

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Irvine (Erwin) S39763 VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Apr 2015.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

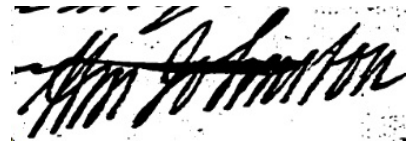
I do hereby Certify that John Irvine was inlisted in November 1782 to serve as a Soldier in the Virginia Line for the term of three years – that he was furlough'd and was not Call'd into Service again during the term. John Steele/ late Lt. Virg'a. line

Delivered Colo. J. Steele

I do Certify that I inlisted John Irvine the tenth day of November 1782 to served as a Soldier in the Virginia line of the army for the term of three years John Steel Lieut./ 5<sup>th</sup> Virg Regt  
Rockbridge County/ Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1782

Point of Fork Sept'r 10<sup>th</sup> 1783.

In consequence of orders from the Secretary at War Dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1783 John Irvin a private in the Virginia Line, is furlough'd untill call'd for by proper Authority  
Given under my hand the [illegible word] & day above  
[William Johnston] Capt [illegible word]



[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Rockbridge County – Erwin, John]

Commonwealth of Virginia }  
8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit }

This day John Irvin of the County of Rockbridge aged sixty years appeared before the subscriber one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia, and made oath That in the month of November in the State of Virginia under Lieut John Steele as a regular soldier in the Revolutionary Army to serve for three years, that he served until the month of September in the year following in the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Col [Samuel] Hawes, in the company commanded by Capt Johnston, when he was discharged to remain on furlough until he should be again called on. That he delivered his furlough to Col Jno Steele who obtained for him a patent but never returned the furlough, and that from his reduced circumstances he stands in need of the assistance of his country for support. Given under my hand this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 1818 Arch. Stuart

Rockbridge County to wit.

Patrick Cumberland of lawful age this day made oath before me R Grigsby a justice of the Peace for said County and made Oath “That John Irvin (to whom the forgoing Certificate [not transcribed] of Judge Stuart [undeciphered word]) did serve as soldier in the Regiment Commanded by Colo Haws – that he was discharged on furlough as stated by the said Irvin in the foregoing affidavit made before Arch. Stuart on the 16 of Sep. 1818. That he also knows that the said John Irvin did serve a tour of Militia duty having seen action with him in the same Regiment at the time of the surrender of the British Army at York” [19 Oct 1781] Given under my hand this 21st Nov 1820 R Grigsby

To the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of John Irvine of the county of Rockbridge respectfully sheweth – That he felt all the anxieties and wishes for the success of the Revolution in common with the warmest friends for the

liberty of his native country then struggling with Great Britain for Independence – He therefore took up his firelock and marched to the siege of York in Virginia – and continued until Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis] surrendered. Great Britain not satisfied with carrying on a warfare with her own soldiers that would have disgraced the most barbarous nations – but she had her emissaries hiring the savages to murder and scalp our defenceless women and children of the West. Your petitioner had scarcely got home before he heard of the Indians murdering our fronteer settlers. He with his usual zeal volunteered under Leut. Alex'r. Campbell [Alexander Campbell] – a very hard and hazardous campaign – to protect our defenceless fronteers. Your petitioner being so anxious for the success of the Revolution he enlisted with Leut. Jno. Steel (since a member of the House of Delegates and also of the Privy Council) for three years Nov'r. 1782 that he served until Sept'r 1783 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Reg't. under Colo. Haws. and Capt. Johnston – he was then discharged on furlough and never after called on – he gave his Furlough to J. Steel who obtained for him a warrant for his bounty land – but at that time no land was laid off for the soldiers and the country appropriated for that purpose – might be said to be in possession of the Indians – he therefore got only seven dollars for his Warrant. And for his pay he received only twenty dollars in Bob Morris' notes [see endnote]. Your Petition is now upwards of sixty years old and from the exposure while in the army – he is now very infirm – and not able to support himself. So long as he could support himself he never asked for any assistance – not even for the ballance justly due him but now he sees his country grown great, and enjoying the blessings of liberty and Independence and himself destitute, without the common necessaries of life. He therefor prays that your honourable body will take his case under consideration, and grant his such present & future relief as you in your wisdom shall think just and right – and your Petition will ever pray

