

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

Virginia document pertaining to William Jackson VAS1747
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[From [digitalcollections of the Library of Virginia](#). Search for Jolly Parrish. Parts of the document are missing at places marked *.]

At a Court Martial held at the Court house in Goochland County on Thursday the 19th March [*; probably 1781; see endnote]

Present John Woodson & John Hopkins Colo. John Curd Majr Elisha Leak, Stockley Tow[* Stockley Towles], Wm. H. Miller [William H. Miller], Samuel Richardson, Edmund Curd, Gideon Hatcher, Edward Smith, and Thomas Hatcher Captains.

Lt. Colo Jolly Parrish, informing this Court by Letter, that a report was Current of his having enlisted a Slave, as a Substitute for his division of Militia, and deliver'd him up knowing him to be so, and requested a Court of enquiry into his conduct.

William Garret a Witness for the Commonwealth, being of lawful age and duly Sworn, saith, That on the day of the draught in this County he saw on the Green, a Negro whom he thought he knew to belong to Capt. [Edward] Munford of Amelia, that he asked him by the name of Laffe, where his master was. He reply'd his name was not Laffe, but William Jackson, the deponent then said, dont you belong to Capt. Munford. he said no, he was a free man, and had enlisted in the Army with Jolly Parrish, the deponent then ask'd Colo. Parrish if he had not enlisted a black fellow as a Substitute he said he had, the deponent then said he is a Servant. the Colo. reply'd, so he may have been, and now free, the deponent then said, he is certainly a Slave, that he had liv'd in the family upwards of two years. "will you swear that said Colo. Parrish, I would not Swear he is a Slave, said the deponent, but I will Swear that his master inform'd me, he gave Twenty five pounds for him, a small Boy, and I can produce his master in two days who will Swear it. Colo Parrish then said "Sir, I would oblige you, and shall be glad you will oblige me, by keeping it Secret til he answers my purpose, the deponent said, that would not be doing justice to the County or the Negros Master, Colo Parrish then urg'd the deponent to be Silent til he got a rec't. for the fellow [i.e. credit for recruiting him], and [*] the deponent then apply'd to the Jailer [*] who knowing this deponent, kept out [*] deponent and said, "You have publish[*] deponent had applied to the Jailer for [*] to do.' but seeing the Negroe again [*] by Capt. Robert Hudson of Amelia, (nea[*] performed a Tour of duty in the Militia [*] the deponent to doubt in his mind w[*] Monday following to his master, and [*] run away and has got his Overseers [*] then came over to Goochland in pursuit[*] Parrish's and was told by Mrs. Par[*] from his saying in the family he wa[*] since; they could not find him at the [*] Carried home, and further this dep[*]

James George a Witness for Colo [*] That in the afternoon of the draught day he happen'd in Company with Colo. Parrish and William Garret, the Witness above, that Colo. Parrish ask'd the said Garrett if he would Swear that the fellow he had enlisted was a Slave, Garrett reply'd he believ'd he was but did not choose to swear it. Colo. Parrish said if you will not swear it you had better be silent, as you may deprive the district of a man, and the man of a Birth [berth?]. after which this deponent saw William Garrett with the said fellows pass in his hand and ask'd him to deliver it again, which he did, and said he would interfere no further until he had better knowledge of the matter, and further saith not.

John Lawrence, being of lawful age and duly Sworn, saith, that on his way to the Court House, he overtook the fellow enlisted by Colo. Parrish, who requested the deponent to let him ride, but it being inconvenient, he put him off. but at the Court House he heard William Garrett question him respecting his being a Slave, the fellow insisted he was a free man, and shew'd the said Garrett a discharge for a Tour of duty by the name of William Jackson, in which was contain'd a pass to the Northward to see his Brother in the Service, and further saith not.

On hearing the Witnesses, and due consideration thereon, the Court are unanimously of opinion,

that the charge is fully supported; that the said Colo. Parrish ought to be cashier'd, and that the division furnish another man. John Woodson C. Lt. [County Lieutenant] John Hopkins Colo.
John Curd Maj'r. Elisha Leak Capt. Stockley Towles Capt.
Wm H. Miller Capt. Samuel Richardson Capt. Edmund Curd Capt.
Gideon Hatcher Capt. Edward Smith Capt. Thomas Hatcher Capt.

A Copy Test/ Thos S. Bates Clk

Court Martial is approved Thos Nelson jr [Gen. Thomas Nelson]

NOTE: The event that is the subject of the court martial apparently occurred before about 20 March 1781, when Capt. Robert Hudson of Amelia County died, according to the pension application of Robert Childress (R1929). The court martial apparently occurred after 17 May 1780, when John Curd was commissioned a Major.