

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Edward Ballard VAS2360
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I William Jennings [R15422] do make Oath that I was well acquainted with Edward Ballard a Pilot in the Virginia State Navy. John Parish [John Parrish VAS138], Pilot in the Virginia State Navy, and that the said Edward Ballard and John Parish entered the said Service in the second year in the revolutionary war, and remained in the said service after the capture of York in Virginia [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] 7th March 1831



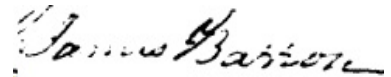
Norfolk July 27th 1832

Dear Sir During the continuance of the American Revolutionary War, the navigation which was necessary to supply the wants of the Country, consisted generally in fleets of large and small Vessels, which went armed for the protection of each other, and were bound by strong obligations to unite their force against the common enemy; this service required the aid of a great number of Pilots. Our State Navy at some periods of the War, being very large, were employed in the rivers of the country, and could make no important movements, without the service of this class of persons, their Officers not being pilots, and therefore every inducement was held out to them, to offer their services freely to the State Navy. I am, and always have been under the impression, that there was not a pilot in the State of Virginia, who did not during the whole of the Revolution, hold himself bound, and ready to obey the call of the State government and its Authority with the exception of those only who went off to the British. Among the most distinguished of the patriots, who serv'd in the capacity of pilots in the State Navy, during the whole of the Revolutionary War, was Mr Edward Cooper, who to my knowledge performed many important services, other than those connected with his profession as a Pilot, & notwithstanding, he was a man of large fortune, his services were at all times promptly and patriotically rendered. I distinctly recollect, that his house was burnt by the British in the early commencement of the war, in consequence of its being a rendezvous for the American armed forces. Other distinguished individuals serving as Pilots in the State Navy and rendering important services during the whole of the War, were Edward Ballard, Wm Roe Cunningham [William Roe Cunningham VAS2361], Wm. Walkins [William Walkins] and James Salience[?]. Mr Ballard was promoted to a Lieutenancy for his patriotism, shortly before the close of the war. I will add that the rank of a Pilot in those days corresponded with that of a Jun'r Lieutenant

Very Respectfully I am

Dar Sir your Obt Servt

James Barron [W12264]



The Petition of the Heirs of Edward Ballard and John Parish Respectfully state.

That Edward Ballard and Parish were Pilots in the navy of Va during the whole period of the war of the Revolution. Yet no land Bounty has ever issued in their favor or that of your Petitioners. The affidavits of Mr. William Jennings (whose correct character was shown by the evidences filed in Capt Jas. Marshalls [James Marshall X931] case) shows that the said Ballard and Parish were in service more than three years. Mr. Jennings was in service with them and is positive in the information he gives.

Your Petitioners pray that an allowance may be made to them of the Bounty land due for their respective Ancestors services.

Thomas Green/ Atto. for the Petitioners

NOTE: The petition by the heirs was rejected. On 31 July 1832 Thomas Green appealed the decision, noting the letter by James Barron stating that Ballard had been promoted to Lieutenant. A note dated 1 Aug 1832 reads, "This claim will take the same course directed to be given to Cunningham's.