

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Kean S22342

fn16PA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/2/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Pennsylvania Westmoreland County SS

On this 24th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County now sitting James Kean a resident of Derry Township in the County of Westmoreland aforesaid & State of Pennsylvania aged seventy-two 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served therein as herein after stated.

That in the spring of the year 1779 he enlisted at Hannah's town in the said County of Westmoreland as a common soldier in a company of Riflemen commanded by Captain Matthew Jack, first Lieutenant William Guthrie, for the term of six months. During the early part of this term Deponent was at Wallace's fort on the waters of Conemaugh, a frontier post. In the summer of 1779 Deponent marched to Fort Pitt (now Pittsburgh) & there joined Colonel Broadhead's Regiment. From Pittsburgh declarant accompanied Colonel Broadhead on his expedition of the Allegheny River against the Indians. During this expedition Fort Bayard was built near Kittanning by the Army & the Muney Towns destroyed. Deponent recollects of but one skirmish that took place with the Indians during that campaign. In the fall of 1779 the Army returned to Pittsburgh where after his term of six [months] was expired declarant was discharged. Of the officers attached to that expedition, in addition to those already mentioned declarant remembers the names of Major Bayard & Colonel Gibson & Captain Samuel Brady.

In the month of June 1781 Declarant enlisted in Captain Stokely's [Thomas Stokely's¹] Company of Rangers for & during the war (as he thinks) Colonel Loghrey [Archibald Lochry²] commanded the Detachment. Soon after his enlistment declarant marched to Wheeling on the Ohio, where Colonel Lochry expected to join General Clark's [George Rogers Clark's] troops. On finding that Clark's detachment had gone on down the River, with orders to him to follow Colonel Lochry's detachment immediately embarked & passed down the Ohio. On the 26 August 1781, being then below the mouth of the Big Miami, they were fired on by a large party of Indians commanded by Girty & Bryant by whom the whole party were either killed or taken prisoners. Declarant was among the prisoners. He was taken by the Indians first to Wapatongka [?] –now Chilicothe – thence to the mouth of upper Sandusky, thence to lower Sandusky – afterwards to the mouth of Buffalo Creek from whence declarant made his escape in the year

¹ FPA W4079

² An excellent account of the engagement known as Lochry's Defeat is posted at <http://boards.ancestry.com/topics.Military.amerrev.general/803/mb.ashx>

1784 & descended the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh – thence he returned home – He was near three years a prisoner among the Indians – He has no documentary evidence of his Services – that he knows of – Captain Matthew Jack under whom he first enlisted & Captain Robert Orr³ who commanded a company at Lochry's are still living and can testify to declarant's services. That he served in all during the Revolutionary War for the term of 3 years & 6 months including his captivity for which he claims pay –

And I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

1. Where & in what year were you born?

Answer – In the County Donegal in Ireland & I believe in the year 1760.

2. Have you any Record of your age & if so where is it?

Answer – I have no record of my age.

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

Answer. I lived in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania when called into service. And have lived in the same County & state ever since my return from the Indians in 1784 & now live there.

4. How were you called into service? Were you drafted – did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom?

Answer. The Answer to this Interrogatory is contained in the foregoing declaration.

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served – such Continental & Militia regiments as you can recollect – & the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I don't recollect the names of any other officers than those mentioned in the foregoing Declaration. I believe that the 8th Pennsylvania & 9th Virginia regiments were in Broadhead's campaign.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service? And if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it?

Answer. I received a discharge in writing from Captain Jack after the war, which I have since lost – I did not receive any other discharge.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity & good behavior & your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer – James Long, Colonel James Guthrie.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court

S/ Randal McLaughlin, Prot.

S/ James Kean, X his mark

State of Pennsylvania Armstrong County

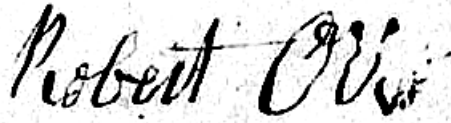
Personally appeared before me the subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace of said Commonwealth in and for the said County of Armstrong Robert Orr Senior Esquire who being duly sworn according to law doth depose and say as follows, to wit – that he is well acquainted with James Kean ever since he came to this country and that in the Campaign against the Indians in the year 1781 – said James Kean was a member of Captain Thomas Stokely's Company of Rangers. That in the spring or summer of 1781 Colonel Loughy [Archibald Lochry] was requested by General Clark to raise a few companies of the best Riflemen and accompany him (Clark) in an expedition against the Indians. That Colonel Lochry agreeing to do so, mentioned

³ [Robert Orr S4631](#)

the matter to several of his acquaintances and that this Deponent together with Captains Campbell – Stokely and Anderson raised companies and went with said Colonel Lochry to Wheeling expecting there to find General Clark but ascertaining there that General Clark had gone on, they pursued him down the River in boats and when within a few miles as they supposed and 15 or 20 miles below the mouth of the Big Miami, they were fired upon by a large party of Indians under the command of Brandt [Joseph Brant] the Mohawk chief and the whole party about 106 in number was killed or taken prisoners. That James Kean was among the number of those who were taken prisoners: after some time, the prisoners were divided among the several Indian Tribes. This Deponent falling to the lot of a Wyandot was taken to Detroit and afterwards exchanged. That some few days after said division of the prisoners we separated and this deponent heard or knew nothing of James Kean until some years afterwards he returned home to Westmoreland County Pennsylvania. Deponent further states that he saw Girty (Simon Girty) who was joined by Brandt and went to the Kentucky, this was shortly after their capture – And further saith not.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 23rd day of February 1833
S/ V. E. Brown

S/ Robert Orr

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Orr". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Pennsylvania militia.]