

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to John Paul Jones VAS1299

[vsl 37VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/16/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 5]

To the Governor and Council of the State of Virginia

The Memorial of the devisees of Commodore John Paul Jones

Respectfully represents

That, there testator was a citizen of Virginia and a resident in the Town of Fredericksburg when he accepted a commission in the Continental Navy dated the 22nd day of December 1775 (see Journal of Congress Vol. 1st, page 212) as first Lieutenant to the *Alfred* on board of which Ship before Philadelphia he hoisted with his own hand the flag of freedom the first time it was displayed.

That as Captain of the *Ranger*, in Quiberon bay, on the 14th of February 1778 he claimed and obtained from Monsieur La Motte Piequet the first salute the flag of the infant republic received from a foreign power.

That, he had been residing in Fredericksburg about two years previous to accepting his commission.

That, he continued to serve until the Independence of his adopted Country was acknowledged and the war ended; and he was at the time of his death senior officer in the United States Navy,

Your Memorialists deem it unnecessary to avert particularly to the services he rendered during the Revolution the documents relative to them are filed in the office of the Secretary of Congress and form a part of the history of that eventful period; for a portion of them, however, they beg leave to refer to the Report of the Board of Admiralty of the 28th March 1781, from which the following is extracted:

"That ever since Captain Jones first became an officer in the Navy of these States, he hath shown an unremitting attention in planning and executing enterprises calculated to promote the essential interests of our glorious cause.

"That, in Europe, although in his expedition through the Irish Channel in the *Ranger* he did not fully accomplish his purposes, yet he made the enemy feel that it is in the power of a small squadron, under a brave and enterprising commander, to retaliate the conflagration of our defenseless towns; and took the *Drake*, a ship, in number of guns and men, superior to the *Ranger*, which she was sent out to capture.

"That, by his reputation and address, he obtained the command of a squadron under the

flag and laws of these States, at the expense of our generous ally, and therewith captured the *Serapis* and *Scarborough*, spreading universal alarm through the island of Great Britain and its dependencies.

"That, in his expedition with that squadron, he made a number of prisoners, sufficient to redeem all our fellow citizens in British dungeons; and established a cartel for their exchange.

"That, he hath made the flag of America respectable among the flags of all nations.

"That, returning from Europe, he brought with him the esteem of the great and best friends of America; and hath received from the illustrious monarch of France that reward of warlike virtue which his subjects obtained by a long series of faithful services or uncommon merit.

"The board are of opinion that the conduct of Captain John Paul Jones merits particular attention and some distinguished mark of approbation from the United States in Congress assembled.

"Signed, by order of the board

S/ Fra: Lewis

"Board of admiralty, March 28, 1781."

Your Memorialists are advised that there testator being a resident of the Virginia when he entered the service and having faithfully served from the commencement to the end of the war became entitled to the Land Bounty promised to all who should so serve.

They therefore hope that the gratuity allowed by law to officers of his rank may now be granted to them.

S/ Janette Taylor

on the half of myself and the other Heirs of John Paul Jones

All foreigners were considered citizens of the State they resided in when they entered the service. The Resolution of November 1775 (see Hennings Statutes at large Vol. 10th, page 539) gives Land Bounty to all who entered the Continental service. Commodore Dale who was first Lieutenant on the *Bon Homme Richard* [*Bonhomme Richard*] has received Land Bounty as well as others under similar circumstances.

S/ Wm Lambert, Attorney for the Heirs

[Note: This file contains the Congressional record of the petition of Janette Taylor and other heirs presented to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims pp 10-37. I have elected not to transcribe this voluminous file since it is a matter of public record and easily accessible to those who might be interested.]