

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

Virginia documents pertaining to John Lane VAS2089

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Papers in the file refer to applications for bounty land by the heirs of John Lane, which were not found. The following is a summary of the evidence.]

Petition for Bounty land.

The Heirs of John Lane – Midshipman S[tate] Navy.

John Lane has been reported by me, in the printed list of officers of the State Navy &c (No. 5.) “entitled to land, for a service of three years.

In reporting that list, I acted under a Resolution of the General Assembly, which directed me, to report a list of those, who “may be entitled to unsatisfied claims on Virginia, for Bounty land” &c.

I found John Lane regularly enroll’d as Midshipman. I saw no proof of his having left the navy. I had proof, that those seamen were enlisted, for a tour of three years. That these midshipmen were generally taken from among the seamen, who were bound for three years. That there were only three of [or?] four desertions from the Navy, of which the Journals of the Navy Board, and other public documents concerning the Navy, make mention. That there was not a single instance of a midshipman having resign’d, or retir’d or been dismissed from the Navy, during the time embraced by the Navy Journals (which was more than four years during the Revolutionary war) – That the Midshipmen were generally appointed by the Captains of vessels. That the Books & papers of no one vessel in the navy have been preserved; and, consequently, that the dates of appointments of midshipmen, and the times for which they served, can very seldom be ascertain’d by public documents – and that John Lane had not receiv’d land, for his services, as Midshipman.

Under these circumstances, I did not content myself with reporting, that John Lane might be entitled to bounty land. I reported him “entitled to land for a service of three years.” I had no positive proof of service for those years: but thought there was a reasonable, and strong presumption arising, in favour of the claim.

Midshipmen in the State Navy, whose names appear on the few remaining payrolls, and returns of the officers & Crews of the vessels of the navy; who are thus prov’d, to have been some time in service; who are not positively prov’d, to have been in service for three years, or more; who do not appear to have resign’d, or retir’d, or been dismiss’d, from the navy; may be fairly & reasonably presumed to have served for three years. They were not answerable for, nor ought they now to be made to suffer on account of, the loss or destruction of the Books & Papers of the vessels belonging to State Navy.

There have been two Petitions presented for this claim. No proof accompanies either of them.

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Comm’r &c

To his Excellency Gov. Tazewell May 5th 1834

NOTES:

The files contain a document dated 1 March 1834 certifying that John Lane, formerly a Midshipman in the Virginia Navy, died leaving two children: John Lane and Jacamine Lane.

The files contain without explanation a copy of a bond signed on 18 Feb 1804 by Thomas Layne and Bernard Reynolds for the marriage of Layne to Miss Salley Kelly of Henrico County. There is also the record in Richmond Hustings Court of the marriage of William Clarke and Louisa Lane on 21 Jan 1833.

Also in the files is a document pertaining to John Lane (pension application S38129) and his wife, Ann Maria Lane (VAS2088).