

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Benjamin Beech VAS2456
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I certify that I enlisted on board the gally Accomack as a midshipman, for 3 years, before she was equipped for service & served till compelled by ill health to leave the galley, which I did, on condition of serving again if recovered & that the gally Diligence was built & manned at the same time & place with the Accomack, & that Benjamin Beech enlisted on board the Diligence about the time she was equipped & manned, & served in said galley as Masters mate until said galley was laid up, a period of upwards of 3 years. scarbrough Bloxsom [W5842]
[Norfolk Borough, illegible date]



Elkanah Andrews [S6507], a navy Pensioner, and a man of truth & veracity & of good memory, made oath before me, that he served as a seaman on board the galley Accomack whilst she was in service & that he has drawn 100 acres of Land for 3 years services as aforesaid & that the Galley Diligence was built & manned at the same time & place with the Accomack & cruised in the same creeks – that he was well acquainted with many of the Officers & crew of the Diligence, & that he knew Benjamin Beech, masters mate of the Diligence – that said Beech was in service on board the Diligence nearly or quite all the time she was in service which was about four years, & was Masters Mate a great portion of the time, & that he continued in service till the Diligence was dismantled.

Witness my hand & seal at Accomack C H this 24th day of May 1833 Jno F. Riley J Peace

The deposition of John Harmon of Henry [S18006] who being duly sworn testifies & says that he was well acquainted with Benjamin Beech in the Revolutionary War – that said Beech lived within a few hundred yards of this deponents fathers house & is buried on this deponents land – that whilst the Eastern Shore galleys were building, the said Beech being out of employ, determined upon going to sea, and this deponent, then a young man, carried him down to Northampton, where he went on board the Brig [Northampton] commanded by Capt. Bright [Francis Bright R16] for one cruise & was gone about 3 months – that shortly after his return, the galleys being finished; he enlisted on board of the galley Diligence, and served for some time, but how many years this deponent cannot remember, though he has no doubt he remained in service till the galley was laid up, as it was near the end of the War when he returned; & in a few years he died, & was buried at his request on the land now owned by me – that s'd Beech was out of employment for some time after his return & he is confident he did not leave as long as there was any thing to do. John Harmon of H
[22 June 1833]



The deposition of Hillary Mears [Hilary Mears S18508] aged about 75 years who says that he was very well acquainted with Benjamin Beech in the time of the Revolutionary War – that this deponent lives on a portion of the land formerly occupied by said Benj'a Beech's father – that whilst the Eastern Shore galleys were building said Beech went down to Northampton to go on board of Capt Brights vessel, and was gone three or four months – that on his return he went on board the Diligence galley and was made a Masters Mate; & served till said galley was laid up, the same year that Cornwallis was taken at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781], & this deponent verily believes more than three years & he thinks as many as four years. This deponent recollects very well that said Beech was buried on John Harmons land about one mile from

where this deponent has always resided. This deponent & said Beech went to the same school when they were boys.

Hillary Mears hisXmark

[22 June 1833]

Memorandum to be filed in the case of Benjamin Beech Master Mate.

By reference to Henings Statutes at large Vol 9 p 151 [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol09-07.htm>] it will be seen that the Board of Navy Com'r. [Commissioners] was directed in May 1776 to have two row gallies built for the defence & protection of the counties of Accomack & Northampton.

By reference to same book p 196 that in the act making further provision for the defence of the County the navy Comers' were authorised to raise officers & men to man the gallys by that act ordered, & the other gallies then building (see above) by enlistments for 3 years from 1st March coming towit 1777.

By reference to the Journal of the Navy board and the returns of the galleys "Accomack" & "Diligence" (the two galleys directed to be built in May 1776) it will be seen that these two galleys were completed and manned in August 1777. See also the depositions filed in the case of William Miles [VAS666], Seaman, decided last year and in the cases of Capt Wm Underhill [William Underhill VAS2457] & Capt Johannes Watson [VAS2458] – Lt Luke Cannon [S46373] – Jesse Cannon [R19] & sundry other cases proving the same facts.

By reference to Henings Statutes Vol 10 p 217 [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol10-10.htm>] it will be seen that in Oct 1779 the Legislature ordered sundry gallys to be sold, but directed the Accomack & Diligence galleys to be retained in service & refitted.

By reference to the depositions in the foregoing cases referred to it will be seen that these two galleys were dismantled in the winter of 1780-81 after having been in service upwards of 3½ years.

By reference to the rolls of the Diligence galley it will be seen that B. Beech is enrolled as Masters Mate. The proof is that he entered the service when the galley was manned (in 1777) & remained till she was dismantled in 1781 – and the law was that all enlistments in the navy should be for 3 years.

respectfully submitted