

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

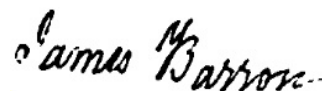
Virginia Bounty-Warrant Claim of James Thomas VAS1153
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[From [bounty-warrant claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do Certify that I was well acquainted with James Thomas, a man of Colour late of the Borough of Norfolk, who served throughout the Revolutionary War in the Capacity of a Boatswain in the State Navy of Virginia. With the exemplary Conduct of said James Thomas, I was well acquainted having had frequent opportunities of witnessing it. He served as the Boatswain of the Brig Northampton in the year 1779 (originally Commanded by Captain Francis Bright [pension application R16]) He was a fellow of daring, and though a man of colour, was respected by all the officers who served with him. After the War, and for many years, he was respectfully noticed, and held in much esteem by all the Revolutionary officers, for his general good Conduct during the said War.

This testimonial of his meritorious Conduct, I furnish with pleasure to those of his descendants, who are applying for his Land Bounty for his services during the Revolutionary War, provided the same has not already been received.

Given under my hand this 21st day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty eight James Barron [W12264]



[Because the online image of the following is so poor, the transcription should be used with more than ordinary caution.]

The Memorial and petition of Nancy Bell a free woman of colour to his Excellency David Campbell Governor of Virginia which Nancy is the surviving heir of James Thomas

Your memorialist who was born in Norfolk County Virginia and has ever since resided in that county respectfully represents that her father Jas. Thomas a free man of color served throughout the Revolutionary War in the State Navy of Virginia in the capacity of a Boatswain, and as well as your memorialist remembers served on board of many of the state Ships and chiefly in the brig Northampton Commanded by Captain Francis Bright, whom though your memorialist was then young she well knew.

So many of the persons who have served in the said war, have died that your memorialist has found it somewhat difficult to resort to those who survived the Revolution whose probabilities of judging of the services of her Father would enable to establish her claim for his services.

She has been fortunate enough however to find in Commodore James Barron whom she has known from his childhood, and who served as she well knows in the Revolution, a Witness to prove, as she hopes satisfactorially, the service of her father and of his Claim to Land Bounty.

Your Memorialist is free born and, as his only surviving heir, is entitled to it. She humbly prays that Herbert A. Claiborne Esq Counsellor at Law in Richmond may be permitted to plead her cause and if in your Excellency's judgment her claim appears just and suitable that the Register of the Land Office may be requested to deliver him any Land Warrant to which she may be found entitled, and as in duty bound she will ever pray.

Nancy herXmark Bell

[26 Dec 1838]