

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

Virginia Rejected Claim of James Nickens VAS1127
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following is among the [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#) in the file of Hezekiah Nickens VAS1120. No application was found. The file card is labeled “Nickens, Hezekiah– Seaman– Navy. The file includes a certification from Frederick County VA and the following abstract by John H. Smith, who made recommendations to the Governor in such cases.]

Memorial

Heirs

Jas. & Hezekiah Nickens

Sailors Sct

Reg'd. 19 Nov'r. 1834.

Rec'd. from Com'r. 20 Nov'r. 34

1835 Afsd Hez. Neckens allow'd – Seaman 3 yrs

Js Neckens rejected – having drawn

Cert[?] Jno Smith

[The following is in the online file of “James Nickins” among [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Menassas Gap, Warren County Feb'y. 20, 1837

Sir [Wm. H. Richardson Esqr. Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia] About two years since, I deposited with you for examination, the claims of James Nickens & others, Heirs of James Nickens & Hezekiah Nickens who were seamen of the State Navy of the in Rev'y. War, James Nickens and Hezekiah Nickens are credited on the Rolls with 3 years service in the State Navy. a Warrant was Issued for the Service of Hezekiah, the claim for the service of James was not allowed, for reasons, that a land Warrant had been issued in the name of James Nickings [see endnote] for land service, and the presumption was, that the 100 acres should have been charged to James Nickens who was a seaman, instead of James Nickings for land service.

Having ascertained that there was a man residing in Stafford County Va. who was in the Receipt of a pension for Rev'y. Services, induced me to make the inquiry what service he rendered, to entitle him to a pension, an extract from his declaration [by James L. Edwards, US Pension Commissioner] shows that he was entitled to land bounty, for land service, as well as Navy Service, if I am rightly informed the Rolls do not charge either of the names with land for services in the Navy, but for land service 100 acres is charged to James Nickings. This James who is now living and rendered land service must be the man who drew the 100 acres, as charged in the Books. I think it a fair conclusion. Please give the claim another investigation, and compare the allegations set forth in the pensioners declaration with your documents, perhaps by this course you can the better ascertain to which of the soldiers, the 100 acres issued in the Name of James Nickings was properly changeable; – as I am informed the James Nickens who I represent rendered no service except in the Navy, as aforesaid./ Very Respectfully yr. ob servt/
Wilford G. Settle

NOTES:

A note in the file reads, “1837 May 30 Rejected D Campbell (David Campbell, Governor of Virginia). The above indicates that the claim for bounty land for service by James Nickens was rejected because John H. Smith confused him with the James Nickens who filed pension application S38262. Gov. David Campbell evidently let the error stand.

The 1830 federal census of Frederick County lists James Nickens as head of a household of free persons of color.