

# Kerenhappuch Norman Turner

From FamilySearch notes, attributed to "pcaneer2724685".



"Among the brave soldiers in the campaign through the Carolinas, including the great battle of Cowpens, Kings Mountain, and the famous retreat across the great rivers of North Carolina to the Speedwell Iron Works on Troublesome Creek, were General Green settled his army after the battle, were the sons and grandsons of a brave woman, who was not only the "Mother of a Brave Patriot," but who herself rendered material service to the cause. etc."

"This was Kernhappuck (sic) **Norman** Turner, wife of James Turner, said to be a descendant of William the Conqueror. Possessed of the courageous spirit of her husband, as well as noted for her skill in nursing the sick, and her wisdom, tact, and energy --- She loved her children with a true mother's devotion, but she loved her county also. Sending forth her sons to the defense of this country, she exacted from them the promise that she should be kept informed of their whereabouts and needs that she might continue to minister to them. One of these sons received a fearful wound in the Battle of Guilford Court-House. But the brave woman came to him, riding on horseback all the way from her home in Maryland, and herself, alone, nursed him back into life and service."

Source: "Extract from American Monthly for Feb. 1893, pp 205-206 Article written by Mrs. Theodore Whitfield of Richmond, VA," which was "taken from a copy of Mrs. Florence Howell's application for membership to D.A.R." -----

## **Kerenhappuch** Nurses Her Grandson, James **Norman** Smith

...James Turner Smith volunteered at seventeen to fight in the Revolutionary War. He was critically wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina and lay neglected for hours with his thigh completely shattered. Finally he was moved to a log home near the battlefield, where doctors planned to cut the leg off. But Smith would not consent to the amputation. As word of the bloody battle spread to Maryland, his grandmother **Kerenhappuch Norman** Turner, 90, rode all the way on horseback to be with him, where she nursed him and others back to health. She bored holes in large tubs mounted to the rafters

above him. The tubs were kept full of cool water and allowed to drip, continuously cleansing his wound. Today there is a monument at Guilford Battleground to the memory of **Kerenhappuch** Turner's spirit and courage. It was a year before he could be moved, but James Turner Smith recovered and married Constantia Ann Ford. Of their five children, only James **Norman** and his twin Charles Allison survived to adulthood.

(Note: there is some discussion as to the accuracy of the age of **Kerenhappuch** and the distance she rode to get to the Guilford Courthouse Battleground. BWS) From: History of DeWitt County, Texas; Edited by Patsy Goebel, Cuero, Texas. (Note: the source of the above information was a handwritten, four-volume Personal Memoirs, written in 1860, by Sgt. Smith's son, James **Norman** Smith).

Another Reference to Material Aid provided to the Revolution by **Kerenhappuch** In their book, Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims - in three volumes, Volume III, Abercrombie and Slatten reference the following claim in Halifax County, Virginia: Kearenhappnek (sic.) Turner 350# beef Pounds Sterling 3-10; 48# bacon Pounds Sterling 2-8" From: Abercrombie, Janice L. and Slatten, Richard; Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims - in three volumes, Volume III; Iberian Publishing Company, Athens, GA; section titled Halifax County, pp 441

HEROINE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION KARRENHAPPUCH  
**NORMAN TURNER** BORN IN 1688 PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY NORTH  
CAROLINA UNITED STATES MARRIED **JAMES TURNER SR.** DIED IN  
1805 AGE 104 YEARS RICHMOND COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA  
UNITED STATES

**KARRENHAPPUCH NORMAND TURNER** was named after biblical Job's favorite daughter-the fairest in the land. She lived on her husband's large plantation, was the mother of 5 children and had a great posterity and had some of the bravest sons and daughters of North Carolina. They became Congressman & Governors.

On 15th March 1789 the Battle of Guilford Court House occurred between General Green and General Cornwallis. Captain **JAMES TURNER** (Karrenhappuch's son) fought beside General Green and his Army. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse was the beginning of the end of the Revolutionary war. The day before the battle it rained so hard they had to march their troops through wet and muddy fields.

