

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Kirkpatrick S1845

Transcribed by R. Neil Vance and Susan K. Zimmerman
[Original spelling and punctuation retained]
Supplemented by Will Graves 4/10/2024 as shown in italics f24SC

State of Tennessee
Jackson County

On this 13th day of November 1832, personally appeared in open court before Jonas Griffith John Welch & William Gray, Esquires the Justices of the court of pleas & and Quarter Sessions for said county now sitting Robert Kirkpatrick a resident of Jackson County Tennessee aged seventy eight 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 under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

He volunteered on a three months tour in Camden District South Carolina where applicant then lived in August 1775 under Captain William Gaston, Lieut. Thomas Roberts, & Ensign James Kirk, & was marched to Snow Camp under the command of Genl Richardson [*Richard Richardson*] & joined the main army at Col Wynns¹, Crossed the Congaree river & marched towards the Indian lands & joined Genl. Sumpters [sic, Thomas Sumter's] army in that section of country. On Reedy river while commanded by Genl Sumpter they took one hundred and eighty Tories prisoner among whom was old Col Fletcher [sic, Thomas Fletchall], all of whom were sent to Charleston after being delivered to the low country people, they were then marched back towards the Congaree river & went home at this expiration of the tour, he is not certain whether Sumpter at this time ranked as Col. or Genl.

Applicant thinks in the summer of 1776 he again volunteered on a two months tour under Capt. Thomas Robins & Col. Neal² to go to the Cherokee Nation & marched through the nation in various direction destroying their towns & villages which was their great object to harass & destroy them in that way, on the tour they destroyed as many as five Indian towns.

In the spring of 1777 or 8 applicant again volunteered under Capt. Wm. Gaston, Lieut. Th. Roberts & Ensign Ja. Kirk who were the officers in his first tour, was marched about 220 miles & rendezvoused at Charleston where they were stationed about 3 months under the command of Genl. Richardson, he thinks the soldiers were discharged by Regiments, he got no written discharge, this was a three months tour.

In 1778 the applicant is not entirely certain as to date³ he again volunteered under Ensign James Kirk in Genl. Williamson's [*Andrew Williamson's*] army & as marched to Augusta, & to Ninety Six where they were stationed some time, while there, received information of some Indians going to join the British, were sent by Genl. Williamson in company of about three hundred men in pursuit of them at Ogeechee river on a creek of that river, killed nine Indians and one white man, took three Indians and one white man prisoners.⁴ Major Ross⁵ was killed in this action, the men commanded by Col. Hammond⁶ returned back to headquarters to Augusta immediately, and after remaining there about two weeks was discharged, this was a three months tour.

¹ Sic, Winn, either John Winn or Richard Winn, both of whom served as colonels in the South Carolina militia.

² Col. Thomas Neel 1730-1779, commanded the New Acquisition (York Co., S.C.) militia regiment. He was killed at the Battle of Stono June 20, 1779. His son, Thomas Neel, Jr., was also an officer and was killed on March 6, 1781.

³ This was probably 1779, based upon the engagement reported.

⁴ This engagement has various names and dates. March 29, 1779 is the date in *The Day it Rained Militia* Michael C. Scoggins and Walter B. Edger.

⁵ Maj. Francis or Frank Ross was an officer in the New Acquisition militia regiment. He commanded a detachment of approximately 200 mounted men that joined Ashe at Briar Creek prior to March 3, 1779. Some of these men were in the battle proper; others were captured when they returned to camp after Ashe's defeat.

⁶ Col. LeRoy Hammond

As well as applicant recollects in Feby 1779⁷ he again volunteered under Capt. Wm. Gaston, Lieut. Th. Roberts & Ensign James Kirk & marched to Plurusburg [sic, Purrysburg] on the Savannah River where he joined Genl. Williamson & was stationed there about a month after serving out a term of three months he went home, remained at home about a month & was recalled to Plurusburg, when he got back there Genl. Lincoln [*Benjamin Lincoln*] then had command who had arrived there in the interval, hearing that the British were at Charleston⁸ we were marched to about four miles of that place, on the point, we crossed the Edisto river, & after crossing the river we intercepted a large party of Tories driving negroes toward Savanna [*Savannah*], among whom we took a celebrated Tory by the name of Bill Cunningham [*William Cunningham*], from near Charleston returned home, this tour was five months.

Applicant is not entirely certain as to the dates but he is certain of the number of tours here set forth, has no documents or papers to show his services, & knows of no living witness by whom he can prove it, in all he served one year 7 months.

Answers to the first interrogatory⁹ prescribed by the War Department

1st Was born on the 19th of January 1754 in Camden District S. Carolina.

2nd Has a record of his age in his possession which he took from his fathers bible.

3rd was living in Camden District South Carolina when called into service

from Camden moved to Powels valley [sic Powell's Valley] in Virginia, part of it now in Tennessee, when he was taken prisoner by the Indians and kept by them five months. From Powels Valley to Madison County Kentucky from there to Green [?] County Ky from there he moved to Jackson County Tennessee where he now lives

4th In all six tours he went as a volunteer

5th Has but little recollection of any of the regular officers

His situation afforded little opportunity to form any acquaintances among them, he was acquainted with Col. Thompson a regular officer – the general circumstances of his service are set forth in the above declaration.

6th Applicant received no written discharge from any of his tours

7th There are a number of persons in his neighbourhood who will give him character as a man of veracity & truth & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit, Alexander Montgomery, William Hamilton, Clayton Rogers, Ralph Rogers & many others, & Ralph Rogers knows something of his service though was not together in the army -- [1 word] William Scandland will also testify to his veracity & [??] the Revd. Philip Mulkey also & their belief of his service[s].

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and his name is not on the pension roll of any state except the present.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

William Gaelbreath Clerk
of Jackson County Court

his
Robert ^ Kirkpatrick
mark

⁷ Probably 1780

⁸ *Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780: Siege of Charleston*
<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/> & <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

⁹ *The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:*

1st *Where and in what year were you born?*

2nd *Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?*

3rd *Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?*

4th *How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?*

5th *State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.*

6th *Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?*

7th *State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.*

[Phillip Mulky, a clergyman, and William Scanlane gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee

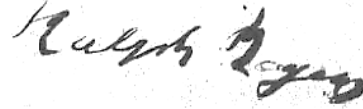
Jackson County}

I Ralph Rodgers [sic] a citizen of Jackson County Tennessee hereby certify that I lived a neighbor to Robert Kirkpatrick though in an adjoining District in South Carolina & was personally acquainted with him, knew of his being in the Revolution Army several different years on various tours, but cannot now recollect the years so as to give dates, more than it was between the year 1775 & 81 did not see him in the Army but knew of his actual service at that time as many others did at that time, he was believed & known in that Country to have been a good & brave soldier, & retains the character in this country of an honest man whose veracity can be relied on & is generally believed & reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution & I concur in that opinion.

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court

*William Gailbreath Clerk
of Jackson County Court*

Ralph Rogers [sic]¹⁰

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph Rogers". The ink is dark and the signature is written over a light, textured background.

¹⁰ Probably the same man as [Ralph Rodgers S4788](#)