

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elisha Henry Harcum VAS1381

vsl 13VA

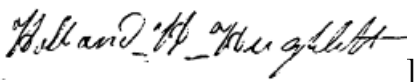
Transcribed by Will Graves

2/14/14

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

[pp 1-2: split image of a petition dated May 16, 1835 filed by Holland H. Hughlett claiming to be the sole heir of Henry Harcum, a midshipmen in the Virginia Navy while a resident of Northumberland County Virginia.

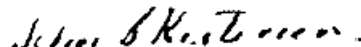


Holland H. Hughlett]

[p 8]

John S. Kesterson of the County of Northumberland after being first duly sworn for that purpose deposes and saith that he was intimately acquainted with Henry Harcum – who was called Elijah Henry Harcum that the said Henry Harcum & this deponent were raised in the same neighborhood and he recollects distinctly that the said Henry Harcum enlisted together with his brother Lot Harcum under Captain John Thomas¹ as a midshipmen and remained with Captain Thomas on board a Galley until said Galley was burnt by the Enemy he the said Henry Harcum then was transferred on board the ship *Dragon*² from whence he never returned. Given under my hand this 16th day of May 1835

S/ John S. Kesterson [John Smith Kesterson]



[p 4]

I John S. Kesterson of Northumberland County aged sixty-nine years do declare upon oath that I was personally acquainted with Elisha H Harcum of this County. That I went to school with the said Elisha Henry Harcum who was much older than myself and I well recollect that his schoolmates were in the habit of calling him by his Christian name (Elisha), which he disliked and frequently told them of its being disagreeable to him and wished that they would call him Henry as he disliked to be called Elisha – This circumstance made a lasting impression on my mind, which I well recollect. –

¹ [John Thomas R100](#)

² <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5bCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5d.html>

I was raised in the neighborhood with Elijah Henry Harcum, he was the son of William Harcum, who lived and died in this County and in my neighborhood, he was the brother of Lott Harcum who was a midshipmen in the Navy.

Elijah H Harcum was raised immediately on the Wicomico River and very early in the Revolutionary war enlisted in the naval service of this State (as a midshipmen) in the year 1777 on board the *Protector*³ commanded by Captain John Thomas who retained this command until she was burnt by the enemy on or about the 7th of June 1778 or 79 at North Wicomico.

While Lott and his brother Elijah Henry Harcum were on board the *Protector* under the command of Captain Thomas I frequently saw them, they as before stated were both midshipmen on board [bottom of the image of this document is cut off at this point and text is missing] [next page] And were turned over to another vessel which is believed to have been the *Dragon*.

I knew the said Henry Harcum from the time we went to school together until his death which was a short time after the Revolutionary War, he went to Norfolk and took the smallpox & died. It was usual for the seamen and warrant officers of the Navy to serve 3 years in the naval service and I have always been under the impression and am satisfied in my own mind that he served his full time out (at least 3 years) he was of most excellent character and I can safely say that he did not leave the service under any impressions which were unfavorable to his standing as an officer and a gentleman – Given under my hand this 19 day November 1835

S/ John S Kesterson

[p 7]

I certify that I was present when Elijah Henry Harcum of this County enlisted in the Navy on board of the *Protector*, Captain Thomas married his cousin and when Elijah Henry Harcum went to enlist as a midshipmen Captain Thomas said it seems you have a double name. His reply was that [indecipherable word or words] the double name – put it down Henry Harcum [several indecipherable words].

Given under my hand this 6th of March 1838

S/ John S Kesterson

[p 10]

Report upon the claim of the air of Henry (or Elisha Henry) Harcum – midshipman in the State Navy, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir,

It appears from the Army Register of this State – to wit, that Elisha Harcum had a certificate £38.15.3 – the balance of his full pay, as an able seaman of the State Navy – Va – which certificate was delivered to Captain Thomas, March 12, 1784 (see Army Register of the State line.).

The affidavit of John S Kesterson states that he the said Kesterson was intimately acquainted with Henry Harcum who was sometimes called Elisha Henry Harcum – that they

³ Ken Kellow has the following note regarding the *Protector*:

When the Virginia Navy Galley *Protector* was captured and burned at Wicomico Warehouse on 7 July 1779, her captain, John Thomas, and the remaining crew were transferred to the *Dragon*. After remaining with her for a short time they were again transferred to the ship *Washington*.¹⁰⁸ Isaac Booth, from the *Protector*, was listed as a pilot aboard the *Dragon* on 2 September 1779 and 7 October 1779.¹⁰⁹

<http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5bCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5d.html>

were raised in the same neighborhood – that the said Henry Harcum and Lott Harcum enlisted together in the State Navy under Captain John Thomas – that they were midshipmen – that when the Galley which was commanded by Captain Thomas was burned by the enemy, the said Henry Harcum was transferred on board the ship Dragon – and that he never returned home from his said service. (See affidavit of John S Kesterson)

On the 4th of August 1778, I find there were several orders of the Board of Commissioners of the Navy for naval stores & clothing, to be delivered to Mr. H. Harcum midshipman on board the Henry Galley. (See naval Journal page 441)

When I heretofore reported Henry Harcum a midshipmen in the State Navy and probably entitled to bounty land, I must have seen some proof of his having been midshipman & of his service, which I cannot now called mind.

The facts, as they now appear all that Henry Harcum, or Elisha Henry Harcum, enlisted with Captain John Thomas, was made a midshipmen, and probably died in this service. This is the state of the facts, in this case, if the witness is to be believed. [2 or more indecipherable words], that Elisha Harcum (who is believed to have been Henry Harcum) was at one time a Seaman in the State Navy.

N. B. If the Petitioner should claim it, it would be well to postpone a decision upon this claim, until further proof (if in the power of the Petitioner) can be produced.

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

June 20th, 1835