At day break both armies move into Guilford. The battle lasted 1 to 2 hours. It was vicious and bitterly contentious. The British won because they held the field and they lost 1/4 of their army. Guilford Court was built upon a hill with gradual slopes. The ground around the Court House was covered with dense trees and a stream nearby. The area immediately around the court was cleared. The British attacked the front of the American lines. While the British and American troops were fighting some of the troops actually went inside the House. The women and children of the town had gathered in the Court House to defend themselves. They only had knives and sticks to defend themselves. It was considered one of the most shameful incidents in history as the enemy came in and shot them to death. In the ensuing battle between General Green and his army all but a few of the soldiers were killed. Those few soldiers not killed were left on the ground dying. Karrenhappuch **Norman Turner** heard news of this. Though she was 90 years old at the time , she got on her horse and she rode from her home in Maryland 60 miles to the battle field where she nursed and cared for the wounded. One of those survivors was her son Captain **James Turner**. She made holes in a tin tub and erected it on the roof to run ice cold water over his wounds for days She became a HERO.

This is the only Monument erected to a HEROINE of the American Revolution, Erected at GUILFORD, NATIONAL MILITARY PARK NORTH CAROLINA UNITED STATES In the

Monument Karrenhappuch **Norman Turner** is represented with a CUP in one hand and a TOWEL in the other hand, She is dressed as a nurse. Minnie Rose Nelson(Harvey) Father --Lorenzo Snow Nelson-----mother--Ella E Thomas father-Preston Thomas-mother -Nancy Moorhead mother-Elizabeth **Turner**----son **James Turner** husband of Karrenhappuch **Norman** My 5th Generation Great Grandmother (I think) So proud of such a Great Lady

Mrs. **Kerrenhappuch** Turner

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen: It has been truly said that a people is poor who has no days to celebrate and a people is rich whose history is full of heroic days. The history of North Carolina, glorious as it is, in its recital of heroic virtue and brave deeds, tells us of no day more lustrous than that we celebrate today — "the supreme moment in the life of Cornwallis, and the crisis in the Revolution", when the fatal wound was given to royal authority, from which it lingered and lingering died seven months thereafter at Yorktown. I rejoice and exult with you over the fact that today our annual pilgrimage to this historic spot, hallowed scarcely more by the memories of the brave deeds of the dead heroes who made it famous than by the patriotic and unselfish efforts of the few who have been dutifully engaged in the pious work of preserving and perpetuating its name and fame, is under auspices most delightful and inspiring. ...We are here today to witness again further evidence of its self-sacrifice and labor of love. Yonder stand — hidden as yet from your view — two more monuments which we are met to dedicate and unveil today, and which shall stand through coming time to tell you and yours and those who shall come after you of the virtues of a brave, good woman, and the story of a great man. The story of this great man, Nathaniel Macon, you have just heard from the eloquent gentleman (Mr. Pittman) who preceded me. It is for me to tell you something of the brave woman in honor of whose memory we

today unveil on this sacred spot the first monument ever erected on American soil to a Revolutionary heroine — its granite crowned with a handsome statue, and emblazoned with words of everlasting bronze. In song and in story— "in thoughts that breathe and in words that burn"— have been told again and again the story of the virtues, the brave deeds, the sacrifice, the suffering, and the heroism of the men who fought, bled, and died in that terrible war for Independence ; but the story of the privation, the suffering, the daring, and the dying of the grand reserve army of that far is yet untold and unsung. The women, by their lonely hearthstones, surrounded by helpless children, in the primeval forests, without mail or telegraph or railroad to bring them tidings of the absent loved ones — their griefs, their sorrow, their suspense, their anxiety, their agony— their death borne without a murmur. They died not in the exciting and exulting rush of battle. Theirs was the long, slow, wasting, lingering death — a thousand deaths. Sometimes it was coldblooded murder ; some- times it was the cold, piercing, cutting dagger of helpless grief; and sometimes they fell under the crushing burden of domestic care and trouble. Their battles were fought in the darkness and loneliness and silence of their homes. They heard not the martial music which thrilled heroes; they felt not the elbow touch which heroes feel in the mad rush of battle. There was never a shout or cheer to give them courage and strength. There were no medals awarded to them; no promotions were bestowed to stimulate them. Theirs was a lonely march to death — and yet how bravely and how patiently they fought to the end no tongue or pen can ever tell. These were heroines — and whilst in village, hamlet, town, and city, from ocean to ocean, we have with stone and brass built memorials of every name, size, and kind in honor of our heroes the mothers, the wives, and the daughters of that awful time, who toiled and suffered and died for their country, are "unwept, unhonored, and

