

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William West VAS2000

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Transcribed by Will Graves

5/16/15

[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 '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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Fredericksburg City Legislative Petitions

To the Legislature of Virginia

Your petitioner William West respectfully represents that in the month of May 1777 he enlisted as a sailor on board of the *Page* Galley under the command of Captain Markham<sup>1</sup> for the period of two years. That he remained in this service for the term of his enlistment and at its expiration reenlisted for a further period of three years. That he was afterwards turned over to the ship *Tartar*<sup>2</sup> under the command of Richard Taylor.<sup>3</sup> Here he remained until he received a wound which disabled him from serving and was discharged honorably in due form. The evidence of his discharge he has not in his power to produce, having lost it when in the latter end of the year 1781 he was captured, your petitioner further represents that he [indecipherable word]<sup>4</sup> a claim to the benefit of the Pension aid recently [indecipherable word]<sup>5</sup> by Congress

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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>

<sup>2</sup> *Tartar*. Coggins:102, VANavy:162, Dandridge:186, ND9:266, 728, ND10:268, ND11:1155, 1166, ship in VA Navy, 1776-80, Cpts Richard Taylor, John Lurty, and William Saunders, sold after Aug 1780. Eller:202 shows it destroyed in 1781. Silverstone:20. Paullin:406, added to Navy in 1777. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20T.html>

<sup>3</sup> TAYLOR, RICHARD: VA: Captain, Virginia Navy: Richard Taylor was born on 6 January 1749, the sixth son of George Taylor or Orange. [Stewart, 254] He was a resident of Caroline County, Virginia. He was commissioned on 14 March 1776 to command an armed vessel. He then commanded the cruiser *Liberty*. On 3 September 1776 he commanded the schooner *Hornet* on the Rappahannock River. [NOAR, 305] He died on 30 August 1825. [Stewart, 254] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20T.html>

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after testimony of these facts [was] satisfactorily made to the proper authority but it was rejected as your petitioner has been informed for no other cause than that the vessels on board which he served had never been on Continental establishment. Aged, infirm and destitute of property, your petitioner is wholly unable to earn a livelihood by his labour and is compelled as a [one or more indecipherable words]<sup>6</sup> to implore the liberality of your Honorable body to allow him some small pension which will sustain him during the short remainder of his days without the necessity of relying on the precarious assistance of casual bounty and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

[Reverse]  
William West's Petition  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1820  
December 27<sup>th</sup>  
Referred to Claims  
Reasonable January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Reported January 6

[The application is supported by a number of citizens who attest to the indigent circumstances of the petitioner.]

Virginia

At a Court of Hustings held for the Town and Corporation of Fredericksburg, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1818

Present,           George WB Spooner }  
                          Benjamin Day &     } Justices  
                          John Scott                 }

William West, aged fifty-four years, residing in Fredericksburg, came into Court and declared on oath, that on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1777, he enlisted as a Sailor on board the *Page* Galley, Captain Markham, then lying in the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg, for the term of two years; that he remained on board the said Galley for two years, after which he reenlisted with Captain Markham [James Markham] for three years more; that he was afterwards turned over to the ship *Tartar*, Captain Richard Taylor, with whom he remained till he was wounded, and the command was taken by Richard Barron;<sup>7</sup> that he was discharged at the Navy-yard at Chickahominy River

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<sup>5</sup> *Richard Barron*

<sup>6</sup> *Confession*

<sup>7</sup> BARRON, RICHARD  
VA  
Captain, Virginia Navy

in 1781; that he had a discharge in due form, which was lost afterwards when he was taken by the British in the sloop Hibernia, in the latter end of the year 1781, on which vessel he was taken; and that from his age and reduced circumstances, he stands in need of public aid. And it further appeared to the Court from the evidence of Thomas Taylor & John Richards,<sup>8</sup> witnesses sworn in Court, that the said William West was on board the several vessels as stated in his declaration, and that he served the. Therein stated; all which the Court directs to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War of the United States.

In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of the Court of Hustings for the Town & Corporation of Fredericksburg aforesaid, I, Robert Smith Chew, Clerk of the said Court, do hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Corporation on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1818, and in the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of the Commonwealth

S/ R. S. Chew, C. C. H. T.

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

[Note: the following documents may or may not relate to this same veteran.]

I do Certify that William West enlisted as a seamen in the state Navy the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1777 for the term of 3 years, which time he has well and truly served. Given under my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1783

S/ Joseph Sanders L. N.

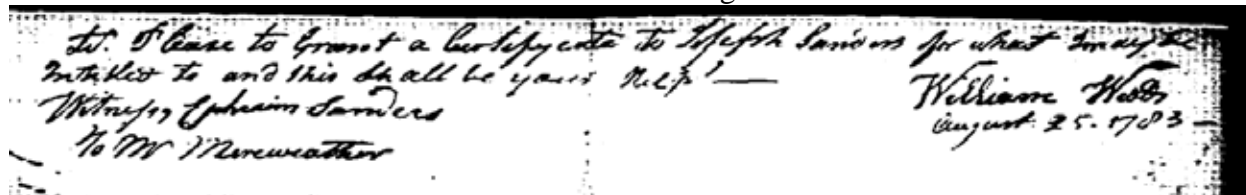
A copy

S/ J Pendleton Jr.

Sir Pleased to grant a Certificate to Joseph Sanders for what I may be entitled to and this shall be your receipt.

Witness S/ Ephraim Sanders  
To Mr. Meriwether

S/ William West  
August 25 1783



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Richard Barron was a resident of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, ans brother of JAMES BARRON. [Stewart, 148] He was a Captain of Virginia Militia, and was assigned to the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* on 4 March 1776. With James Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and James Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron was Captain, Virginia Navy and assigned to the Virginia Navy Brig *Jefferson*, from 1778-1780. On 11 October 1780 he was given leave to go to the West Indies to recover his health. His will was proved on 28 April 1791. [Stewart, 148] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

<sup>8</sup> [John Richards VAS1815](#)