

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Virginia Rejected Claim of James Nickens VAS1121

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 Dec 2013.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#)]

The memorial of Jemima Bass only heir at law of Nathaniel Nickens [VAS1124] dec'd. and James Nickens dec'd.

Your memorialist Jemima Bass, that she is a resident of the county of Norfolk, that during the Revolutionary war, a certain Nath'l. Nickens and James Nickens enlisted as seamen in the State Navy. That they enlisted as your memorialist believes to serve for and during the war, that she understood from her father James Nickens, that he and his brother Nath'l. Nickens served on board a vessel named the "Caswell" and she supposes they served for and during the war, and that they were regularly discharged after the termination of the war. That the said Nath'l. Nickens died leaving no wife or child, and the nearest relative he left was James Nickens who was also a seaman, that the said James Nickens died leaving your memorialist Jemima Bass his only child and heir at law, who is now in her sixty six year of age. Your memorialist therefore humbly prays that the Executive of Virginia will grant unto her such warrants for the military Bounty Land as may be due for the services of the said Nath'l. Nickens seaman dec'd. and of the said James Nickens seaman dec'd. Signed/ Jemima herXmark Bass
[10 April 1835]

Report upon the claim of the heirs of Nath'l Nicken, a seaman, of the State Navy, for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor/ Sir,

Nathaniel Nickens has received 100 acres of land, for his services, as Seaman in the State Navy. There is no proof, that there was more than one Nath'l. Nickens in the S. Navy. The name of this Seaman occurs, but once, on the Army Register. Respectfull submitted/ John H. Smith Com'r. &c
May 26th 1835 [see endnote]

NOTES:

The Nathaniel Nickens VAS420 who received bounty land served aboard the ship *Tempest*, while the Nathaniel Nickens in the above claim was said to have served aboard the galley *Caswell*. Contrary to Smith's report, therefore, they may have been different people. Smith's report gives no explanation for the rejection of claim for service by James Nickens, but it appears that he also confused him with a different veteran with a similar name: James Nickens S38262.

The 1830 federal census of Norfolk VA lists Jimima Bass as head of a family of free persons of color.