unsung". Not only did they suffer and fight and toil thus in their lonely and desolate homes, but these ministers of compassion, these angels of pity, whenever possible, went to the battlefields to moisten the parched tongues, to bind the ghastly wounds, and to soothe the parting agonies alike of friend and foe, and to catch the last whispered messages of love from dying lips. Not since Aaron stood between the living and the dead has there ever been a ministry so gracious, so patient, so self-sacrificing, so tender, so gentle, and so faithful as was that of the heroines of the Revolution. Among the brave women who hastened to the field of the battle of Guilford Courthouse to minister to the wounded and the dying was Mrs. **Kerenhappuch** Turner, whose sons and grandsons were with General Greene in this battle. Mrs. **Kerenhappuch** Turner was the wife of James Turner, one of the early settlers of Maryland, possessed of his courageous spirit, as well as noted for her skill in nursing the sick, and her wisdom, tact, and energy. She loved her children with the devotion of a true mother, but she loved her country also. Sending forth her sons to the defense of their country, she exacted from them the promise that she should be kept informed of their whereabouts and their needs, that she might continue to minister to them. One of these sons received a fearful wound in the battle of Guilford Courthouse, but the brave mother came to him, riding on horseback all the way from her home in Maryland, and herself nursed him back into life and service. Placing him in a log cabin, near this spot whereon we now stand, upon the floor, beneath the bare rafters, she bored holes in tubs which she suspended from these rafters above the ghastly wounds, and keeping these tubs filled with cool water, from the "Bloody Run" near by, the constant dripping upon the wound allayed the fever, and she thus improvised a treatment as efficacious as the "icepack" of modern science. One of her daughters, Elizabeth, married Joseph Morehead, of North Carolina, of Scotch

ancestry, and her descendants have ever been noted for their love of country and public spirit. Another daughter, Mary, married Charles, the brother of Joseph Morehead, and left offspring in the West. Of these, Gov. Charles S. Morehead, of Kentucky, and his cousin, Gov. James Turner Morehead, of the same State, have been eminent statesmen, having served not only as Governor, but also in the Senate of the United States from that State. The North Carolina branch of the family has given to this State the late Gov. John M. Morehead, one of the greatest, if not the greatest Governor our State has yet produced, who was a great leader of the old Whig party, and the greatest internal improvement man the State has yet known and his brother, Hon. James Turner Morehead, one of the greatest and most distinguished lawyers of his day in this State, and who at one time represented this District in Congress, where he could have remained indefinitely but for his positive refusal to remain in Congress. He preferred his profession, to which he was devoted. The late Governor Morehead is survived by one son, Maj. J. Turner Morehead, now of New York City. The only surviving sons of the late Hon. James Turner Morehead are Col. James T. Morehead, one of the leading and most distinguished members of the Greensboro bar, who, like his father, is devoted to his profession, preferring it to political honors, and Maj. Joseph M. Morehead, who is now, and has been for some years, the acting President of the Guilford Battle Ground Company. It was the latter who conceived the idea of erecting the beautiful monument which we dedicate and unveil today in honor of the memory of **Kerenhappuch** Turner. The conception of this idea was submitted by him to his patriotic kinsman, Maj. J. Turner Morehead, of New York City, who like all members of this distinguished family, is noted for his public spirit, and who, with enthusiasm as well as with purse and brain, joined President Morehead in the execution of the idea under the auspices of said

