

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thady (Thaddy) Kelly <sup>1</sup>R15579

f13VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

11/11/13: rev'd 3/3/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 8]

Pension Office  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1847

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of Thady Kelly, deceased who was a Captain of the Virginia State artillery during the revolution, and served to the end of the war. The case is embraced by the provisions of the Act of July 5, 1832, granting half-pay to certain officers, and it is my opinion that the claim should be allowed at the rate of \$300 per annum, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1783, when the war terminated, to the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 1788, shortly after which period he died. The amount is payable to Richard Randolph, administrator of said Kelly.

S/ Commissioner of Pensions

Approved  
S/ Secretary of War

Entered this on Book Act 5 July 1832

Pension Office  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1847

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of Thady Kelly, deceased, who was a Captain in the Virginia State artillery during the Revolutionary war. Under the act of the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1832 the claim for half-pay was allowed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March last; but payment was made only to the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1788, shortly after which it was supposed he died. Proof is now exhibited to show that he was alive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 1788. The administrator he is therefore entitled to half pay at the rate of \$300 per annum from January 24, 1788 to December 2, 1788. The amount should be paid to Richard Randolph, administrator of said Kelly

S/ Commissioner of Pensions

Approved  
S/ Secretary of War

Entered this on Reg. Act 5 July 1832

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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] incorrectly indexed under the name

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<sup>1</sup> N. A. Acc. No. 874 See 050 097 Half Pay Thady or Thaddy Kelly Va. Half Pay

"Shaddy Kelly". To me, the name throughout the documents in this file is spelled "Thaddy Kelly."

Petition for bounty land

Thaddy Kelly – Captain Continental line

This officer settled his accounts for a service from January first 1777 to September 18, 1779. In March 1783 he received 4000 acres of land for his service as Captain for three years. There was satisfactory proof then offered of his service for those years. There is no proof of record of his having served long enough to be entitled to additional bounty land: and September 1779 is the latest date to which he settled his accounts.

One witness says – Captain Kelly entered the service at the very commencement of the war & continued in service until the close of it.

A second witness says – that he knew Captain Kelly during the latter part of the Revolutionary war. He has an indistinct recollection of having seen him, that said Kelly, in the year 1779 & 1780 – and perfectly remembers having seen him in service in 1781 – Witness believes that Kelly served to the end of the war; but cannot state the fact as coming within his own knowledge.

A third witness says – that he was acquainted with Captain Kelly who was an active officer – that Kelly was in service in 1781 (the summer) – and was taken prisoner at York. This is the state of the evidence. Your Excellency will decide upon the claim.

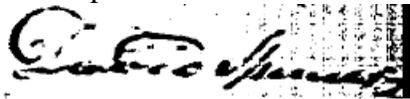
To his Excellency Governor Tazewell

respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c.

I David Spencer of the County of James City of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Captain Thaddy Kelly and recollect distinctly of seeing him frequently during the latter part of the revolutionary war. He frequently visited my father who resided in the said County and generally was dressed in his uniform. I have an indistinct recollection of seeing while in the Regular service in the year 1779 and 1780, but recollect distinctly seeing while he was in service in the year 1781 and have no doubt but that he continued in service until the close of the said war, but cannot state the fact as coming within my own knowledge. There are many circumstances that induce me to believe that he continued in service until the close of the war which would be unnecessary for me to detail.

S/ David Spencer



I Archer Hankins of James City County aged 68 years do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Captain Thaddy Kelly I frequently saw him while in service and always understood and believe that he commanded a company that surprised and attacked a British picket guard that was stationed not far from the College in Williamsburg commonly called Shabby Hall. He was a very active and [indecipherable word]<sup>2</sup> officer and I have no doubt but that he continued in service until the close of the Revolutionary War. The attack to which I allude was in the summer of 1781 while Lord Cornwallis was on his way to little York. He

paused in Williamsburg some short time before he reached little York. I think he went from this across James River at James Town to Norfolk and then to York where he was captured.

S/ Archer Hankins



[both the above affidavits are attested by John R Pearce, JP in James City County Virginia April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1834]

I Alexander W Green of James City County and now in my 75<sup>th</sup> year of age do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Thaddy Kelly and know that he enlisted at an early period of the Revolutionary War. I am under the impression that it was at the very commencement of said war, he enlisted in the Continental service and was a Captain in a rifle company and continued in active service until the close of the said war. I was very intimately acquainted with him, and for some time he resided in the same neighborhood with myself, but cannot venture to state particularly the season that he first entered the Army. He was a brave and active officer. After the war he moved up the country and I presume there died. He was sometime during the war to my knowledge an aid or acted in some such capacity to General Lafayette. Said Kelly has told me frequently that he acted as a spy for the American Army. I am satisfied that he was in the Army at least three years before the siege of York (1781) I served in 1780 or '81 a tour of duty under him as a volunteer.

S/Alexander W Green



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[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com)]

<https://www.fold3.com/image/616518826/kelly-thady-page-3-us-virginia-half-pay-pension-application-files-1778-1875>

[p 3]

Kelly, Thaddy

Captain, Virginia State Artillery.

The date of his death is not shown. He was living on December 2, 1788.

