

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Parrish VAS138

vs114VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/17/20

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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

[p 1]

At a Court held for Elizabeth City County March 24, 1831

Elizabeth Jones being first sworn deposed and saith that she was well acquainted with John Parrish who was a Pilot in the Virginia State Navy until and after the capture of York [October 19, 1781], that he died leaving six children to wit Martha, Frances, Eliza, Susan, Barbara and Catharine – Martha intermarried with Nathaniel Parrish and died leaving two children to wit John and Edward – Frances intermarried with Abraham Cowper and died leaving four children to wit Eliza who intermarried with Captain Middleton, Catharine who intermarried with Charles Rambert, Mary who intermarried with Henry Rambert, Sarah and Martha who intermarried with Samuel Skinner – Eliza intermarried with John K Saliwer [?]<sup>1</sup> and after his death with Robert Kerby and died leaving two children to wit Eliza who intermarried with Thomas Peek and William Kerby – Susan who intermarried with Nathaniel Gamneall [?]<sup>2</sup>, Barbara who intermarried with Thomas Watts and Catharine who intermarried with James Banks and died leaving one child to wit Elizabeth who intermarried with William Granger and died leaving one child to wit Jane. Whereupon the Court certifies that John and Edward Parrish, Eliza Middleton, Catharine Rambert, Mary Rambert, Sarah Cowper and Martha Skinner, William Kerby and Eliza Peek, Susan Gannell, Barbara Watts and Jane Granger daughters of Elizabeth who was the wife of James Banks are the heirs  
Virginia, Elizabeth City County to wit

I Samuel S Howard, Clerk of the Court of the County and State aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true transcript from the records of my office –

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 1st day of April in the years 1850.

S/ S. S. Howard, Clk.

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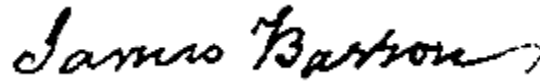
<sup>1</sup> *Saliwer*

<sup>2</sup> *Gannell*

[p 3]

I cannot state positively the length of time that Mark Parrish<sup>3</sup> served as a Pilot during the Revolutionary war but I [text too faint to discern] that he served in that capacity during the whole period of its continuance. I am perfectly confident that with [text too faint to discern: there are occasional words that can be discerned but not in such a manner as to provide an intelligible transcription] In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 1850.

S/ James Barron



[p 5: Printed form, fill ins italicized]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia *State* Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 16th day of *March 1784* in the name of *John Parish* [sic] as *Pilot in the Navy* and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £59.16.9, delivered to *Mr. Walker* but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this  
*23rd day of February 1850.*

*S/ Jas. E. Heath*

[No Seal of Office]

[p 8]

Norfolk Virginia March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1850

I knew Mr. John Parrish well, and am, and always have been under the belief that he was an officer in the Revolutionary State Navy of Virginia, but what rank was assigned to him I am not so confident as to say positively, but I do know that the duty which he performed was that of a Pilot, and I also can say with perfect propriety that he was an excellent man, and a true patriot, and it may not be improper for me to add that his conduct had secured to him the friendship of my father of the Virginia Revolutionary State Navy. I am under the impression that he served to the close of the war.

S/ James Barron

[p 9]

I Ann Paine of the Town of Hampton Elizabeth City County and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I distinctly remember Mark and William Parrish<sup>4</sup> and that they served as Pilots of the Virginia State Navy in the Revolutionary war. I am positive that they served at least three years in that capacity during the period of its continuance and from the following circumstances think it highly probable that they served during the whole war viz.: at its commencement all persons

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<sup>3</sup> [Mark Parrish VAS139](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Willaim Parrish VAS140](#)

(or very nearly so) in Elizabeth City County who were capable of bearing arms were called in requisition, and Mark and William Parrish at that period were old enough to [one or more words too faint to discern] into active service. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1850

S/Ann Paine, X her mark

[p 11]

