

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

Pension Application of John Kirkland S13634

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }

Mercer County viz }

made

This day John Kirkland senr personally appeared in open court and

oath That he is now in the seventy ninth year of his age & that he was a revolutionary soldier, that in the spring of the year 1776 He enlisted in Capt Theodorick Bland company of dragoons of the 1st Virginia Regiment, and Capt Bland was afterward promoted to be a Colonel of Dragoons 31 Mar 1777], that he enlisted for the term of two & a half years and faithfully served out his time, the s'd Bland being the Col and Richard Call his Captain, and I enlisted in Volandford[?] near Petersburg in the State of Virginia. That he was in the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] and several other skirmishes and that he faithfully served out his time and was honorably discharged in fall of the year 1778 in Winchester in the State of Virginia. That he is not a Pensioner of the United States neither has he ever been on the pension list and he hereby releases all other claims to a pension – he farther states that he again in the fall of the year 1779 He enlisted with Capt Edward Jones in Col Greens [John Green's] Regiment for the term of eighteen months and was detached into several other Regiments of the continal line of Virginia Troops and He continued to serve as a faithful soldier in Capt Jones Company until the expiration of his time of enlistment when he was again honorably discharged at Rudgelys Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill 12 mi N of Camden] in the state of South Carolina, being both enlistments a soldier of the Virginia Troops of the continental line. That I do not know of any person by whom I can prove my services except by strong circumstantial evidence He farther says that he has long since lost his discharges witness my hand this 6th day of July 1832 –

John hisXmark Kirkland

[Philip Board (pension application S14979) and John Bridges (S47819) deposed that after conversing with Kirkland they were convinced of his service. Charles Kirkland deposed that he had seen one of John Kirkland's discharges about 50 years previously.]

State of Kentucky }

Mercer County Viz }

On this 4th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the Mercer County court now sitting John Kirkland senr, 79 years of age a resident citizen of s'd county and state who being first sworn according to law makes oath to the following declaration for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the act of Congress passed the 7th day of of June 1832 viz I John Kirkland now seventy nine years of age a resident Citizen in the county of Mercer and State of Kentucky, do hereby declare that I entered the service of my country during the revolutionary war at the time and under the officers hereafter named In the spring of the year 1776 according to my recollection I enlisted in Capt Theodoric Blands company of of Light Dragoons for two years and a half at Petersburg in the state of Virginia and we first marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where we were stationed and were employd with Capt Dandridges [Alexander Spotswood Dandridge's] company in collecting provisions and on occasional excursions in the neighborhood as a guard, and late in the fall we were marchd to the North and met the Prisoners taken by Genl Washington at Princeton [3 Jan 1777] between Philadelphia and Trenton – and at Trenton we Halted some time and thence joined Lord Sterling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling] at Basking ridge and Morristown, and soon after Capt Bland was promoted to be a Major and then Colonel of our Corps, and then Captn Richd Call was my captain the whole time as well as I now can recollect, and when the British returnd from New Brunswick in Jersey, we took possession of the place and I was also in

Elizabeth town and at Newark and had several skirmishes with small parties of the enemy, and when the British sailed round for the Delaware, we returned and were stationed at different places above Philadelphia and when the British advanced on that place my Regiment with the main army met them at Brandywine where we had a severe battle, which lasted until near night, and as well as I now recollect Genl Stephens [Adam Stephen's] Brigade first gave way and we then retreated back, and were stationed not far from Germantown and not long after I was engaged in that Battle, which was a very warm one for a short time, and after this my company retired to Morris town where we continued making excursions during the winter and spring, and in June when the British left Philadelphia we were ordered to pursue them and at Monmouth we had another severe Battle with them, Genl Lee Brought[?] in the Battle but Genl Washington had to come up and [illegible word; see endnote] some unfortunate order which [Gen. Charles] Lee had given My company had a severe conflict for a short time – after this Battle, I was marched to the White Plains where I remained until my time was near expiring in the fall 1778 when I was marchd back to Winchester in Virginia when I was honorably discharged, which discharge I have long since lost or mislaid; after this Period I was in the Militia service twelve months but do not consider it important now to give a full statement as I was in the Regular army as dragoon two years and six months, first under Capt Bland and then under him as a Colonel during the short time – I further state that I have no documentary evidence of my age or services having long since lost them. I also state that I was born in the county of Prince George in the State of Virginia and was raised in Dunwiddie [sic: Dinwiddie] county where I resided when the war commenced, and I enlisted in Petersburg Virginia, I was an enlisted soldier in Col Blands Regiment of Dragoons, being a volunteer & not a drafted soldier. I do not know now of any person alive by whom I can prove my services except by imputation – after the revolutionary war was nearly over in the fall 1781 after Cornwallis was captured [19 Oct] at which time I was in the militia service in Carolina I removed to Kentucky now Mercer County where I performed several militia tours and guard as an Indian Spy, and was also with Gen'l [George Rogers] Clark then marched against the Indians on the Big Miami in the fall 1782 in Capt Dohertys [possibly John Dougherty's] company. I farther hereby relinquish all claim which I may have to any pension from the united states except the present or any other annuity, Witness my hand this 4th February 1832 [sic]

John hisXmark Kirkland

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Jn'o. Kirkland/ age 25/ height 5 6³/₄/ farmer/ born and residing in Prince George/ dark-brown hair/ hazel eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 1780 for 18 months.

At the Battle of Monmouth Gen. Washington had to countermand Gen. Lee's orders to retreat.

On 29 Mar 1853 John Kirkland, Jr. assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits due for the service of his father, who died in the fall of 1837.