

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Thomas Pollard VAS229

vsl 18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/31/12

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

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

The heirs of Captain Thomas Pollard – Petition for bounty land

Thomas Pollard was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Navy in October 1776; and so continued until December 17<sup>th</sup> 1777 – He then resigned, in favor of Lieutenant Tennant; and was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Navy. A complementary letter was written to him by the Navy Board, on this occasion. He did not resign his Commission of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. In May 1778, he was Captain in the Regiment of State Artillery, and was paid as such, from that time, to December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1779, by Lawrence Smith paymaster to that Regiment. The accounts of Lawrence Smith do not come down to a later period, then the last of 1779. In July 1779, he (Thomas Pollard) received, on to several occasions, \$2250 to recruit for the State artillery.

John Lowry, in his deposition, says – that Thomas Pollard was in service about three years and six months: and probably meant the land service; for he afterwards speaks of his having been Captain & Lieutenant in the Navy. William George says – that he was a Captain, and a brave & valuable officer. Thomas U. Lawson says – That Pollard commanded a Company, at York Town, in the fall of 1781: and that he, the witness, knows very well, that the said Pollard was in service four or five years & was a meritorious officer.

I have nothing to add to this evidence. It seems sufficient to sustain the Claim. Captain Pollard was probably not a moment out of service; [indecipherable word] where he resigned his Commission of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant; or when he was transferred from the Navy to the land service. If this is true, he served upwards of five years, without intermission; and was entitled to Land. If it should be thought, that he went out of service, when he resigned, or when he left the Navy for the Army; his heirs will still be entitled to land. In May 1778 we find him a Captain of Artillery; and as such he received pay down to December 1779 – (as late as there are accounts of the payment of the officers of the State Artillery) – We afterwards find him in service, at the Siege of York, in the fall of 1781. In the interim, there is reason to believe, he was with the Artillery at the South. He is thus proved, to have served three years over & above the time of service in the Navy.

This claim seems to have been rejected by the Governor. It is probable, the evidence is now Fuller, then it then was.

I report the Petition reasonable, for a service of three years as Captain.

S/ John H Smith

6<sup>th</sup> March 1834

[Note on page 7 of the file: "There is no pay roll of the State line after December 1779. The few

entries in January & February 1780 were payments of omitted in 1779. Marshall's Regiment went to the South in January 1780 it is believed, & most of the companies returned & were at the siege of York October 1781. After first January 1780 there was no pay master to the State Troops excepting the Commanding Officers. Lawrence Smith's accounts on the Ledger end at that period."]

[p. 8]

The Affidavit of Thomas H. Lawson of Lancaster County of lawful age taken before Isaac Carol a justice of the peace for said County, to be read in evidence on an application to the proper Authorities for remuneration for the Services of Captain Thomas Pollard during the War of the Revolution – This Affiant being first duly sworn saith that he was well acquainted with the said Thomas Pollard, that the said Pollard commanded a company at York Town in the fall of 1781 and was in service at the time of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. This Affiant was for a time in service in the Company commanded by said Pollard, and knows very well that the said Pollard was in service for 4 or 5 years either in the regular Army or service are engaged in recruiting which latter service he was frequently engaged – The said Captain Pollard was considered by all a highly meritorious and valuable Officer and from my own knowledge of him he rendered efficient and important service to his Country – and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Thomas H Lawson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas H. Lawson", written in black ink on a white background. The signature is written over a horizontal line and is enclosed within a vertical rectangular border on the right side.

[Attested in Richmond Virginia January 13<sup>th</sup> 1834]

[f p. 10]

Lancaster County State of Virginia to wit

I William George of the County and State aforesaid do hereby certify that I was perfectly acquainted with Captain Thomas Pollard of the County & State also aforesaid & further certify that Captain Thomas Pollard was a Captain & commanded a Company during the Revolutionary war, that he and myself were raised in the same County & from my own knowledge of him and from General report he was undoubtedly a brave daring and bold officer & discharged the duties of an officer & Captain with a great deal of credit to himself & his Country & I further certify that between that if any man should receive a pension for service valor & hardship Captain Pollard ought. Given under my hand in seal the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833

S/ William George

[page 13]

To the Governor of Virginia

The heirs of Captain Thomas Pollard pray an allowance of Bounty land for his services three years in the State artillery.