The Deposition of Mrs. Ann Paine of Hampton Virginia who doth depose and say that she was intimately acquainted with John, William and Mark Parrish who were Brothers, and that she distinctly remembers that they served as Pilots in the Revolutionary war for what length of time she does not distinctly remember, but is confident that they served at least 3 years, and to the close of the war, in the State Navy of Virginia. And also that Mrs. Elizabeth Jones who at one time resided in this Town of Hampton was a niece of the aforesaid John and Mark Parrish, and daughter of the aforesaid William Parrish, and that she (the aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth Jones) was the great or grand Aunt of James, Samuel and Thomas Skinner, the former of Norfolk and the 2 latter him Richmond Virginia

S/ Ann Paine, X her mark

[Attested March 11, 1850 in the town of Hampton, County of Elizabeth City Virginia]

[p 14: partial letter]

Norfolk July 17<sup>th</sup> 1850

To His Excellency John Floyd, Governor of Virginia

Sir:

Enclosed I send new depositions of Commodore James Barron and Mrs. Ann Paine, which I hope will render it conclusive to your mind that Mark and William Parrish served at least three years as Pilots in the Revolutionary State Navy of Virginia. You are doubtless aware of the great difficulties that exist at this late day of proving even the services of persons who fought in the Revolutionary war, for that reason I most respectfully request you to view their claims in a favorable light. I beg leave to draw your attention to the following extract from the Journal and Documents of the House of Delegates of 1833 and 1834, Doc: 33 "The midshipmen, surgeons and surgeons' mates, and other non-commissioned Officers of the Navy, were generally appointed by the captains of the vessels. The books and papers of no one vessel belonging to the Navy have been preserved. These Officers are not chargeable with the loss or destruction of those documents, and ought not to suffer in consequence thereof.

The dates of the appointments of these Officers can rarely be ascertained. Their claims to bounty land have been, under these circumstances viewed with a favorable eye, and where they have been found enrolled as Officers, and the journals of the Navy Board do not show that they resigned or retired from the service, a favorable report has been made of their claims. With the exceptions of the surgeons and surgeons' mates, they were generally taken from among the Seaman who enlisted for three years. There are very few, and almost no, desertions from the Navy, and the presumption of service for three years, or for the war, is therefore very strong."

In the year 1832 I found their names recorded in the Department at Richmond, but recently from some cause unknown to myself I have not been able [document ends at this point]

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

[p 1]

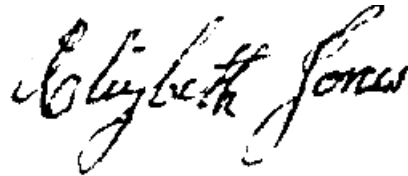
It appears on reference to "A list of State Soldiers & Seaman who have received Certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeably to act of Assembly passed November Session 1781" filed in this department, that a certificate issued to John Parrish, Pilot on the 16th of March 1784 for £59.16.9

S/ J. E. Heath  
Aud.

Auditor's Office 9 February 1832

Deposition of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones who being sworn deposes that John Parrish, her Uncle, served more than three years and [undeciphered word] vessel belonging to the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War in the capacity of Pilot & that she the said Elizabeth Jones is in no way interested as the heir of said John Parrish

S/ Elizabeth Jones



[Attested February 27, 1832]

[p 3]

Elizabeth City County – to wit

This day Mrs. Ann Payne appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made oath to the truth of these facts –

“That she the said Ann Payne was intimately acquainted with John Parrish of the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War – that said Parrish was more than three years in said war & Navy & served for that period in the character of Pilot – & that she frequently saw said Parrish when he came in sure.”

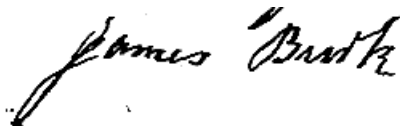
The above facts were sworn to before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 1832

S/ William hope, JP

[p 6]

I certify that I knew John Parrish in the Revolutionary War & that he was Pilot of one of the vessels of the Virginia Navy – that I know not for how long a period. The usual term of enlistment in the Navy, however, was for three years & never less than that time to my knowledge.

S/ James Burk<sup>5</sup>



[attested in Elizabeth City County June 28, 1832.]

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<sup>5</sup> [James Burk S6649](#)