logan in the State of Kentucky aged sixty-nine years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the Navy thereof under the following named officers and served as herein stated. To wit

He enlisted as a Seaman on board the RoGally [Row Galley] *Page* at Fredericksburg Virginia in August 1777 commanded by Captain James Markham the names of the Lieutenants on board of said Galley were Richard and Henry Lightburn, from Fredericksburg. We sailed to the capes and were stationed in the Chesapeake Bay; after remaining on board the above named Galley he was transferred or turned over to the Ship *Dragon*¹ Mounting sixteen Carriage Guns, which was commanded also by said Captain James Markham, the names of the Lieutenants were William Parker [could be William Packer] and Thomas Chandler, the name of the Surgeon was Swoap he had been on board the said Galley twelve or fifteen months before he was transferred as above stated, but the precise time he cannot recollect. He recollects also the name of the Sailing Master was Smith who killed a sailor on board with a hand spike by the name of Boswell when we were in the Act of anchoring in James River at a point not far from James town after cruising for some months in the Bay the Government bought a Brigg which had been sunk by reason of damage done by the ice in James River, the crew of the *Dragon* was employed in raising this Brigg, after she was repaired and fitted for sea, She was called the *Jefferson*² in honor of Thomas Jefferson who was then Governor of Virginia, and was Captain Markham and a crew of the *Dragon* which he had before commanded were turned to the said Brig *Jefferson* there not being a sufficient number of us to man the Ship *Dragon*, We cruised for upwards of twelve months in the Bay and off the Coast in said Brigg during which time we took seven prizes the

¹ For an excellent article regarding this vessel, see Ken Kellow's website at

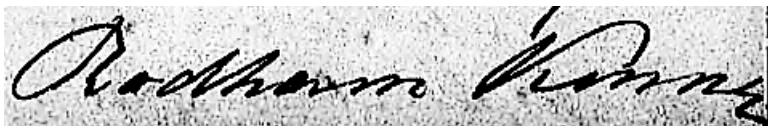
<http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5BCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5D.html>

² *Jefferson*.Coggins:102, Paullin:407, 411, Dandridge:186, brig in VA Navy, 14 guns, Capt Richard Barron, 1779, sent to Chesapeake Bay, May 1780.VANavy:154, 174, Davies XX:143, Capt Willis Wilson? sank it near Jamestown in Jan 1781.GMB:35, mentioned as repairable in May 1781 for defense of Hampton, VA.Silverstone:20, VA brig. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20J-K.html>

most of them small craft from New York which was about that time in possession of the British, at or about the close of the Cruise the whole of our little fleet which was in this part of the Bay was driven up James River a much Superior British force, and into the Chickahominy River to what was called the Ship Yard: whilst our little fleet composed of the following Vessels to wit the Ship *Dragon*, the Brigg *Jefferson* and the *Thetis*³ a 36 gun Ship a Short time previous had been launched at said Ship Yard, and several Galleys, lay at said Ship Yard an express reached us from Colonel Travis who lived near James town informing us that [there was] a British Ship aground off that place. One of the Roe Gallies which lay at the Shipyard was immediately fitted up and manned & placed under the command of our said Lieutenant Chandler and sent down to attack the British Ship, He was one of the Crew of this Galley, we sailed down and about the time we were within about two miles of her, we also ran aground, about sunset in the evening, the next morning about daylight we got off and soon discovered the British ship was also afloat and her boats towing her out into the Channel there being a Calm. We immediately made an attack upon her, the firing continued from both sides for about two hours, at about the expiration of this time two of our Row boats were discovered coming down to our relief well manned with musketeers; our Commander immediately ordered us to bear down up the British Ship, but we soon discovered two British Ships sailing up, which compelled us to abandon the idea of taking her. We again sailed up to the Ship Yard in the Chickahominy River, not long after this he left the naval service having served about three years and eight months.

A Short time after I left the Navy say two or three months, I volunteered in a Company of Militia in my native County Fauquier in the State of Virginia under the command of Captain John Ball, Joseph Nelson was Lieutenant in said Company and Thomas Nelson was Ensign. We rendezvoused at the Mobbin Hills [Malvern Hills], after we were organized our Company was placed in a Regiment Commanded by Colonel Elias Edmunds. We marched to the neighborhood of Williamsburg where Cornwallis then lay. After some time he was drawn to Yorktown I continued in the service until about the 1st of October 1781 at which time his tour of three months expired and being sick was taken home. He knows of no person living by whom he can prove his said services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Rodham Kenner



[p 15: Standard supporting affidavit given by William Northan, a clergyman, and William J Morton.]

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Amended Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832
State of Kentucky Logan County: SS

On this 9 day of April 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the

³ *Thetis*.Coggins:102, VANavy:162, GMB:35, Dandridge:186, ship built for the VA Navy, 1778-81. Selby:255, Thomas Jefferson hoped to find some way to make the ship serviceable in the Chesapeake Bay, May 1780, but it was burned in 1781. Silverstone:20. Paullin:411.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20T.html>

Logan Circuit Court in the State of Kentucky now sitting Rodham Kenner a resident in said County of Logan in the State of Kentucky aged sixty-nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That this declarant saith that he was born in Fauquier County in the State of Virginia on the first day of August 1763, as he has often heard his father say, and as he has also seen recorded in a Bible in which his father's register was kept. He has no written record of his age.

