

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Samuel Humphres (Humphreys, Humphries)

VAS1664

[vsl \[several files\]](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/16/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 2-page file indexed under the name "Samuel Humphres"

I do certify that Samuel Humphres has served the time of three years as Master at Arms in the [paper damaged and text illegible] discharge this 12<sup>th</sup> June 178? [Last digit obliterated]  
S/ James Markham<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

J Pendleton, Junior

Delivered Mr. Gilchrist

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[Note: Another County Land file containing 11 pages and indexed under the name Samuel Humphreys, Master at arms]

Dr. Sir

From the papers here with exhibited, it appears that Samuel Humphreys acted as Master of arms in the Navy & that he only received bounty land as a common seaman, which was 100 acres when I have reason to believe that he was entitled to 2666 2/3. A son of the said Samuel Humphrey [sic] is one of my constituents, who has caused these papers to be transmitted to me and as you will perceive request that I would endeavor to have them acted on before I leave the city. I expect to leave the city last of this week & shall esteem it a favor if you would act on this claim before I leave.

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

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<sup>1</sup> MARKHAM, JAMES VA Captain, Virginia Navy: On 1 April 1776 the Virginia Committee of Safety appointed James Markham as a Captain in the Virginia Navy and assigned him to the second galley building in the Rappahannock River. This was the galley that eventually was named the *Page*. [NDAR, "Minutes of the Virginia Committee of Safety," IV, 621. Note: Markham is not to be confused with John Marsden, as Stewart, *Virginia's Navy*, 12note apparently does.] On 20 July 1776 by the Virginia Council of Safety. Issued commissions to galley *Page*: James Markham, Captain, John Lurty, First Lieutenant, Henry Lightbourn, Second Lieutenant. [NDAR, "Journal of the Virginia Council of Safety," V, 1164 and notes] Dates of active service 20 July. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20M.html>

S/ J. W. Ford  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1838

His Excellency Governor Campbell

Virginia Stafford County to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Jesse Stone who made oath that he was intimately acquainted with Samuel Humphreys who frequently in his life time spoke of his services on board the Ship *Dragon*<sup>2</sup> in Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War & the said Humphreys told him that he had served five years in the Navy & the said Samuel Humphreys deceased in or about the year 1790 in the County of Fairfax, and the affiant further states that he has no hesitation in saying that he believes the said Humphreys served the time above stated. Given under my hand this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1838

S/ Alexander Fitzhugh

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, 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, that a Certificate issued on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 1783, in the name of Samuel Humphrey, as a Master Navy for £117.7.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to J. Hawkins and was given for services prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this  
30<sup>th</sup> day of March 1838.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

The image shows a handwritten financial ledger. The left column contains entries for Samuel, and the right column contains entries for Humphreys. A summary table on the right side of the page lists dates and amounts.

Date	Amount
6 <sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1781	16. 10
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> March 1782	13. 10
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> May 1782	9. 12
<b>Total</b>	<b>39. 12</b>

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 7-page file indexed under the name of "Samuel Humphreys"

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

To his Excellency Littleton Waller Tazewell Governor of Virginia – Memorial of William Humphries respectfully represents, that himself of the town of fall month, John Humphries of the town of Alexandria, and Joseph Humphries of the Western country, Lisbon State of Ohio are the only descendents & heirs at law of the late Samuel Humphries who was a master at arms as your memorialist has understood in the Navy of Virginia in the revolutionary war – He states that his father lived as he has been informed in the County of King George when he entered the service – how long he served or under what officers he is unable to say

S/ William Humphries, X his mark

[Attested August 14, 1835]

Report on the claim of the heirs of Samuel Humphreys  
Master, in the State Navy, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir

David Henderson Esquire and old and respectable inhabitant of Fredericksburg and formally midshipman & clerk of the *Dragon* has stated on oath that "Samuel Humphreys received pay as a Seaman on board the said Ship (the *Dragon*) from 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1777 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 1779, and it also appears by the navies Books (the books of the *Dragon*) that said Humphreys was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1779 appointed master of arms, on board said ship. I was clerk & midshipman on board said Ship, and have had the Books before mentioned in my possession, since the Revolution" (see the affidavit of David Henderson.)

It appears from a list of men of the *Dragon* wanting provisions for 30 days "– (which document may be found in volume 1 Navy Papers) that Samuel Humphries was then a Seaman on board that vessel – the document is endorsed September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1779.

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[next page]

Thus it appears, that the said Humphries into the service as a Seaman, and under an enlistment for three years (for there were no enlistments in the Navy for a less term than three years) – that he served, as Seaman, from August 12<sup>th</sup> 1777 to September 2, 1779 – and in August 1783 received £117.7.2 the balance of his pay, as master in the State Navy – and it does appear, that he ever resigned his station.

An allowance of 100 acres of land has been before made for the services of Samuel Humphreys as a Seaman. His heirs now claim bounty land for him as master in the State Navy.

In the year 1833 I reported Samuel Humphreys, to his Excellency Governor Floyd, entitled to bounty land, as Seaman, for a service of three years; not having, at that time, seen the entry in the Army Register of the State line, which shows that he was a master in the Navy.

It is possible this Executive may desire some information in relation to this claim, from an inspection of the Papers which were filed in the executive Department, when the said allowance of 100 acres of land was [the image of this page of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

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his service as Seaman: but, as before stated, he did not resign his station.

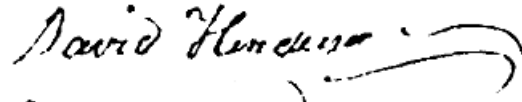
Respectfully submitted

John H Smith Commissioner &c

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1835

I certify that it appears from the original books of the Ship *Dragon* now in my possession that Samuel Humphreys received pay as Seaman on board said Ship from 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1777 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 1779 and it also appears by the same Books, that said Humphreys was on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1779 appointed master at arms on board said Ship. I was clerk and midshipman on board said Ship and have had the books before mentioned in my possession since the revolution.

S/ David Henderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Henderson". The signature is written in dark ink and features a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

[Attested in Fredericksburg Virginia August 14, 1833 [could be 1835]]