John Erwin

We the subscribers do hereby certify that John Erwin in an old infirm man and not able to support himself & is without any visible property Nov'r 1820  
[26 signatures]

Dec'r 8<sup>th</sup> 1820 ref'd to Claims/ Reasonable Dec'r 11<sup>th</sup>/ Reported Dec'r 12<sup>th</sup>/ Bill drawn Dec'r 13<sup>th</sup>

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

Virginia Rockbridge county Sc

On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December in the year 1823 personally appeared in open court being a court of record for s'd county proceeding according to the course of the common law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine & imprisonment, John Irvine sometimes called John Irwin of said county aged about sixty four years, and being first duly sworn made the following declaration in order to obtain the provision of the acts of congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 & 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 viz. that in the fall of the year 1782 he enlisted in the county of Augusta as a private soldier under Lieutenant Jno Steele for the term of three years, that he was attached to Capt. Johnsons company in the regiment commanded by Col. Hawes, that he continued to serve as a private in s'd regiment until the fall of the year 1783 when he was discharged or furloughed until called on by proper authority at the point of York in Fluvanna county [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna rivers] by Gen'l. [Charles] Scott, peace having been concluded and in pursuance of the Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 he does solemnly swear that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income or estates, that he has no trade and is unable to labor being blind, & that he has no wife nor children

Jno hisXmark Irvine

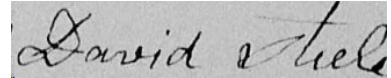
Schedule nothing

Virga Rockbridge County to Wit

This day [10 Nov 1823] John Nutt [possibly VAS443] personally appeared before me (a Justice of the peace for Rockbridge County) and made Oath that from the Autumn of 1782 till the autumn of 1783 he served in the Army of the revolution in the fourth regiment of the Virginia line under the Command of Col'n. Haws that John Irvine alias John Erwin served with him in the said regiment and during said time that they were Both furloughed untill further orders after having served about twelve months; the term of their enlistment being three years or during the War that they were never afterwards required to join the army on account as this affiant believes of peace being proclaimed shortly after or about the time of their being furlowed as above stated the said John Irvine alias Erwin was at the time of his enlistment an inhabitant of Rockbridge County and resides there at this time

Rockbridge County State of Virg'a Towit

This day David Steele [pension application S7605] of Augusta County & State aforesaid made oath before me James McDowell a Justice of the peace for the county first aforesaid that he knew and was well acquainted with John Irvine alias John Erwin when he inlisted in the Army of the United States in the War of the Revolution as to his inlistment affiant did not see said Irvine alias Erwin receive the Bounty but John Steele his relation who as an officer in the army aforesaid informed him that he had inlisted the said Irvine alias Erwin and that said Irvine alias Erwin remained in the neighbourhood where he inlisted with the United States uniform on him untill he John Steele marched him off. Affiant believes that said Irvine alias Erwin inlisted in the year 1782 and for during the War, that after the war ended said Irvine alias Erwin returned to his former residence in said counties of Rockbridge and Augusta and that said Irvine alias Erwin is now poor and appears to be nearly blind. Sworn to & subscribed the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1823 which I certify and also certify that David Steele afores'd is a man of credibility and respectability



NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists John Irwin/ age 20/ height 5' 5"/ brown hair/ grey eyes/ fair complexion/ farmer/ born in Dublin, Ireland/ residing in Rockbridge County/ enlisted in Augusta County on 10 Dec 1782 for three years. Sized on 8 Apr 1783.

“Bob Morris notes” were issued by Robert Morris, a major financier of the Revolutionary War.

A Treasury-Department document stated that the executor of John Irvine's estate received the final pension payment up to the date of his death on 19 Dec 1837.