If he ever obtained a written discharge for any part of the Services which he rendered in the War of the Revolution he does not now recollect.

He declares that he enlisted for three years in the Navy of the State of Virginia as set forth in his declaration of the 8th of November 1832 of which this is prayed to be a part, that he served his enlistment for said term, and at the expiration of said term he being attached to his Uncle under whom he had served, Captain Markham he voluntarily continued eight months in the Service after his term of enlistment had expired, making as he before stated three years and eight months for which said service – he never has received one farthing of pay, during which time he served as Steward to the Cabin, Steward to the Ship, and as gunner occasionally he recollects a number of incidents which occurred during his service in the Navy of Virginia which he does not deem it necessary to set forth herein, as he might from the lapse of time not be able to give them in the order of time in which they occurred, he cannot therefore state at what particular time he served in the several Capacities in which he served as set forth above.

He served a three months tour in the infantry as set forth in his said declaration for which he never received a written discharge nor one farthing in Compensation therefore. He does recollect he received a certificate of this tour, but does not now recollect its purport or whether it was a discharge it is lost or misplaced. In addition to the Affidavit of William Northan a minister of the Gospel who knew this declarant in Virginia almost from his arriving at manhood and ever since his removal to the State of Kentucky, and Affidavit of W J Morton who has known me for many years past and the letter of Governor Breathett which accompanied his declaration, the following gentleman residing in my County and neighborhood will also testify to my character and standing as a Citizen and the belief of my having served in the War of the Revolution to wit George G Foster, Levi Turner, Joseph Haddon and Noah Northan.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Rodham Kenner

[George G Foster, Levi Turner, Joseph Haddon and Noah Northan gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

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To the Commissioner of Pensions

The undersigned represents that she is the widow of Rodham Kenner deceased who was a Gunner in the Virginia State Navy in the Revolutionary War with Great Britain and was admitted to the benefits of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 and placed on the pension Role in the County of Logan and State of Kentucky at the yearly pension of \$104 per annum, when as she is advised he was entitled to much larger pension to wit 243.33 per year: Her said Husband died in Logan County Kentucky on the 24th day of August A.D. 1824 and his pension Certificate was surrendered by the undersigned, upon her drawing the balance due her said husband at the time of his death. She makes this statement for the purpose of having a Certificate issued to her for the increase of pension that was due her late husband at the time of his death and asked that it

may be awarded to her and delivered to Mr. Vespassian Ellis of Washington City to be sent to her
– Logan County Kentucky January 29, 1851

S/ Elizabeth Kenner, X her mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$144 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service
as a gunner in the Virginia Navy for 2 years.]

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

Cancel Chamber 3rd May 1784

I do Certify that Rodham Kenner is entitled to the proportion of land allowed a Sailor of the state
line for 3 years service

S/ Thomas Meriwether

S/ Benjamin Harrison

A Warrant of 100 acres issued to Rodham Kenner 4th May 1784
[a Copy]

Petition for Bounty Land

Rhodham Kenner – Gunner S. Navy

Rhodham Kenner received 100 acres of land for a service of three years as seamen. He
was enrolled as seamen on board the Robalor [?]⁴ Galley. I have not been able to find any
evidence of his being Gunner, none of the Papers now on file, in the first Auditor's office, show
that he was Gunner on board the *Page* Galley, the Ship *Dragon*, or the brig *Jefferson*; in which
vessels, he says he served at different times.

There is no evidence offered but his own statement on oath.

Under these circumstances, I am obliged to report the claim to bounty as Gunner doubtful or bad.

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c.

April 24th, 1834

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

State of Kentucky Logan County: Sct.

The affidavit of Rhodham Kenner of the County and State aforesaid taken at the clerk's
office in the County and State aforesaid on the 3rd day of December 1833.

The Affiant saith that he enlisted in the Navy of Virginia in the year 1777 sometime in the
month of August in Fauquier County in the State of Virginia under Captain James Markham
commander of the *Page* Galley for the term of three years, from said Galley he was transferred to
the Ship *Dragon* from said Ship he was turned over to the Brig *Jefferson* called in Honor of
Thomas Jefferson which was the last vessel he was required to serve in.

He served out his said enlistment of three years during which time he served in the

⁴ *Robalor*

Capacity of Gunner, and is now receiving a pension from the Government under the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 for service served.

He further saith that he served about eight months over and above the time for which he enlisted for he did not quit the service until the spring of the year 1781 say in the month of March.

He saith further that he never received a written discharge for his Services, said Captain Markham was his uncle and resided in the same County with himself for many years after the close of the War of the Revolution.

He saith further that he never received a cent of pay for said services in money or land or allowance & now sets up his claim therefore.

Subscribed & sworn to before the subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County & state aforesaid this 3rd day of December 1833.

S/ Rodham Kenner

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 2 separate files under the name Rodham Kenner

[7-page file: Documents as posted online are barely legible. I decided not to attempt to transcribed them since they do not appear to add anything to the facts stated above relating to the services of the veteran. The claim in this file is made in the 1850s by his heirs.]

2-page file as 'sailor'

I do hereby certify that Rodham Kenner Entered into the service in the Virginia Navy the first day of August 1777 & has his discharge this the 10th September 1780 he having served his time out.

S/ James Markham
August 9th, 1783