

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Francis Powell VAS253

vsl 10VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/14/12

[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](#)]

I have very successfully made a list of officers known of the *Hero* Galley, after a most scrutinizing examination of the Journals of the Navy-Board, and other public documents. From this list, it appears – that John Kautzman – John Wilson and Francis Powell were the only Warrant officers of the *Hero* Galley, of whom we have any knowledge.

John Kautzman received bounty land as Lieutenant in the Navy, in May 1784. John Wilson & Francis Powell were the only [indecipherable word] warrant officers of the *Hero* Galley.

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1834

[Nansemond County Virginia]

I certify that I knew Francis Powell of this County before & after the Revolutionary War, and that the said Powell was a midshipmen during the Revolutionary War in the State Navy – I cannot certify as to the number of years he served in the Revolutionary War, but distinctly recollect that he held the appointment of Midshipmen in the State Navy. – The said Powell lived in this County before & after the revolution, and I was well acquainted with him.

Sworn to & subscribed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834.

S/ Henry Harrison

The heirs of Francis Powell, Midshipman, pray an allowance of Bounty Land from the State of Virginia for his Revolutionary Services. – They file the additional deposition of Henry Harrison, the presiding Justice of Nansemond County, in support of their claim. – Francis Powell, Midshipman, is reported by the Agent as being "entitled to land for a service of 3 years" in "a list of Officers of the State Navy, No. 5."

S/ Richard D Webb

for the heirs

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1834

Petition for bounty land

The Heirs of Francis Powell – Midshipman

Francis Powell's name is only Rolls of Midshipman in the Navy. The Navy Journals & papers do not furnish conclusive proof of his service for 3 years = nor all it to be expected they would, at this day, after the loss or destruction of many of the books, & papers, and pay rolls of the Navy. He does not appear to have left the service. Few of the commissioned officers of the Navy

resign, without very good cause – very few of the noncommissioned, or warrant officers, voluntarily left the Navy. As agreeable to officers & men was that service, that the officers remained in it, as long as they could, and the men never deserted. The Navy Journals & papers contain (so far as I have seen accounts of) only 4 desertions of seamen. Therefore, presumption of the service of a midshipmen for the term of three years (which was the term of enlistment in the Navy) is not unreasonable. Francis Powell has been reported entitled to land for three years service, in printed list No. 5

respectfully submitted

To his Excellency Governor Floyd

John H Smith, Commissioner