On August 26, 1780 a Court of Inquiry was held to examine the conduct of Captain Thaddy Kelly, late a Lieutenant in Captain Henry Heath's Independent Company in the Western Department, on charges of attempt to defraud the public. The Court declared the charges malicious and by no means supported.

Richard Randolph was the administrator of his estate

[p 6]

To the Printers

Gentlemen,

Be pleased to insert in your gazette the following piece; though a matter in which the publick is not immediately concerned, yet necessity compels me to this measure.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant

Thady Kelly

Whereas a certain Captain Henry Heath of Pittsburgh, and other persons, have in the hour of wanton baseness and [undeciphered word],<sup>3</sup> made attacks on my character, by a letter conveyed to his excellency and Council of this State, in a manner unknown to me, and which upon impartial enquiry, have been found to be inconsistent with even a shadow of truth I have taken the liberty of having the proceedings of a court of enquiry stated to the publick, by which they may be able to determine how little regard should be paid to reports and charges founded on fiction. I am well acquainted with Capt. Heath, and am sorry to say he is an old man perfectly without the benefit of that experience which should teach a man walking to the grave, sentiments which more honest; friendly, and benevolent; and I am sure in the cool moment of reflection, Capt. Heath will remember his invidious and unmerited attack upon my character, with shame and remorse, and must know that this unlucky affair for him greatly aggravates the multiplicity of his sins. In pity of his infirmities and insignificancy, I leave him to repent, though at a late hour

Thady Kelly

Proceedings of a court of enquiry held at Blandford the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1780, by order of Col. George Gibson, to inquire into the conduct of Captain Thady Kelly, late Lieutenant in Captain Heath's independent company in the Western Department, charged by Capt. Heath, with attempting to defraud the publick.

Major Lee President.

Captains Hamilton and Campbell, members.

Captain Kelly laid before the court a number of papers, among which is a certificate from the Pay Master General of the Western Department, wherein it appears that Capt. Kelly received no more money than he was justly entitled to. It further appears by a certificate of Brigadier General McIntosh, then commanding officer in the Western Department, that Kelly, while under his command, behaved himself as a good officer, and gave general satisfaction. The board after consulting the papers laid before them, are of opinion, that the charges exhibited by Capt. Heath, against Kelly, appear to be malicious, and by no means supported

(Signed)

John Lee, President

I certify that the above is a correct copy (with the inland relation of "reports and") from the Virginia Gazette of September 6, 1780, now in the Library of Congress.

Washington City

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1847

Edward B. Stelle, Asst. Libr.

[p 11]

The United States Dr. [Debtor] to Thady Kelly deceased

Captain Virginia State Artillery

for his half pay from January 24 1788 (up to which date he has heretofore been paid as per Settlement No. 3336) to December 2, 1788 when he was alive, being 312 days at \$300 per

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annum

256.44

Allowed by decision of the Secretary of War dated December 2, 1847

Act to provide for liquidating & paying Certain Claims of the State of Virginia approved July 5, and 32

Dollars 256.44

Treasury Department

3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor's Office

December 6, 1847

Stated by

J. Patrick

[p 12: Judgment dated December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1788 in which Thomas Pinchback was awarded the sum of £1.16 payable to him by Thaddy Kelley [sic].]

[p 16: Record of a judgment dated March 19, 1789 rendered in York County Virginia in the matter of Thady Kelly versus Francis Bright in which it is noted "This Suit abates by the Plaintiffs death."]

[p 18]

The United States Dr. To Thady Kelly deceased

Captain of the Virginia State Artillery

For his half pay from April 22, 1783 to January 24, 1788 <sup>shortly after which he died</sup>

4 years 277 days at \$300 per annum 1427.67

Allowed by decision of the Secretary of War dated March 22, 1847

Act to provide for liquidating per sand paying Certain claims of the State of Virginia Approved July 5, 1832

Dollars 1427.67

Treasury Department

3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor's Office

March 23, 1847

Stated by

J. Kirkpatrick

[p 31]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 1783, in the name of Thaddy Kelley as Captain of Artillery for £345.18.5, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this

14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1847

James E Heath Auditor

[p 33: Richard Randolph obtained letters of administration of the estate of Captain Thady Kelly deceased on January 18, 1847 in York County Virginia.]

[p 39]

Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates of 20<sup>th</sup> November 1782.

“Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee that the petition of Thaddy Kelly setting forth, that in the month of October, in the year 1779, he was appointed to the command of a company in the Garrison regiment of this State; That there are considerable arrears of pay and cloathing due him; for a settlement of which he has procured the necessary vouchers and waited on the Auditors of Public Accounts, who informed him, that his accounts cannot be settled until the rising of the present session of Assembly and praying relief is reasonable and that the Auditors of Public Accounts ought forth with to liquidate the petitioner’s accounts, and that his pay ought to commence from the date of his commission.”

[p 41]

Extract from Journals of House of Delegates 10 June 1784, pages 48 & 49. –

“Also, a Memorial of Thaddy Kelly: Setting forth that he entered into the service of his country at the commencement of the War, and continued either on the Continental or State line, until the close of it; that he conceives his services merit all those emoluments, which does have obtained who served during the same periods; but to his astonishment, he finds his name omitted in the last arrangement of State Officers; and praying the interposition of this Assembly, and that the reasons of such omission may be enquired into.”