They file in support of their claim the deposition of John Lowry proving his services for about 3 years and a half or more. Thomas Pollard was first a Lieutenant in the Navy in 1776 & 1777 – see Journal of the Navy board pages 69, 162, 170, 217 &c he resigned his commission as Lieutenant in the Navy & excepted a Lieutenant's commission in Marshall's Regiment December 1777 see Journal of Navy board page 332. The evidence of his service in Marshall's Regiment

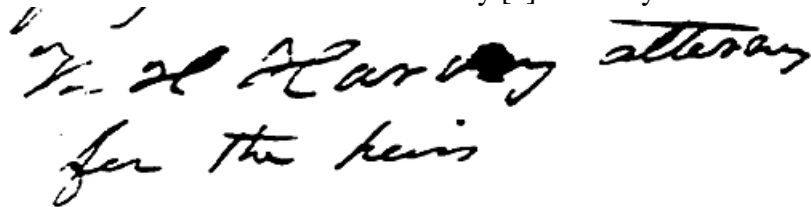
see Lawrence Smith's pay roll of Marshall's pay roll for the year 1778 & 1779 inclusive. L Smith's pay roll ends December 1779 & no rolls of Marshall's Regiment are found for 1780 (as I have understood) Lowry says Pollard was "first a Captain & then a Lieutenant" in the Navy. In this there is a slight error. He was first Lieutenant of Norfolk *Revenge* galley & gave way to Lieutenant Tenant & excepted the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. It was this circumstance no doubt to which Lowry had reference. See Vol. 1 – papers concerning State Navy page 59 where a complementary letter was sent by the Navy board to Lieutenant Pollard for his consenting to give place to Lieutenant Tenant &c (page 59 of letter book in vol. 1 aforesaid). They also file an account marked "A" showing that Captain Pollard was Captain in July 1779. This corroborates Lowry's statement. They also file the deposition of Mr. Lawson proving that he commanded a company at Yorktown October 19<sup>th</sup> 1781. They also file the deposition of Mr. George strongly corroborating the other testimony. The heirs state that they always understood that Captain Pollard left the Navy for the purpose of joining the Army & was not in fact out of the service at all from 1776 to 1781 but completing his Navy from May 1778 (when it appears from L. Smith's payroll he was in service) to October 19<sup>th</sup> 1781 (when it is proved he was in service at York Town) it is clear that he was in service three years & five months (independent of his service in the Navy).

The Ayers beg leave to suggest that the presumption is very strong that he went immediately from the Navy into the land service. The heirs respectfully asked an allowance of land either for 3 years or for the war as to the Executive may seem just. Document "B" is a memorandum referring to the evidence of his naval service & the complementary letter before named. Document "C" is a memo referring to his naval service. Document "A" is evidence of his services as ace Captain in 1779. Document "D" is Mr. Lowry's deposition document "E" & "F" is the deposition of Mr. George and Mr. Lawson.

Respectfully submitted

January 13<sup>th</sup> 1833

S/ V. H. Harvey [?] Attorney for the heirs



V. H. Harvey attorney  
for the heirs

[p. 16]

Lancaster County State of Virginia – SS

I John Lowry being called upon to say what I know of Captain Thomas Pollard as an officer of the Revolutionary war, do hereby Certify that I knew Captain Thomas Pollard well, lived in the County of Lancaster with him, and had [word too faint to discern] he was in command of a Company & went off with said company and was [word too faint to discern] about 2 years he then returned to the County of the State aforesaid and recruited more man & then went off with them (where he knows not) & stayed about 18 months he then returned to said County where he lived until his death & I further certify & say without hesitation that Captain Pollard was a commanding officer during the said war & I believe he was first Captain & then Lieutenant in the Army. Given under my hand and seal this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 1833

S/ John Lowry