

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Henry Willis VAS2601
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

To the Executive of Virg'a

Your Memorialists residing in the County of Fauq'r. [Fauquier] & State of Virg'a respectfully represent that their uncle Henry Willis they have been informed was a Midshipman in the Virg'a State Navy in the War of the revolution. They [several illegible words] positively as to his services or the ship on which he served, but believe that in all probability the records of the State may shew those facts and they pray that the case may be referred for examination & that such evidence as your Memorialists may procure may be received in support of the claim of land [undeciphered word] & that a warrant or warrants may issue for such allowance as may be made according to custom in such cases & they will &c.

Attest	J K Marshall
[several illegible words]	C H Marshall
Edwd C Marshall	Mary Jennings
Th. M. Ambler	

[certified 18 April 1835]

Report upon the claim of the heirs of Henry Willis, a Midshipman in the State Navy, for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor

Sir The Petition for this claim is unaccompanied by any evidence.

Henry Willis was a midshipman in the State Navy. He is several times mentioned in the Journal of the navy Board – August 10th 1778 an order of the navy Board was made for supplying him with clothing (See Journ'l N B. p. 446.) August 19th a letter was receiv'd from him. (See Journ'l. N. B. p. 450.) Aug't. 21st Clothing was order'd for him (see Journ'l. n. B. p. 452.) September 3rd 1778 he was order'd on board the Dragon. (see Journ'l. N. B'd. p. 462.) Jan'y 27 1779 leave of absence was granted him for ten days. on the 25th of March 1780 the Dragon was, in pursuance of an act of assembly, & by order of the Executive, transfer'd to the Board of Trade, for the Commercial purposes of the State. (see order of Council of that date.)

It does not appear that Henry Willis ever resign'd, or voluntarily retir'd from the service. It is probable he continued to serve in the Dragon until she was transfer'd to the Board of Trade, and then became supernumerary. It does not appear, when he enter'd the service. In this state of evidence, I have heretofore reported Henry Willis entitled to bounty land for his services. (See [undeciphered] No. 33 p. 4 Journal of the H. of Delegates. Session 1833-34 – it being a list of officers of the Navy &c &c)

I am still of the opinion, that there is a rational presumption, that Henry Willis was in service on the Dragon until March 1780, and thus, in consequence of the transfer of the Dragon to the Board of Trade, became supernumerary; and that his heirs ought to receive Bounty land.

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com[missione]r &c
May 13th 1835