

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to John Pierce VAS189

vsl 9VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/23/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

It appears on [one or more indecipherable words] to "a list of state soldiers and seamen who have received Certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeably to Act of Assembly passed November Sessions 1781" filed in this department, that a Certificate issued to John Pierce Midshipman on the 4 November 1783 for £96.9.5

Auditor's Office

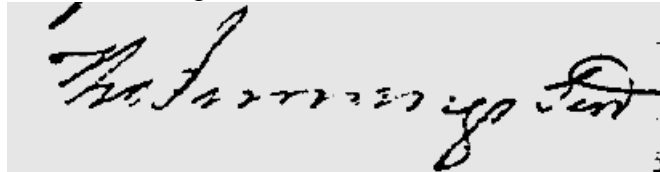
9 February 1832

S/ J. E. Heath, Aud.

I certify that John Pierce & Richard Saunders each served for 3 years in the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War in the capacity of Midshipmen.

I certify also that Thomas Baker served 3 years in said War & service in the character of Gunner.

S/ Tho. Jennings, Senr. [???



I John Cannaday of Stafford County do hereby certify that I was on board the ship *Tempest* three years having enlisted for that length of time under Captain Celey Saunders. And that John Robins and John Pierce of Richmond County were midshipmen on board of said ship the *Tempest* upwards of three years and served their time out faithfully.

Witness my hand and seal this the 28 March 1832

S/ John Cannaday



To the Governor of Virginia

The Petition of the Heir of John Pierce respectfully states that the said Pierce was a midshipman in the Virginia Navy during the Revolution more than 3 years but never received the Bounty land to which he was entitled – your petitioner has obtain the certificate of the Auditor of Public Accounts that he received £96.9.5 for his depreciation as a midshipman in the Navy –

The Affidavit of Thomas Jennings who was an officer in the Revolution and is now

highly respectable officer of the Customs in Norfolk is positive that he was 3 years in service.

Mrs. Ann Payne's affidavit states that he was in service more than 3 years –

The Records show that he was the midshipman – but the [word too faint to discern] time can only be ascertained by reference to the witnesses.

To receive a large amount of depreciation is conclusive that the party was a long time in service – but a smaller sum is not even prima facie evidence, that the officer was a short time in service, and for this reason – The depreciation was to make that pay good which was below par when received –

The receipt of a large sum is evidence that the officer must have been in service a good while or he could not be entitled to so much.

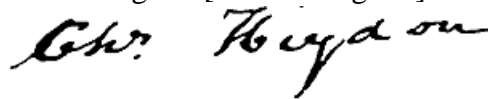
But an officer might have served the whole war & get but little depreciation – he may have drawn no part – or a very small part of his pay, during the years of depression (and many did not) after which (say in '81) when the paper money was done away – Dave for the first time as for their arrearages & receive them in good money – which would not be depreciative (as that in making good of bad pay actually received) was called. So if an officer who served 3 years from the beginning of the War – should mostly have received his pay yet the depreciation due him would be small, because in the first 3 years of the War, the money was but little below par – in the aggregate.

The affidavits of the witnesses, are sufficient, your Petitioner hopes, to remove any doubt that might arise as to the duration of the service, from the Auditor's Certificate – many Officers soon after the war received their Land – although they got but a small sum for depreciation. Your Petitioner prays that the land bounty given other midshipman may be allowed for his [2 or more indecipherable words]¹

S/ Thomas green
Att for the Petitioner

This is to Certify that John Pierce of Westmoreland was a midshipman on board the Ship *Tempest* carrying 18 guns commanded by Captain Saunders in the war of the revolution. I was well acquainted with him. I entered the service in the spring of 1779 and left it in 1781 – frequently during this time I saw the said John Pierce, though attached to a different vessel (*Tartar*) I am unable to say precisely how long the said Pierce was in service: but have always been under the impression that he was at least 3 years. As witness my hand this 2nd April 1832

S/ Chs. Higdon [Charles Higdon]²



¹ *and let's see...*

² FPA S5538