

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Forrest VAS3612
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

I Certify that I was well acquainted with William Forrest who was a Carpenter by Trade. he Inlisted and Served on Board the Caswell Gally Commanded by Capt Willis Wilson [R109] in the Revolutionary War I know he was Attached to the Vessel in June 1778 and remained as long as She was in commission and Served his time out and came home about the year 1782 given under my hand and seal this [blank] Day of [blank] 1832
James Murphy

[Certified in Norfolk Borough 1 June 1832. An identical certificate was signed by John Murphy on 2 June 1832.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the tenth day of May 1787, in the name of William Forest as a Seaman for £17.19.6, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to E. Valentine.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 13th day of November 1832.
Jas E. Heath AUDITOR.

1833 June 17/ Not shown to have served or enlisted for 3 years/ Rejected [undeciphered initials]

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

To his Excellency David Campbell Governor of Virginia

Your Petitioner Thomas Gaskins of the Borough of Norfolk and State of Virginia Respectfully represents that William Forrest the Father of his wife, Frances Gaskins, was a Carpenter on board the Virginia Galley Commanded by Captain Willis Wilson in the War of the Revolution, that his said Father in law according to the traditionary account entered or enlisted in the regular service on board of the aforesaid vessel in the latter end of the year of 1776 or early in the year 1777 at the time that he entered or enlisted in the service he resided in the County of Princess Anne Virginia.

Your petitioner further represents that the said William Forrest Continued in the said service until the end of the war or was regularly discharged, that the Heirs of the said William Forrest have never received Bounty land as promised to the Officers Soldiers and Seamen of the Revolutionary War

He prays that his Petition with the Evidence herewith filed may receive the Consideration of your Excellency and that the Heirs may be allowed the Land Bounty promised, &c.

And your petitioner will ever pray &c Thomas hisXmark Gaskins one
[18 Jan 1838] of the heirs of Wm Forrest af'd.

State of Virginia }
Norfolk Borough } to wit

This day personally appeared before me an Alderman for the Borough aforesaid John Murphy aged 74 years a Native of Virginia and an old and Respectable inhabitant of this Borough and made Oath that he was personally well acquainted with William Forrest who served in the Virginia State Navy in the War of the Revolution that he entered the Service probably as Carpenter on board of the Caswell Galley Commanded by Capt Willis Wilson, and may have been transferred to some other state Vessel and he remained in Service untill he was regularly discharged and Resided near and was well acquainted with him

untill he died, he died many years since leaving the following persons his only Children and heirs at law, namely Anne Borroughs now a Widow formerly Anne Forrest and Frances Gaskins now the wife of Thomas Gaskins of the Borough of Norfolk aforesaid

Given under my hand and seal this fifth day of January 1838.

[On the same day James Murphy made an identical statement.]

“Tuesday the 11th day of November 1777.

Ordered that the keeper of the public stores deliver to William Forrest and Christopher Bouras two Carpenters at the Chickahominy Shipyard as much cloth as will make each of them Waistcoats & Breeches on their paying for them. From page 31.”

The above entry is truly extracted from the Naval Journal.

Given under my hand at the Auditor’s Office Richmond this 25 day of January 1838.

Jas. E. Heath Aud’r.

The evidence filed in this case insufficient/ Rejected/ March 18, 1840. DC

The evidence in this case does not prove Wm Forrest to have been a Carpenter in the Navy at the time of his discharge It is to be presumed that he was only a seaman from his settling his account as such.

Allowed as a seaman for a service of three years. D Campbell

To His Excellency David Campbell, Governor of Virginia [undeciphered]

Sir Some time since I had the honor of presenting to your Excellency’s consideration in behalf of the heirs, the Claim of William Forrest, as I then, and, so did his representatives, verily believe him to have been a Ship Carpenter in the Navy of the Revolution, and, continued so to serve untill his discharge. our Excellency allowed his Claim as a Seaman, as it appeared from the Certificate that he settled his account as such. I have since been in Richmond and have accidentally discovered that, in fact he settled his account as a Midshipman, as will appear by a Certificate of the Auditor herewith filed, from this Certificate it would appear that an error has been made in transferring from the Auditors Day Book (which was certainly the first Book of settlement) to the Army Register his name as a seaman, when in fact it should have been as a Midshipman. his account was also carried forward to the journal of that time as Midshipman which will appear by the evidence filed. From those entries it would seem that he closed his service as a Midshipman.

May I so far trespass on your Excellency’s time, and, ask a reconsideration of his Case, and if the evidence now filed be deemed satisfactory, that additional Land Bounty be allowed

I am Sir your Excellency’s/ Most Ob’t. Serv’t.

John B. Ogg Agent
& Atty for the heirs

Thursday 10th May 1787.

Military Interest

Warrant to Reuben Wiles	Seaman	5 th yrs	Int. Cont.	dated this day	State	.. 12 5
D’o “	D’o	D’o	4 th yrs	“	”	do .. 12 5
D’o “	D’o	D’o	3d yrs	“	”	do 1 17 3
D’o “	Chris Burrus	D’o	do	“	”	do 1 17 6
D’o “	D’o	D’o	4 th yrs	“	”	do .. 12 6
D’o “	D’o	D’o	5 th yrs	“	”	do .. 12 6
D’o “	Wm Forest	Midship	do	“	”	do 1 1 6
D’o “	D’o	d’o	4 th yrs	“	”	do 1 1 6
D’o “	D’o	d’o	3d yrs	“	”	do 3 4 6

The foregoing entry is truly copied from the Auditors Day Book commencing 7th April 1787.

Richmond, Auditors Office 19th May 1787.

Sundry Accounts Dr to Gen'l Acco't of Warrants

Acc't. of Warr'ts for Interest on Military Cert's. for State & Cont'l Services.

			State Cont'l
Warrt to Wm Forrest Midshipman	5th yrs Int. Cont dated this day		1 1 6
Warrt to Ditto	4th do	D'o	1 1 6
Warrt to Ditto	3rd do	D'o	3 4 6

The above entry is truly Copied from Journal A page 195.

State of Virginia }

Norfolk County } to wit

This day personally appeared before a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid James Murphy aged 72 years and Oath that he was personally well acquainted with William Forrest in the war of the Revolution he served in the Virginia State Navy in the Revolution until he was regularly discharged or until the vessels were dismantled and laid up. And this deponent verily believes that the aforesaid William Forrest served in the said Navy as an Officer of some grade or other, and further this deponent was impressed with the belief that he had so served as a Carpenter, but of that it appears that I was mistaken, but from information I am now inclined to believe that he did serve as a Midshipman in the aforesaid Navy of the Revolution and further this deponent saith not

Given under my hand and seal this Second day of July 1838

Thomas Nash JP