Company. These two men are, therefore, entitled to the honor of erecting here the first monument ever built in America to a Revolutionary heroine — an honor of which they may well be proud, and which entitles them to the gratitude of every man who loves his country. They have set an example worthy of imitation, which it is to be hoped will stimulate others to like manifestation of patriotic and filial piety. We honor ourselves in honoring the brave and good woman of whom I speak today. Her long ride, her gentle touch, her tact, her skill, and her heroic service, saved the life of her son. It was an ancient Roman, touched perhaps by a transient gleam of Christian truth, who said when he turned aside from a career of Asiatic conquest that he would rather save a human life than become master of all the dominions of Mithridates. This is but one life of which history and tradition tell us. How many were saved by the tender ministry of the brave women of that awful time will never be known. The history of the part enacted by them in that great struggle has never been written. I salute the Daughters of the American Revolution, who honor us today with their presence, and bid them godspeed in their pious and patriotic work of rescuing from oblivion the history of those heroic days. They can render their sex and their country no greater service than that of rescuing from oblivion those records and traditions which tell us of the glorious deeds and godlike sacrifices of the brave women of those days.

It is fit, Mr. President, that the Daughters of the Revolution should join with us in the tribute we pay today to one who glorified her sex in her homely toils and in her angelic ministry upon this battlefield, where valor wrote in crimson letters ' ' the purple testament of bleeding war ' '. It is meet, too, that on this Sabbath of our government this uncounted multitude should come and

share with us the honor of dedicating to a brave woman this beautiful monument, around which in the coming years youth and age shall gather and linger to read its story, and to study the annals emblazoned by the Christlike services of the heroines of the Revolution. Then, upon this holy ground, whereon fell the tears of our mothers and the blood of our fathers in the starless night of their supreme effort, let us reverently uncover in the presence of this most fitting and beautiful memorial to the memory of a Revolutionary mother. '

' The bravest battle that was ever fought, Shall I tell you where or when? On the maps of the world you will find it not, 'Twas fought by the mothers of men. Nay, not with cannon or battle shot, With a sword, or nobler pen; Nay, not with eloquent word or thought From mouths of wonderful men. But deep in a walled-up woman's heart, A woman that would not yield. But bravely, silently bore her part — Lo, there is that battlefield. No marshaling troops, no bivouac song. No banner to gleam and wave; But, oh, these battles they last so long — From babyhood to the grave. Yet, faithful still as a bridge of stars, She fights in her walled-up town; Fights on and on in the endless wars. Then silent, unseen, goes down. Oh, ye, with banners and battle shot. And soldiers to shout and praise, I tell you the kingliest victories fought Are fought in these silent ways. Oh, spotless woman, in a world of shame. With splendid and silent scorn. Go back to God as white as you came.

— The kingliest warrior born." (poem by Joaquin Miller 1837-1913) - George S. Bradshaw, Esq. Taken from his address "Mrs. Kerenhapputch Turner: A Heroine of 1776, An Address On Occasion of the Unveiling of a Monument to Her Memory, at the Guilford Battle Ground" Given July 4, 1902 This text was found in the digitized copy of the work that can be found here:

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t44q8pn06;view=1up;seq=3>

From a note attributed to "Janath Flake Johnson1"  
"Kerrenhappuch, during the revolutionary war rode horseback from her home in Maryland to North Carolina, went on the battle field at Culliford Court house, rescued her son James, whom they thought mortally wounded. Took him to a log house, put a large barrel in the loft filled it with pure cold spring water allowing it to drip on the wounds. This kept the fever down and the wounds healed and she returned him to service. The grounds around the court house at Culliford, NC were made into a memorial park with monuments, one for her.

Kerenhappuch Norman (Turner)  
Elizabeth Turner (Morehead)  
Nancy Ann Morehead (Thomas)  
Preston Thomas – Sarah Ann Jane Morehead (2-way relationship)  
Martha Thomas (Rasicot)  
Clara Jane Rasicot Brunt  
George Earl Brunt  
Annette Taylor  
Brad-Teri-Doug-Jenn-Kim  
YOU