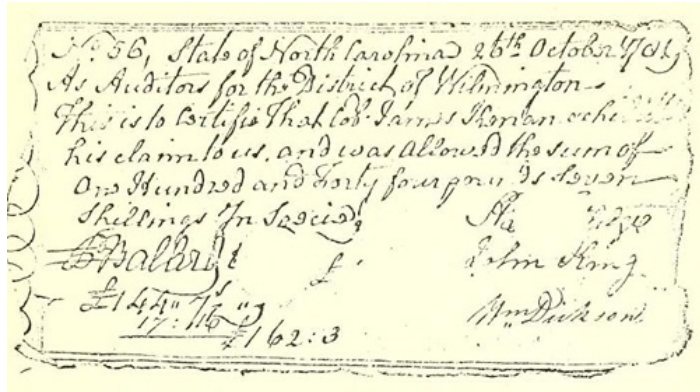


## Kenan, James <sup>[1]</sup>

## Kenan, James

by Thomas S. Kenan III, 1988

**23 Sept. 1740–23 May 1810**



Revolutionary war voucher issued to James Kenan. From The Kenan family and some allied families of the compiler and publisher.

<sup>[2]</sup>James Kenan, colonial and state official and Revolutionary <sup>[3]</sup>officer, was born at his father's plantation, The Lilacs, in Turkey, N.C., the oldest son of Thomas and Elizabeth Johnston Kenan. Elected sheriff of Duplin County <sup>[4]</sup>, he served from 1762 to 1766 and again from 1785 to 1786. Kenan led a company of volunteers to Wilmington <sup>[5]</sup> in 1765 to oppose enforcement of the Stamp Act <sup>[6]</sup>, and he was a member of the Assembly in 1773 and 1774 and of the Provincial Congress <sup>[7]</sup> in August 1774, August 1775, and November 1776. He was chairman of the Duplin Safety Committee and a member of the Wilmington Committee.

As colonel of the Duplin militia <sup>[8]</sup>, Kenan participated in military operations during the American Revolution <sup>[3]</sup>. Immediately after the war he was chosen brigadier general for the Wilmington District. He served ten terms in the North Carolina Senate <sup>[9]</sup> between 1777 and 1793, was a member of the state constitutional convention <sup>[10]</sup> in 1788–89, and became councilor of state. He also was a trustee of The University of North Carolina <sup>[11]</sup>.

Kenan married Sarah Love in 1770, and they had eight children: Thomas <sup>[12]</sup>, Catherine, Elizabeth, Owen, Susannah, Daniel Love <sup>[13]</sup>, Sarah, and Jane. A member of the Presbyterian church, he died at his plantation in Turkey. His grave has since been moved to the Liberty Hall Restoration in Kenansville.

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Walter Clark, ed., *State Records of North Carolina*, vols. 12, 19–21 (1895–1903).

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Faison W. McGowen, ed., *Duplin History and Government* (1971).

Alvaretta Kenan Register, ed., *The Kenan Family* (1967).

### Additional Resources:

Kenan Family Papers, 1748-1996 (collection no. 04225). The Southern Historical Collection. Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/k/Kenan\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/k/Kenan_Family.html) <sup>[14]</sup> (accessed February 15, 2013).

Register, Alvaretta Kenan. *The Kenan family and some allied families of the compiler and publisher*. Statesboro, Ga., J. S. Kenan II. 1967. <https://archive.org/details/kenanfamilysomea00regi> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed February 15, 2013).

"James Kenan." N.C. Highway Historical Marker F-26, N.C. Office of Archives & History. <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=F-26> <sup>[15]</sup> (accessed February 15, 2013).

(Raleigh) *News and Observer*, February 4, 1950

A. T. Outlaw, "General Kenan, Duplin's Revolutionary Leader" (copy in marker files, Research Branch, North Carolina

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