

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Samuel Barron Cunningham VAS1844

3

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/7/15

[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 [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentleman of the General Assembly

Your Petitioner Samuel Barron Cunningham begs leave to represent that sometime in the month of February 1781 he had on board the Brigantine *Wilkes*, then laying in James River near Richmond, one hundred eleven hogsheads of tobacco, Twelve Guns, a Considerable Quantity of Powder & Ball, Cutlasses, Boarding pistols &c with provision for Thirty men three months, that the said vessel was then ready to proceed on a voyage to the West Indies, in Company with Several other Vessels, & that she was Impressed to assist some French sips that lay in Hampton road, by Capt. William Lewis by order of the Gov. & Counsel; that in consequence thereof, she was prevented from proceeding on her Voyage, in Company with the aforesaid Vessels, (which got safe out) and detained in the Country's Service Twenty-seven days, at the expiration of which, the Enemy came up James River and got possession of her; But a few minutes previous to her falling into their hands, a Cannon Ball was fired into her, by one of our Vessels which occasion her to sink, with tobacco, Guns, Provisions &c on Board, where she lay, till after the Siege of York was over, & then at a very Considerable expense to your Petitioner, she was raised, with the loss of her Tobacco, Seven Guns, Provisions &c, all the sails, rigging &c and the Hull of the Vessel much Injured. Your Petitioner therefore prays, that you will take the same into your Consideration and grant him such relief and allowance for his losses & Injuries he has sustained, by the Vessels being Impressed for this use of the Country as may appear Just & Equitable and your Petitioner will pray &c

[Reverse]

Cunningham's Petition

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1783

Referred to Claims

June 25<sup>th</sup> 1783

Rejected