

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Edward Bully VAS2764  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

These are to Certify that Edward Bully Enlisted in the state boat Liberty under my command the second time on the 23 day January 1777 as boatswain & served to the 12 January 1779 was then appointed as pilot & served to the end of his Enlistment being three years Given Under my hand this 1 day Nov 1783

Copy/ J. Pendleton Jr

James Barron [W12264]

C.S.N [Commodore, State Navy]

Del'd Mr Geo Booker

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#) Some long documents in the file are mostly undecipherable.]

To the Gov of Virginia

The petition of the Heirs of Edward Bully respectfully [undeciphered word] that he was a Boatswain in the Navy nearly the whole war as the evidence hewith filed will shew; shew, at all events that he was upward of 3 years in service

The Boatswains in the Navy were warrant officers and superior in Rank to Midshipmen and have drawn land Bounty accordingly. But our petitioners ancestor and a certain James Brien[?] appear to have drawn the bounty due to soldiers & sailors only who enlisted for the ear.

Your petitioners are advised that the Executive have always allow Boatswains the same land as Midshipmen and that it will appear by reference to the Regulation (1 Vol Journal Congress page 549) evidently correct. In the case of Riviere decided last year all the practices of the Executive was examined and the question was thought to be finally at rest. But the Register of the Land Office thinks it proper to refuse to act without a special direction in each case.

Your petitioners [undeciphered word] the Bounty due a Boatswain may be allowed them after deducting what the have already received.

Thomas Green

The affidavit of James Burke [sic: James Burk S6649] of lawful age being first sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Edward Bully and that he was attached to the Boat Liberty in the State Navy in the revolutionary War, and that he served three years.

[Elizabeth City County, 25 July 1831]



I Richard Payne [S8929] do hereby certify on oath that I was intimately acquainted with Edward Bully who entered the service in the State Navy at the commencement of the War of the Revolution as a Boatswain and served in that Capacity until the close of the war. I served with him several years after the war.

Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1831



Land Off. Va. 9 Feby 1832.

I certify that a Warrant No 2181 for 200 acres in favor of Edward Bully a Boatswain in the State Navy issued from this Off. bearing date the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec'r 1783 and that no other Warrant has issued in the name of Edward Bully.

W Selden R. L Off

It appears by reference to "A list of State soldiers and Seamen[?] who have received certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeable to Act of Assembly passed November Session 1781" [several undeciphered words], that a certificate issued to Edward Bully Boatswain on the 17 December 1783 for £134.14.2

Jas E Heath, Au

Auditors Office/ 9th Feby 1832

Elizabeth City County Court April 26 1832

The Court certifies that it has been made to appear to them from satisfactory evidence that Andrew Bully [sic] a Pilot in the Virginia Navy entered the Navy as a Pilot in the commencement of the Revolutionary War and served till the close of the same.

A Copy teste [signed illegibly]

Adv[ise]d to be Rejected/ 14 June 1832.

Additional evidence filed July 15 1833

Edward Bully has rec'd all the land his service entitles him to claim. The present application is rejected

J. F. [Gov. John Floyd]

I certify that I was well acquainted with Edward Bully who was a Boatswain in the Virginia Navy [undeciphered] served three years [several undeciphered words] 26[?] July 1832

Jeremiah hisXmark Cain

Richmond May 4<sup>th</sup> 1833

To His Excellency D Campbell/ Governor of the Comwlt of Va

Sir/ I have examined the papers referred to me by the council and submit the following opinion on the questions propounded

1<sup>st</sup> What is the quantity of land to which Boatswains and Masters at arms are entitled for a service of three years in the Navy

The act of October [undeciphered] at large page [undeciphered] ascertains the amount of bounty land to which [undeciphered word] of the Army and Navy are entitled as follows

Viz a Col'n 5000 acres Lt Col'n 4500 Majr 4000 Captain 3000 a subaltern 2000 any non commissioned officer enlisting for the war or officer enlisting for three years and serving out the same, or to the end of the war 200 acres

The officers of the Navy the same quantity of land as officers of equal rank in the army.

To ascertain the quantity of bounty land to which Boatswains & Masters at arms are entitled, we must [one or two undeciphered words] relative rank to officers of the army. This has not been done by any act of the Legislature There is an act of the Continental congress fixing the relative rank of Navy and Army officers. But that act does not fix the relative rank of officers below the grade of [undeciphered] in the army and [undeciphered]. We must then look to other sources to ascertain their relative ranks. There are in the Army two classes of Officers Viz Commissioned officers and non commissioned officers. In the Navy there are three classes commissioned officers, warrant officers, and petty officers. In [several undeciphered words] officers in each [undeciphered word] would [undeciphered word] take with with one another according to the grade of their commissions, as the relation [the rest of the online image is not clear enough for reliable transcription. The letter is signed by S. S. Baxter.]

Claims of the heirs of Edw Bully & Jno Marshall [John Marshall] for services of their ancestor as Boatswain and of Benjamin Marshall [VAS2765] as Master at arms in State Navy for ad'l bounty land

In these cases the Executive heretofore decided on the proper rank of the officers and length of service The Register [of the Land Office] evidently committed errors in issuing the warrants for less quantities of land than they were entitled to. The Executive having no authority to correct these errors – The applications are rejected.

David Campbell [Governor]

The Claim of Edward Bully was rejected by the Executive on the 14 June 1832 and John Marshall rejected 19 June 1833.

John B. Richardson A.S.C

Executive [undeciphered]/ 24 March 1837